



CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT CODE TASK FORCE Non-Prison Sanctions Subcommittee

Minutes

September 19, 2019 at Noon

Conference Call

I. Members Present:

Sheriff Christopher Nocco (Chair)
Linzee Ott representing The Honorable Melissa Nelson
The Honorable Michael Andrews
Sheriff William Snyder

Absent:

Secretary Simone Marsteller

II. Non-Prison Sanctions Subcommittee

Sheriff Nocco welcomed the subcommittee.

Lt. Toni Roach offered an overview of Mental Health Courts in the state. Lt. Roach discussed specific language within the statutes that do not mandate specialty courts. Currently, there are 14 districts with operational mental health courts.

The subcommittee discussed reviewing these statutes to change the verbiage from “may” to “shall” to increase access to these specialty courts.

Sheriff Snyder spoke specifically about focusing on minorities and how many are imprisoned due to low-level, non-violent, non-sexual offenses and pursuing “Smart Justice”.

Sheriff Nocco added that it is worth discussing how individuals with VOPs brought in on technical offenses could be expedited to prevent them from losing their jobs while waiting to be heard. Additionally, the subcommittee should consider reevaluating non-violent, non-sexual offenders over the age of 65.

Judge Andrews shared that the Sixth District Judicial Court has Boys Court and Girls Court as a diversionary means for juveniles. These courts are run by James Pierce and Patrice Moore, respectively. Lindsay Ott shared that Duval county has a Girls court, but currently lacks a Boys Court.

III. Public Comment

Rodney Statham representing Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRRC):

FRRRC is a grassroots, membership organization run by Returning Citizens (Formerly Convicted Persons) who are dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions, and creating a more comprehensive and humane reentry system that will enhance successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety.

The coalition is looking forward to the findings of the Task Force.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:23 P.M.