

Committee Updates for the Full Commission March 16, 2017

Juvenile Justice Committee – Chair Paul Dobson, Wood County Prosecutor

The Juvenile Justice Committee has been gathering information on juvenile probation practices and the sealing and expungement of juvenile records with a view toward making potential recommendations for statutory changes to the Commission this calendar year. The committee has hosted guests from BCI and Montgomery County to learn more about current practices. In addition, Justice Sharon Kennedy joined the committee at its February meeting to discuss sentencing structure for 18-25 year olds. The committee also continues to work on a data wish list that it plans to present to the Commission for consideration in June. Finally, SB 63 and SB 64 was introduced by Senator Thomas on February 21, 2017. SB 63 implements the Commission's approved language on juvenile confinement credit and SB 64 is the Commission's approved language on bindovers.

Sentencing & Criminal Justice Committee – Chair Judge Spanagel, Parma Municipal Court

The committee expects to review the work of the Recodification Committee once complete. And, at the February 2017 meeting, they heard from DRC on budget initiatives and reviewed Ohio Supreme Court decisions for potential action by the Commission, particularly Noling and Thomas (as noted in the [January 3, 2017 edition of The Legislative and Judicial Brief](#)). Other topics for committee work include felony probation, appellate review and sentence structure.

Data Collection & Sharing – Chair Judge Dumm, Circleville Municipal Court

Monitoring Sentence Reform and Justice Reinvestment Initiative continues to evolve as a primary focus and we will continue to build capacity to monitor and report data while influencing statewide criminal justice policy via our contractual arrangement with Case Western Reserve University, hiring a Research Specialist and collaboration with the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

The Commission, in partnership with our Case Western Reserve University researchers, applied for the Bureau of Justice Assistance: *Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Maximizing State Reforms* (<https://www.bja.gov/funding/JRIMaximizing17.pdf>) grant to examine behavioral health indicators for nonviolent offenders, a subset being probation violators and use that information to determine the impact of JRI as well as conduct a gap analysis of community alternatives to prison and/or diversion program availability. The grant application deadline was February 7, 2017 and letters of support were received from Speaker Rosenberger, Senator Bacon – Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Director Plouck from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Director Mohr from the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Executive Director Pfeiffer of the Ohio Judicial Conference, Judge Matia – President of the Common Pleas Judges Association and the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association. [Project Abstract is here.](#)

Other data projects including the data analytics pilot project in Scioto County and Justice System mapping remain ongoing as does our research advisory group to assist in the effort, comprised of research administrators from the Office of Criminal Justice Services, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Supreme Court of Ohio.