



Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission Meeting

May 8, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ohio Judicial Center, Room 101

Members Present

Sharon L. Kennedy, Chief Justice, Chair
Darren Shulman, Municipal Prosecutor, Vice-Chair
Amy Ast, Director, Department of Youth Services
Brooke Burns, Ohio Public Defender, Juvenile Department
Charles Chandler, Peace Officer
Robert DeLamatre, Judge, Juvenile Court
Kyle Erdeljac, Lieutenant, Columbus Police Department, FOP
Timothy France, Judge, Municipal Court
Joe Gruber, Designee of Director, Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
John Hinton, Sheriff
Gwen Howe-Gebbers, County Prosecutor, Juvenile
Kristen Johnson, Judge, Probate and Juvenile Court
Timothy Lanzendorfer, Ohio State Bar Association
Teri LaJeunesse, Victim Representative
Nathan Manning, Ohio Senate
Stephen McIntosh, Judge, Common Pleas Court
Elizabeth Miller, Ohio Public Defender
Jennifer Muench-McElfresh, Judge, Common Pleas Court
Kyle Rohrer, Judge Municipal Court
Nick Selvaggio, Judge, Common Pleas Court
Tyrone Yates, Judge, Municipal Court

Members Absent

Julia Dorrian, Judge, 10th District Court of Appeals
Latyna Humphrey, House of Representatives
Catherine Ingram, Ohio Senate
Charles Jones, Colonel, State Highway Patrol
Charles McConville, County Prosecutor
Helen Wallace, Judge, Juvenile Court
Josh Williams, House of Representatives
Donnie Willis, County Commissioner

Staff Present

Michael Crofford, M.Ed., LPC, Research Specialist
Will Davies, Esq., Criminal Justice Counsel
Angela Kay Garvey, Coordinator
Emily S. Haynes, Esq., M.L.S., Criminal Justice Counsel
Todd Ives, MPA, Research Specialist
Alex T. Jones, Esq., Criminal Justice Counsel



Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Criminal Justice Council William Davies took a roll call, and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2025

2. Chief Justice Kennedy asked if there were any corrections to the March 6, 2025, minutes. None were suggested. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Judge Tyrone Yates and seconded by Judge Jennifer Muench-McElfresh. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Adult Criminal Justice Committee

3. Judge Stephen McIntosh reported that the committee met on April 16, 2025, and finalized a list of suggested elements for Presentence Investigation (PSI) reports. The list defines minimum elements and is intended for distribution to probation departments and stakeholders. The Commission discussed whether these elements should be recommended as best practices or codified in statute. Concerns were raised that requiring all elements by statute could overburden PSI writers, especially in cases not warranting comprehensive reports. Several members noted disparities in PSI practices and access to ORAS information on PSIs across counties. Several members recommended keeping them as best practice.
4. After discussion, Judge Nick Selvaggio moved to add “financial condition” and “security threat group affiliation” to the PSI suggested elements list. Chief Justice Kennedy seconded. The motion passed with Brooke Burns voting in opposition and no abstentions.
5. Judge McIntosh moved to approve and distribute the amended PSI list. Chief Justice Kennedy seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission directed staff to develop a PSI-related bench card to reflect these suggested elements.
6. Judge McIntosh also updated the Commission on the draft Competency Restoration flowchart, which is still under development. He also noted Mr. Davies’ analysis of statewide appeals has indicated fewer common issues than expected thus far, suggesting overall judicial consistency.

Juvenile Justice Committee

7. Judge Robert DeLamatre reported that the committee met on April 17, 2025, and is working on updating juvenile bench cards, starting with the dispositional bench card. The committee is also reviewing data and recommendations related to bindovers, including those from the Governor’s Task Force.
8. Judge DeLamatre noted that Criminal Justice Counsel Emily Haynes is also in the midst of an analysis of statewide appeals for juvenile cases, which thus far has not identified any new or unresolved issues. It was also reported that Representative Josh Williams proposed a budget amendment that would require any youth under 18 who is bound over and sentenced as an adult to remain in a juvenile facility until reaching the age of 18.

Data Committee

9. Chief Justice Kennedy reported that the committee approved the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) Data Map, which outlines state-level data collection partners. Chief Justice Kennedy motioned for the Commission to adopt the map and was seconded by Judge McIntosh. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Chief Justice Kennedy also noted the committee had heard from Dr. Jeff Kretschmar on data from the Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Initiative, and continues to coordinate with other agencies for data, including the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Personnel Committee

11. Chief Justice Kennedy moved to enter an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Judge Tyrone Yates seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.
12. Upon completion of discussion, the Commission returned from the executive session. Chief Justice Kennedy moved to terminate the executive session, with Chief Charles Chandler seconding. The motion passed unanimously.
13. Chief Justice Kennedy moved to appoint criminal justice counsel Will Davies as Interim Administrative Director, and that the salary as Director be backdated to the day after Melissa Knopp's last day, with the appointment and salary change terminate upon her return. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Darren Shulman. The motion passed unanimously.
14. The Commission also discussed revisions to the Operating Guidelines. Changes introduced included removing the requirements to present guideline amendments at two meetings, as well as clarifying language in sections II(B) and IX(A). Additional discussion concerned dollar thresholds or objective terms for financial matters in II(B)(1). The proposed language largely reflects statutory requirements.

Legislative Update

15. Criminal Justice Counsel Alex T. Jones reported that the legislature remains focused on the state budget. Eight new bills have been added to the Commission's tracking list. Mr. Jones also noted that Representative Williams has introduced an amendment to House Bill 5 that could affect the Commission's RC 181.27 report and expungement practices, particularly around automatic expungement of juvenile records as interpreted under the *Bloom* decision.

Old Business

16. No old business was discussed.

New Business

17. Mr. Davies presented a request for approval for up to three Commission staff members and two Commission members to attend the National Association of Sentencing Commissions (NASC)

conference, to be held August 11-12, 2025, with travel dates anticipated for August 10-13. Chief Justice Kennedy moved to approve the request, and the motion was seconded by Judge Yates. The motion passed unanimously. Members interested in attending were asked to notify Mr. Davies directly.

18. Chief Justice Kennedy explained that judges had expressed a need for a centralized location to access bench and reference materials. In response, the Supreme Court's Court Services Division created a landing page for such resources. Chief Justice Kennedy moved to approve the publication of Commission reference materials on the Supreme Court of Ohio's website, alongside other judicial resources. These materials will retain Commission branding. Judge Selvaggio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

19. Chief Justice Kennedy motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Chief Chandler. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.