



Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission Meeting

May 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ohio Judicial Center, Room 281

Members Present

Sharon L. Kennedy, Chief Justice, Chair
Darren Shulman, Municipal Prosecutor, Vice-Chair
Justin Stanek, Designee of Director, Department of Youth Services
Brooke Burns, Ohio Public Defender, Juvenile Department
Matthew Byrnes, Defense Attorney
Stephen Gray, Designee of Director, Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
Eamon Costello, Judge, Common Pleas Court
Robert DeLamatre, Judge Juvenile Court
Julia Dorrian, Judge, 10th District Court of Appeals
Kyle Erdeljac, Lieutenant, Columbus Police Department, FOP
Gwen Howe-Gebbers, County Prosecutor, Juvenile
Robert Sellers, Lieutenant, Designee of Colonel, State Highway Patrol
Teri LaJeunesse, Victim Representative
Timothy Lanzendorfer, Ohio State Bar Association
Nathan Manning, Ohio Senate
Charles McConville, County Prosecutor
Elizabeth Miller, Ohio Public Defender
Jennifer Muench-McElfresh, Judge, Common Pleas Court
Kyle Rohrer, Judge Municipal Court
Janaya Trotter Bratton, Judge, Municipal Court
Helen Wallace, Judge, Juvenile Court

Members Absent

Timothy France, Judge, Municipal Court
John Hinton, Sheriff
Latyna Humphrey, House of Representatives
Catherine Ingram, Ohio Senate
Kristen Johnson, Judge, Probate and Juvenile Court
Stephen McIntosh, Judge, Common Pleas Court
Josh Williams, House of Representatives
Donnie Willis, County Commissioner

Staff Present

Melissa A. Knopp, Esq., Executive Director
Michael Crofford, M.Ed., LPC, Research Specialist
Will Davies, Esq., Criminal Justice Counsel
Emily S. Haynes, Esq., M.L.S., Criminal Justice Counsel
Todd Ives, MPA, Research Specialist

Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Director Melissa Knopp took a roll call, and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from March 12, 2026

2. Chief Justice Kennedy asked if there were any corrections to the March 12, 2026, minutes. None were suggested. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Darren Shulman and seconded by Chief Justice Kennedy. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Adult Criminal Justice Committee

3. Senator Nathan Manning provided an update on the recent meetings and activity of the Adult Committee. He reviewed the changes made to the Adult Rights Restoration and Record Sealing Guide including changes regarding recent policy changes and minor edits. Senator Manning motioned to approve the publication and distribution of the Adult Rights Restoration and Record Sealing Guide and was seconded by Judge Eamon Costello. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Senator Manning discussed the Criminal Justice Overview document and the updates made to it. Senator Manning moved to approve the publication and distribution of the Criminal Justice Overview document and was seconded by Judge Costello. The motion passed unanimously.

Juvenile Justice Committee

5. Judge Robert DeLamatre reported on the work of the Juvenile Committee since March. He reviewed the changes that had been made to the Juvenile Justice Terminology Guide since the last full commission meeting and there was a brief discussion including a minor typographical edit that was requested. Judge DeLamatre moved to approve the Terminology Guide with the typographical modification. Judge Helen Wallace seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Judge DeLamatre introduced the Traditional Juvenile Delinquency Flowchart and there was a discussion about where diversion should appear on the chart. The discussion included that Juvenile Rule 9 refers to pre-initial appearance and that multiple points of diversion are possible after this point in the process. Further discussion was held on balancing the readability and simplicity of the chart with the possibility of adding additional steps to the process detailing each place where diversion might be possible. After a discussion, the Commission decided to send the document back to the committee for more changes.
7. Judge DeLamatre then introduced the Juvenile Transfer Flowchart. A discussion was had about whether the term transfer or bindover should be used. Currently, common practitioner use is bindover, however, the process is referred to as transfer within statute.

No motion was made to accept the chart. It will therefore be brought back to the committee for more changes.

Data Committee

8. Chief Justice Kennedy shared the date for the next Data Committee meeting on May 21st and the topics to be discussed including a presentation on dashboards from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), the response to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Working Group report, and updates on the monitoring report. She then shared the upcoming committee meeting dates for the remainder of the year.

Personnel Committee

9. Chief Justice Kennedy reported that they had received a large number of resumes for the Legislative Counsel position but that none had fit the legislative liaison role. The committee decided to update the job posting to reflect the legislative liaison role and will repost the position until filled.
10. Chief Justice Kennedy reported that the committee had updated the staff position descriptions to remove old Supreme Court language based upon recommendations from the Attorney General's office and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Chief Justice Kennedy made a motion to move forward with updating all of the staff position descriptions and was seconded by Gwen Howe-Gebbers. The motion passes unanimously.

Legislative Update

11. Director Knopp reported that the legislative update was distributed with the meeting materials and was current as of May 6th. She stated that until the Legislative Counsel position is filled, all legislative questions could be directed to her.

Old Business

12. Chief Justice Kennedy discussed the old business of the National Association of Sentencing Commission's (NASC) conference is August 12-14, 2026, in Albuquerque, New Mexico and that it was previously requested to send three staff and two Commissioners. There was a discussion about additional interest from Commissioners attending and that the budget had room for an additional attendee. Lieutenant Kyle Erdeljac moved to send three commission members and three staffers to the conference. Judge Julia Dorrian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

13. Lt. Erdeljac raised the issue of R.C. 2935.23, described difficulties with the revised code on subpoenas regarding misdemeanors, and shared an interest in a legislative fix. There was a discussion on the prosecutor's association reviewing the issue and attempting to draft changes. A request was made for the Adult Criminal Justice Committee to review the topic as well.

14. Chief Justice Kennedy asked for a volunteer for the Personnel Committee. Judge Janaya Trotter Bratton volunteered to join the committee and was welcomed.
15. Chief Justice Kennedy moved to accept the resignation of Criminal Justice Counsel Emily Haynes and was seconded by Darren Shulman. The motion passed unanimously. She then thanked Ms. Haynes for her time with the Commission.

Adjourn

16. Chief Justice Kennedy motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Judge Trotter Bratton. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.