



Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, Chair • Sara Andrews, Director

Criminal Justice Committee

The purpose of the Criminal Justice Committee is to address future role of commission, respond and make recommendations regarding more broad areas including probation, risk assessment, release programs, specialized dockets, community corrections and improving as well as building relationships and coordinating the work of the Commission with other justice partners – both state and federal.

Immediate Priorities (three months or less):

1. Clarify what is the precise role and function of the Criminal Sentencing Commission.
2. ~~Consider death penalty task force recommendations~~ – **removed as a priority and Commission will consider the periodic updates provided from the Supreme Court.**
3. ~~Appellate Review~~ – moved to sentencing subcommittee.
4. ~~Remove Halfway Houses from ORC 1.05 D (2). The only place in the ORC that defines Halfway Houses as sentencing serving facilities is ORC 1.05. The reference to the halfway houses in this section should be deleted, as it is in conflict with the other multiple definitions.~~ **S. Andrews will draft an interested party letter/letter of support for approval by the Commission.**

Short Term (three – six months):

1. Review expungement eligibility, filing times and general collateral consequences – consider an automatic removal of non-violent offenses after a period of time, ie. 25 years.

Long Term (six – twelve months):

1. Review how probation violations for fines and restitution are dealt with, consider decriminalizing nonpayment of fines and costs.
2. Review Transitional Control Program to determine if there are any policy or law changes needed to increase participation by inmates in the Transitional Control Program. Consider mandating Transitional Control exit for all Definite Sentence inmates; this would include a new penalty for those who fail to cooperate while on TC status. *initial work by criminal justice committee, then refer to appropriate subcommittee(s).

Extended (more than one year):

1. Review DRC's Probation Improvement and Incentive Grant Program and the SMART program as a way to move toward a RECLAIM structure for all non-violent F3's, F4's and F5's.
2. Change the sentencing statutes so that commitments are to DRC, with DRC allowed to sort those committed to DRC among appropriate alternatives, ranging from intensive community supervision/monitoring, CTC's, CBCF & HWH, and prisons of different sorts. *initial work by criminal justice committee, then refer to appropriate subcommittee(s)