

**Minutes of the Kansas Sentencing Commission Meeting
October 24, 2024**

The Honorable Benjamin J. Sexton, Chair, called the Kansas Sentencing Commission Meeting to order on October 24, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

Members:

- Honorable Benjamin J. Sexton, Chair
- Honorable Stacey L. Donovan, Vice Chair
- Honorable Stephen D. Hill, Kansas Court of Appeals
- Senator David B. Haley
- Representative Dennis “Boog” Highberger
- Representative Stephen Owens
- Mark Keating, Kansas Prisoner Review Board
- Senator Carolyn McGinn
- Jessica Domme, Kansas Attorney General’s Office
- Spence Koehn, Office of Judicial Administration
- Secretary Jefferey Zmuda, Department of Corrections
- Mark Dupree, Wyandotte County District Attorney
- Jessica A. Glendening, Third Judicial District Public Defender’s Office
- Pat Colloton, Public Member
- Jermaine Wilson, Public Member
- Dustin Curry, Private Attorney
- Pam D. Weigand, Douglas County Criminal Justice Services Director

Guests:

Kerry Hauser, Department of Corrections
Melissa Waldock, Department of Corrections
Chase Herndon, Department of Corrections
Rob Mealy, Kearney & Associates
Ed Klumpp, KS Association of Chiefs of Police, KS Sheriff’s Association, KS Peace Officers Association

Staff:

- Scott M. Schultz, Executive Director
- John Grube, Director of Research
- Jason Lamprecht, Senior Research Analyst

- Elliott Smith, SB 123 Program Director
- Trish Beck, Program Auditor
- Gwyn Harvey, SB 123 Certification Specialist
- Francis Givens, Special Projects Manager
- Chris Lyon, Staff Attorney
- Kim Sage, Finance Manager
- Brenda Harmon, Administrative Services Manager
- Grazi Gifford, Administrative Specialist

Approval of Proposed Agenda

Chair Sexton asked if there were objections or additions to the agenda. The agenda was approved with no modifications.

Approval of September 18, 2024, KSSC Workshop Minutes

Chair Sexton referred to the September 18, 2024, KSSC Workshop Minutes. Honorable Stacey Donovan, Vice Chair, moved to approve the minutes. Jessica Domme seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

Consideration of 2025 Proposed Legislation

Executive Director Scott Schultz provided an overview of the information presented and discussion held during the September 18, 2024, KSSC Workshop regarding the Kansas Offender Registration Act, offender good time credit, and offender program credit. KSSC members discussed possible 2025 proposed legislation for each topic to reduce the prison population.

KSSC members agreed that the Kansas Offender Registration Act requires more time and study before proposing legislation. Representative Stephen Owens offered to submit a request on behalf of the KSSC to the Legislative Post Audit to examine and complete a Kansas Offender Registration Act study. The Commission accepted the offer.

Due to the complexity of offender good time and program credit, the Commission approved creating an Offender Post-Conviction Credit Committee to conduct a study and develop recommendations. Members appointed to serve on the committee include Chair Sexton, Vice Chair Donovan, Representative Stephen Owens, Secretary Jefferey Zmuda, Spence Koehn, Jessica Domme, Pat Colloton, and Jessica Glendening.

SB 123 Program Update

Elliott Smith, SB 123 Program Director, provided a wide-ranging update on the recent achievements and ongoing initiatives of the SB123 Program.

Review and Approval of 2025 KSSC Meeting Dates

Chair Sexton referred to the *2025 KSSC Proposed Meeting Schedule*. Honorable Stephen D. Hill moved to approve the proposed schedule. Senator David B. Haley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kansas Sentencing App (KSApp) Update

Dr. John Grube, KSSC Director of Research, updated the members on the KSApp. A successful “soft launch” was initiated on October 1, 2024. Since then, users have initiated 185 cases in the KSApp, demonstrating strong user engagement.

The KSApp also offers continued learning opportunities, including a range of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) webinars and in-person training sessions to enhance users' understanding and implementation of best practices. Francis Givens, Special Project Manager, is responsible for these outreach activities.

Executive Session

Chair Sexton requested an Executive Session to discuss the KSSC's Continuity of Operations Plan. Pat Colloton moved to enter into a ten-minute Executive Session at 2:48 p.m. Spence Koehn seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Commission returned to open session at 2:59 p.m.

Agency Report

Executive Director Scott Schultz provided an update and summarized recent activities of the agency:

- The October 2024 KDOC Prison Population Letter and KSSC's Monthly Prison Population Monitoring Report were reviewed and discussed.
- Executive Director Scott Schultz will testify before the J. Russell Jennings Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight in November.
- Executive Director Scott Schultz and Research Director John Grube testified before the Special Committee on Medical Marijuana.
- Senior Research Analyst Jason Lamprecht and Director of Research John Grube are nearing the final stages of KSApp development. Their efforts are appreciated as they work toward project completion.
- The 2024 Desk Reference Manual will be available in November.
- Director of Research John Grube will attend the American Criminal Society of Criminology Conference in San Francisco.
- Executive Director Schultz and Finance Manager Kim Sage completed the September budget and await recommendations from the Division of Budget (DOB).

Adjournment

Pat Colloton moved to adjourn. The Honorable Stacey Donovan, Vice Chair, seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

The next Sentencing Commission meeting will be on November 21, 2024