

Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

12:00 pm – 12:30 p.m.

Audio-teleconference only

Commissioners Present: Joel Bolger, Sean Case, Samantha Cherot, Matt Claman, Nancy Dahlstrom, Brenda Stanfill, Trevor Stephens, Steve Williams

Commissioners Absent: Kevin Clarkson, Adam Crum, Shelley Hughes, Amanda Price, Greg Razo, Stephanie Rhoades

Participants: Travis Welch, Karl Clark, Alysa Wooden

Staff: Susanne DiPietro, Staci Corey, Barbara Dunham

Letter re: Recidivism Reduction Fund

Chair Claman noted that there was only one item on the agenda: consideration of the letter to the Legislature regarding the Recidivism Reduction Fund, as discussed at the previous plenary meeting. A draft letter had been circulated in advance of this meeting.

Commissioner Williams moved to forward the letter to the Legislature. Commissioner Stanfill seconded the motion. Chair Claman called for discussion.

Commissioner Case noted that the letter specified the statute that states the purpose of the Recidivism Reduction Fund, which he thought was helpful, but thought that also specifying the section of SB 91 that created that statutory provision might be confusing. He recalled that at the last meeting, there had been mention of some confusion among legislators about this. He suggested taking the reference to SB 91 out.

Chair Claman noted that the letter began, “The Recidivism Reduction Fund was established by SB 91 to provide funding for programs intended to reduce recidivism rates.” He asked whether Commissioner Case proposed removing the words “by SB 91.” Commissioner Case said he did, and Commissioners Williams and Cherot both said they agreed with the change.

Commissioner Stanfill asked if only referring to the statute made any difference, recalling that there had also been intent language regarding the fund in SB 91 that was not in the statute. Commission project attorney Barbara Dunham said that the intent language referred to excess funds being used for law enforcement, and that the language stating that the fund shall be used for recidivism reduction programs was in the statute itself. Removing the reference to SB 91 would not make a difference.

Chair Claman asked if there was any objection to modifying the letter as Commissioner Case had suggested. There was not.

Chair Claman asked for a voice vote on the motion to forward the letter as modified. All voting members present voted to forward the letter so modified, so the motion passed 7-0.

Chair Claman noted that he had looked into how appropriations were made from the fund in the last fiscal year, and would pass that information on to the Commission via Ms. Dunham. Ms. Dunham noted that as part of the small group tasked with developing the letter to the Legislature, Commissioner Williams had looked into how the funds would be spent this coming fiscal year and learned that there were no plans to use the Fund for the Pioneer Homes.

Public Comment

There was an opportunity for public comment but none was offered.

Next Meetings

Chair Claman noted that the next four plenary meetings were scheduled for May 28, August 27, October 15, and December 3, 2020. They were all scheduled to take place in Anchorage, but some or all might need to be telephonic due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.