

Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

Meeting Summary

Thursday, December 3, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

Commissioners Present: Scotty Barr, Joel Bolger, Sean Case, Samantha Cherot, Matt Claman, Alex Cleghorn, Al Wall (for Commissioner Adam Crum), Nancy Dahlstrom, Shelley Hughes, Randi Breager (for Commissioner Amanda Price), John Skidmore (for Acting Attorney General Ed Sniffen), Trevor Stephens, Steve Williams

Commissioners Absent: Stephanie Rhoades

Participants: Lisa Hart, Terria Vandenhurk, Troy Payne, Kaci Schroeder, Nancy Meade, Stephanie Clayborne, Erin Jackson-Hill, Mike Garvey, Kendra Kloster, Andree McLeod, Cal Williams, Celeste Hodge Growden, Helenmarie Matesi, James Stinson, Alysa Wooden

Staff: Teri Carns, Staci Corey, Brian Brossmer, Susanne DiPietro, Barbara Dunham

Introductions

Chair Matt Claman noted the agenda would need to be amended to include approving the prior meeting summaries. The agenda so amended was approved without opposition.

The meeting summaries from October 15 and October 27 were approved without opposition.

Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair Claman explained that his term was expiring and that he was willing to continue to serve. Commissioner Samantha Cherot nominated him to continue serving as chair, and Commissioner Steve Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Chair Claman noted that there was uncertainty in terms of the leadership of the Alaska House of Representatives, and his chairmanship was conditional on his continued appointment to the Commission.

Commissioner Williams moved to appoint Commissioner Alex Cleghorn to serve as vice chair, and Commissioner Cherot seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Sunset Recommendation

Senator Shelley Hughes said she wanted to know how the Taskforce proposed in this recommendation would differ from the Commission and what sort of staffing it would need. She

said that she would need to step away from the meeting but her staffer Lisa Hart would continue with the meeting and would take notes for her.

Commissioner Williams explained that the one-page recommendation that had been circulated in advance of the meeting represented the consensus reached by the ad-hoc workgroup. The workgroup's task was to find, what, if any, body would be appropriate to continue the Commission's duties in light of the scheduled sunset. The Commission's statutes as drafted were focused on recent reforms, particularly SB 91, and gave the Commission duties related to those reforms, which have since been changed or repealed.

Commissioner Williams noted the ad-hoc workgroup members were Commissioners Matt Claman, John Skidmore, Alex Cleghorn, Samantha Cherot, and Nancy Dahlstrom, as well as staff. The group met five times. It looked at the Commission's current statutes, and concluded that there was value in having some of the Commission's duties continue, particularly the focus on data, research, and analysis of how the criminal justice system is functioning. The idea was to continue the ability to look at the system as a whole, rather than in agency/organizational silos. The new entity, the Criminal Justice Advisory Taskforce, should represent the system as a whole.

Commissioner Williams explained the workgroup had significant discussion about the Commission's current ability to make recommendations to the Legislature and the administration. The group decided to take that piece out, so the Taskforce would not be recommendations as the Commission has done over the last several years. However, the Taskforce would be able to make recommendations if any of the three branches of government requested a recommendation. In addition, the Taskforce could make recommendations on how funds should be allocated from the Recidivism Reduction Fund. Commissioner Williams reiterated that the recommendations would be nonbinding.

Commissioner Williams explained that the Taskforce would also be required to provide an annual report, so that people would be able to use it in their work, and to provide a continual evaluation of the system.

Commissioner Nancy Dahlstrom said that during the ad-hoc meetings she had raised issues of fiscal responsibility. This data was needed but she did question whether there was a need for a new group. She had concerns about the fiscal implications that Senator Hughes had brought up.

Chair Claman said that one of the things the ad-hoc group had talked about was the legislative audit, which recommended that the Commission should not continue to make recommendations, but did think data collection was essential and should continue.

Randi Breager, special assistant to the Commissioner of Public Safety, said she wanted to echo what Commissioner Dahlstrom said. She agreed that data collection was critical. She wondered whether that was something that required a statute, and also wondered whether the duties could be accomplished via the Alaska Justice Information Center (AJiC).

Commissioner Williams said that was a great question. It was clear that the Taskforce proposed in the recommendation would be a similar body in terms of membership, but the value to that was that when looking at the data, the group would have voices from all over the system. In terms of cost, it would be a cost-neutral approach, and would not increase costs.

Commissioner Claman noted that AJiC had been involved in the group, and that the group had taken a close look at AJiC in terms of staffing. AJiC's real strength was in research, whereas the Judicial Council's real strength was in logistics, and the group had heard a lot from both entities that their current arrangement in working together maximizes efficiency. If AJiC were to take things over entirely it would need staff to do the work that the Commission is doing.

Dr. Troy Payne, director of AJiC, agreed. He also noted that there was a question about whether a statute was needed. The answer to that is yes. Without a statute that authorizes the release of this information, each research project would need a separate data sharing agreement. Having a statutory arrangement allows broad-based policy research, and the Commission (as well as the proposed Taskforce) would be much less nimble without the statutes. Entering into repeated data sharing agreements would be a burden for researchers and the agencies sending the data. When the data sharing is statutorily authorized, it's clear for everyone what is required.

Commissioner Cherot pointed out the proposed Taskforce would have fewer meetings than the Commission, since it would make recommendations only as requested.

Susanne DiPietro, executive director of the Alaska Judicial Council, which staffs the Commission, said that the Judicial Council has a constitutional mandate to conduct research to improve the administration of justice. That has been part of the Council's work for the past 50 years.

Commissioner Williams explained that the second part of the recommendation related to the membership of the Taskforce. The ad-hoc workgroup had discussed broadening membership, but had also discussed the state's fiscal situation, and whether there was another way to broaden the Taskforce's perspectives. The ad-hoc workgroup decided to make slight changes in terms of membership.

The first change was really critical, and the workgroup spent a lot of time talking about it—adding a provision that would ensure representation from rural Alaska. The next change was to make the Commissioner of DHSS a voting member. The third change was to replace the Attorney General with the Deputy Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division of the Department of Law.

John Skidmore, deputy attorney general in charge of the criminal division of the Department of Law, serving as proxy for Acting Attorney General Ed Sniffen, said that what was really needed in a group like the Taskforce was the perspective of a prosecutor. While the Attorney General is the supervisor of all of the attorneys in the Department of Law, the Deputy AG is the most senior prosecutor and the person who has that perspective.

Commissioner Williams explained that the workgroup also looked at the municipal law enforcement representative. This discussion related to increasing rural representation. The members also noted that technically the only municipality in Alaska is Anchorage. So the workgroup used the word “local” instead, which broadens the options for appointment. The workgroup also decided that the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police should make the appointment rather than the governor.

Chair Claman said that his understanding was that the Chiefs of Police already appoint people to the Alaska Police Standards Council. Mr. Skidmore said they didn’t, membership of that body is in statute. Chair Claman noted that in any event the Chiefs of Police will have a broad knowledge of rural communities.

Commissioner Williams said the workgroup’s recommendation also called for the victims’ representative to be appointed by ANDVSA. Chair Claman said that this change and the law enforcement change made those appointments more like the appointments from the Trust and the Alaska Native Justice Center.

Commissioner Cleghorn wanted to highlight that the workgroup had a good discussion about rural Alaska. Certainly the Alaska Native Justice Center had concerns in urban areas as well as rural, but their concerns outside urban areas were very different. In rural areas their concerns were more related to a total lack of law enforcement while in urban areas, their concerns were more about disproportionality.

Ms. Breager thanked Commissioner Cleghorn for his comments, and to even further develop rural representation, she suggested expanding membership to include two law enforcement officers to represent rural and urban Alaska. Commissioner Williams said that the workgroup had weighed that idea in depth. The workgroup had also talked about the breadth of information available from DPS and its access to information on rural areas.

Chair Claman said that the workgroup had also discussed trying to reduce the number of members; it was a very wide-ranging discussion, and some proposed expanding the membership, but ultimately the group came to the conclusion that it was difficult to take people off the roster and also difficult to increase its size.

[At this point, the Commission took a break to hear public comment, which is summarized below.]

Commissioner Williams said the workgroup also discussed the fact that there are different definitions of recidivism. There are reasons for that but it can also create confusion. Looking at the statutes for the Commission, the workgroup decided it should be in the definition section of the statutes, and added that to the recommendation. They did not try to determine what that definition should be, since there were a variety of thoughts.

Commissioner Dahlstrom said she thought it was appropriate not to delve into this issue too much at this point. The challenge that DOC has is that there are different definitions of recidivism out there, and researchers have a different perspective, which was appropriate for

research but she was not sure that should be in statute. When people go before the Legislature and testify about recidivism rates using different meanings, it can make their organization sound more successful comparatively. Corrections must use what's in statute right now. It was important to have consistency on this. She thought it would need to get worked out in the Legislature.

Dr. Payne with the AJiC said the important thing was to ensure that the definition used is not limiting.

Mr. Skidmore agreed with Commissioner Dahlstrom that consistency was important. He thought it was important to have one definition. He agreed the current definition was limiting, and thought it should be more robust. But the state should have some consensus on a starting point. If anyone wanted to conduct a different analysis, it would be easier to point out the differences from the standard set in statute.

Chair Claman said he was reminded of what he'd heard about recidivism: that no matter how hard you try, it will be more complicated than you think. That was one reason why the workgroup did not come to a conclusion as to a definition. It might be useful for the Commission to work on that over the next year and potentially provide a recommendation to the legislature.

Mr. Skidmore said that he had been supportive of gathering data throughout this process. He supported this recommendation, but did so knowing that the budget will be an issue. He thought this was one way that data collection can happen and that was the reason why he supported it.

Commissioner Cherot moved that the Commission adopt the workgroup's draft recommendation, and Mr. Skidmore seconded the motion.

Ms. Breager proposed an amendment to include both a rural and urban law enforcement officer.

[At this point the Commission took a break to allow Ms. Breager to compose the wording of the amendment.]

Ms. Breager moved to amend the draft recommendation to include the recommendation "there should be two peace officer representatives, one representing a community of less than 5,000 people." Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ms. Breager said she appreciated the earlier comments about rural representation, and she really wanted to ensure the Taskforce would be getting that from rural law enforcement, as their understanding of the data would be informed by very a different experience than an urban officer. A community of less than 5000 would include places like Nome, and the term peace officer meant the person could be a VPO or TPO.

Mr. Skidmore said he supported this amendment. He had proposed something similar in the workgroup, with a population of 2,500, but in looking at population sizes, 5000 was better, as it included communities like Nome and Kotzebue. The phrase "peace officers" would allow any

peace officer from a small community. It wouldn't need to be a chief. He thought this perspective was critical for a group gathering statewide data.

Commissioner Cherot said, as she had expressed during the previous ad-hoc workgroup meeting, that having a rural perspective is key. She noted that the Public Defender Agency was doing a lot of work in its rural defense program. The workgroup had discussed not expanding the membership out of concerns about having too large a group. If the Commission wanted to go in this direction, she would propose adding a member from the Office of Public Advocacy or a public defender working in a rural area.

Commissioner Sean Case said it sounded like the Commission was in agreement to have more rural representation. When Walt Monegan was the DPS commissioner he was able to give some of that perspective. He was concerned that a cap of 5,000 would leave out Bethel. He thought the Commission would want someone outside of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, but he didn't necessarily want to spell out which cities.

Commissioner Cleghorn said he appreciated the desire to include Bethel. He was also concerned that listing places might leave something off. He would support representation from a hub community, but for very rural parts of the state, the hub is urban. He wanted to make sure that those smaller communities were represented.

Commissioner Williams noted that if one representative was from a community of less than 5,000 as the amendment was written, those smaller communities could be represented. He noted this discussion was similar to what the workgroup had at its last meeting. Using the word "local" made it open to any law enforcement officer statewide. The workgroup kept the number of law enforcement representatives at one knowing that DPS has a statewide presence, and is in charge of VPSOs in terms of the data perspective.

Chair Claman noted that as drafted the amendment would require at least one person from a community under 5,000, but also included the possibility that there could be two.

Ms. Breager thought there should also be someone representing a community of more than 5,000. The urban perspective was not less important, just very different. Regarding DPS, they were not really in charge of VPSOs which are independent and do not necessarily want DPS speaking for them. Rural agencies have their own identities and issues. Their perspective will be very different than that of someone working for a state department.

Commissioner Cleghorn suggested providing more guidance, maybe that the Commission was looking for representation of a community off the road system of less than 6,500—that would include Bethel but not Valdez. Ms. Breager noted that populations can change. Commissioner Williams said that was a good point and suggested using the phrase "off the road system" without putting a specific population. Mr. Skidmore agreed.

Chief Justice Joel Bolger also agreed. Looking at the population of Bethel, it was currently right around 6,500. He didn't see any problem with off the road system and on it. He thought the challenges are more similar among communities off the road system no matter the size.

Chair Claman wondered whether "road system" would include Southeast Alaska; it would depend on whether you include the Marine Highway. Places like Ketchikan, Juneau, and Kodiak are not on the paved road system but are on the Marine Highway. Justice Bolger pointed out that depending on funding, a community's status as being on the Marine Highway was subject to change.

Commissioner Case wondered whether just using the designations of rural and urban would work. Ms. Breager said it made sense and wondered if it would be legally adequate. Chair Claman noted that the Commission was just making a recommendation and the final drafting would be up to the legislative legal drafters.

Commissioner Cleghorn moved to amend the amendment with the phrase "there should be two peace officer representatives, one representing a rural community off the road system and one representing an urban community." Mr. Skidmore seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the amendment to the amendment passed.

Chair Claman asked if there was any opposition to the amendment as amended. Commissioner Cherot opposed and Chair Claman called for a vote. The amendment passed 9-1, with Commissioners Barr, Bolger, Case, Cleghorn, Dahlstrom, Breager, Skidmore, Stephens and Williams voting yes and Commissioner Cherot voting no.

Commissioner Williams noted that he was motivated to vote yes after hearing the public comments and the discussion the Commissioners just had. It would increase the size of the Taskforce, but representation was important.

Commissioner Cherot moved to include a member of the Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) as a member of the Taskforce. The clientele of both the Public Defender Agency and OPA are half rural. If the goal was to have different perspectives and diverse representation on the Taskforce, she thought OPA deserved a seat. She was not part of the original discussion at the formation of the Commission, but she thought it has been an omission for this group as well. Commissioner Cleghorn seconded the motion.

Commissioner Cleghorn said that if the intention is to include a rural perspective, his understanding was that the Public Advocate was here in Anchorage. One idea might be to specify an OPA advocate who practices in a rural area. Commissioner Cherot said she was of two minds; the Public Advocate was a critical member of the criminal justice system and a stakeholder, but she also appreciated Commissioner Cleghorn's idea. The seat could be the Public Advocate or a designee practicing in rural area.

Commissioner Williams said he wanted to remind people that the Commission was exclusive in terms of people invited to the table, and people who provide information to the

Commission. The Commission will often request and receive information from people in other areas. He moved to amend Commissioner Cherot's amendment to include the possibility of a designee as is standard in other seats on the Commission. Justice Bolger seconded the motion and there was no opposition to the amendment to the amendment.

James Stinson, the Public Advocate, said he supported this change. He thought OPA would bring a unique perspective, since OPA also provides other services, such as the public guardians, that intersect with the criminal justice system.

Chair Claman asked if there was any opposition to amendment, and Mr. Skidmore opposed. Chair Claman called for a vote and the motion failed, 5-5, with Commissioners Barr, Bolger, Cherot Cleghorn, and Stephens voting yes and Commissioners Case, Dahlstrom, Breager, Skidmore, and Williams voting no.

Chair Claman called for other amendments or comments on the recommendation.

Judge Stephens said that it was nice to have a larger turnout for public comment, and for the members of the public participating, he wanted to provide some context. The Alaska Criminal Justice Commission was established in statutes, which gives the Commission directions. Under the statutes, the Commission is set to sunset and wind up its affairs by June 2022. An audit process recommended that the Commission not continue in current form, but recognized that the Commission's data collection and analysis function was important. Today's meeting was to respond to that and discuss how things should continue. The audit noted that a lot of the Commission's recommendations had passed in SB 91, which the legislature then modified. So now the Commission was looking at what should happen going forward, keeping in mind the budget. Increasing the size of a successor body to the Commission is a concern because of costs. For him personally, he would welcome having additional members that are not necessarily involved in one of the state agencies or branches of government. He thought some public participants spoke about that today. The reality is that more seats cost more money and the legislation would then have less chance of passage. The importance of the data was really to inform how the state approaches criminal justice issues, including rehabilitation and lowering recidivism rates.

Commissioner Williams thought that the discussions in the ad-hoc workgroup and today illustrated a broad consensus that statewide representation is critical, and thought that the public comments echoed that too. The Commission is important to public, and people who are involved in the justice system in one way or another.

Chair Claman asked if there was any objection to the motion to approve the recommendation as amended. There was no objection, with Ms. Breager and Commissioner Dahlstrom abstaining. The motion passed and the recommendation was approved.

Work Plan and Meeting Schedule for 2021

Commission project attorney Barbara Dunham explained that she had circulated a memo summarizing the Commission's current workgroups and their projects, as well as questions as to how to proceed for the next year. The workgroups were as follows:

- Rehabilitation, Reentry, and Recidivism Reduction (RRRR)
 - Workgroup Chair: Stephanie Rhoades
 - On the agenda: Universal reentry ROI, digital inreach, sustained reentry funding
- Victims' Rights and Services
 - Workgroup Chair: Steve Williams
 - On the agenda: Communication privilege for victim advocates, continuances/pretrial delay, notice for parole hearings, victim navigators, victims' video
- Domestic Violence
 - Workgroup Chair: Sean Case
 - On the agenda: High-risk response teams, coordinated community response teams

Ms. Dunham added that staff needed guidance as to when the workgroups should wrap up their work, whether there were any other topics the Commission wished to take up, whether the Commission should continue to meet on its same schedule, and whether the Commission should issue an annual report for 2021.

Ms. Breager wondered whether, if the Taskforce recommendation was going to be passed by the Legislature, the Commission should look at transitioning to the Taskforce. Chair Claman said that other commissioners have asked same question. His perspective was that the that budget and fiscal issues, along with COVID response, were large looming issues for the Legislature, and he tended to think that things like the Taskforce would not be high on the agenda. It probably wouldn't get taken up until 2022, although he has been wrong before. In the last session, issues like allowing greater use of electronics in jail had broad support, but there was no time to get to it. That was one reason why the sunset statute gives commissions an additional year to wrap up. If the Legislature does act, it would provide an effective date sufficient for the Commission to plan a transition. He thought it was appropriate to set a schedule now, though it might have to change. The plenary meeting dates were set as follows:

Tuesday, January 26
Thursday, March 11
Tuesday, May 25
Tuesday, August 24 (morning)
Thursday, October 7
(Monday, October 25)
Thursday, December 2

Chair Claman asked if the group wanted to add the issue of a statutory definition of recidivism to the RRRR workgroup. Commissioner Cherot said it made sense. Ms. Dunham noted that Judge Rhoades, who could not attend today, had envisioned wrapping up that workgroup by the next meeting in January. Chair Claman said it was important to have DOC representation on

that group. Mr. Skidmore said he'd also like participate for the purpose of addressing the definition question. Commissioner Cherot said she would also attend as available.

Ms. Breager said that another topic to take up was the topic brought up in public comment and by Commissioner Dahlstrom regarding programming and employment in DOC facilities and statutory limitations. Commissioner Dahlstrom said she was referring to the prison industries program, which would take legislation to change. Chair Claman suggested adding that to the RRRR agenda as well.

Commissioner Dahlstrom noted that there are jobs in the prisons, they do not necessarily pay well but there are a lot of coveted positions, and they provide money for the commissary. One silver lining of COVID was that DOC has been able to employ more people in cleaning. Prison industries made furniture, etc. that the public could order. Ms. Vandenhurk had mentioned making clothes; they were of great workmanship, and sold at events. Commissioner Dahlstrom said she would like to see prison industries start up again, even if they start small. Commissioner Cherot noted that the incarcerated population had made a lot of masks during the pandemic as well. Commissioner Dahlstrom said those were distributed free of charge; the incarcerated population had stepped up to make them and she was very proud of them. They organized in groups, and they were paid. They also made smaller sizes for OCS.

Chair Claman said he was hearing broad support for reviving prison industries, which he also supported. The Commission's usual process is to send these issues to a workgroup.

Commissioner Cleghorn said the Commission had heard from the public comments today that electronic access was important. He noted that digital inreach was on the agenda for the RRRR workgroup. Ms. Dunham explained that the group had already developed, and the Commission approved, a recommendation expanding computer access for the incarcerated population. The remaining agenda item was to discuss how to facilitate remote access for reentry service providers to do to inreach activities, to help prepare people who are about to reenter society.

Commissioner Cleghorn noted there was a distinction between web access and electronic access, and he wanted to be respectful of DOC's security needs but did want to make sure that the incarcerated population would have access to programming however that was achieved. Commissioner Dahlstrom agreed. DOC definitely didn't want web access for inmates but did support the idea of facilitating programming and reentry assistance whether via tablet or other means. Chair Claman suggested adding that topic to the RRRR workgroup, and suggested look at the past recommendation and in light of that see whether an additional recommendation was appropriate.

Commissioner Williams moved that the RRRR workgroup should take up the recidivism definition, reviving prison industries, and looking at computer access as relates increased access to rehabilitation services. Judge Stephens seconded the motion and the motion passed without opposition.

Chair Claman asked if the Commission wanted to issue an annual report. Commissioner Williams so moved and Commissioner Cherot seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Chair Claman asked if there were any other thoughts on timing the workgroups' work, and suggested they wrap up recommendations before the next annual report. The Commission agreed.

Public Comment

Celeste Hodge explained that she is the president and CEO of the Alaska Black Caucus, a nonprofit that champions the rights of Black people in the areas of the economy, justice, health, and education. She said she would love to be included and be made aware of these meetings, and she would go to the website to find out more, as she was very interested in this. She said the Commission already knew the statistics when it comes to criminal justice and Black people. She believed this new Taskforce should be diverse. Not just diverse in terms of rural and urban, but it also needs to represent all of the community, including Black people, who can contribute valuable lived experience.

Malan Paquette explained that she was a lifelong Alaskan and was very concerned about recidivism. She thanked the Commission for considering the Taskforce. Some things in the criminal justice system don't make sense. In the sex offender registry, Kenai has 166 offenders compliant, 7 noncompliant. Recidivism is noncompliance. Also, CourtView doesn't display aliases. Recidivism is out of control. Correctional facilities are too dependent on halfway houses.

Cal Williams thought the Commission needed to do a better job with communication and notice for meetings. He thanked the Commission for the work it was doing. He explained that he was on the governor's Correctional Industries Commission some years ago. That involved incarcerated people learning trades, was a net benefit to the state, and gave the individuals skills to use once they were out as well as job connections. This was something that was needed currently. He had been talking to former Commissioner Bill Parker about this. Mr. Williams would support reinstating correctional industries. He suggested that the Commission should come to Fairview and Mountain View and listen to the people in those neighborhoods.

Michael Garvy, advocacy director for the ACLU of Alaska, said that there had been alarming outbreaks of COVID in Alaska's correctional facilities, and that the recent deaths due to COVID were tragic and preventable. The ACLU has been receiving reports from people who are incarcerated that the facilities lack adequate sanitation supplies and masking. They are also hearing reports that there is no meaningful access to programming for behavioral health, or successful release planning. He wondered if anyone was currently looking into this issue. DOC and the administration could be doing more. People have right to rehabilitation and not to be warehoused.

Terria Vandenheurk from the Safe Alaska Restorative Justice Initiative said that she was a person in long-term recovery and was formerly incarcerated. Looking at the list of people

considered for the Taskforce. She would recommend including individuals with lived experience and who are doing direct services. She is an advocate for restorative justice practices, rehabilitation, and treating people with dignity and respect. She is also the parent of a child who was murdered, but had a different perspective than others might. She believed in rehabilitation, and thought that even prior to COVID the state was not doing enough. The “us and them” mentality should be discarded. People like her should be to be invited to the table.

Kendra Kloster explained she was the executive director of Native Peoples’ Action, and she supported what the other speakers had said. She appreciated the discussion on rural representation and echoed the suggestion to further diversify by ensuring BIPOC representation. She hoped the Commission would take comments about diversifying to heart.

Commissioner Dahlstrom said she appreciated having so much participation in this meeting. She thought the Commission had taken to heart the comments about notice and participation and getting information out there. She was open to discussions with Mr. Williams and Mr. Garvey. She also appreciated the comments from Terria, with whom she had had positive conversations in the past and had learned a lot from her shared lived experience. She has made changes in the department as a result of those conversations.

Commissioner Dahlstrom said she agreed that prison industries was a good program. It was a DOC program, but then a bill was passed in the 90s that largely prohibited it. She has had conversations with people in this group and in the Legislature about this, and would support overturning/changing that law.

Regarding COVID, Commissioner Dahlstrom said it was true that rehabilitation programming and visits had stopped. It was tough to make that decision, but she needed to keep people safe and healthy. DOC has had two deaths, and both people had serious underlying conditions. If there was a way to start rehabilitation and visitation safely she would do it. She continues to work with staff on solutions, and noted that staffing is also challenging, with staff often needing to quarantine. She has been trying to get tablets into the facilities, but that required a new bill which was close to passing last year. DOC also has a very serious responsibility for victim notification. She thought restorative justice could be beneficial for some, for others not at all. She encouraged people to call her office.

Chair Claman said he also appreciated public comment, and noted that the Commission has heard the perspectives of people with lived experience before, and has been very receptive to those comments.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20.