

ACJC Workgroup on Barriers to Reentry
Staff Notes and Member Assignments from November 18, 2014
at the Snowden Conference Center

Commissioners attending: Fred Dyson, Jeff Jessee, Brenda Stanfill, Greg Razo (tel.)
Staff present: Mary Geddes, Susie Dosik, Giulia Kaufman.
Participating: Janet McCabe, Chuck Kopp, Deborah Periman, Chuck Kopp

**Next meeting is: December 8, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Foraker Room
Denali Commission, 510 L Street, Anchorage**

INFORMATION

- Greg Razo, Jeff Jessee and Fred Dyson have been named to Walker-Mallott Administration transition teams.
- ‘The ACJC “Resources” webpage now lists several documents released only this fall from the Restoration of Rights Project, which is headed by Margaret Colgate Love. There are several helpful charts providing state-by-state comparisons of laws concerning Expungement, Firearm Privileges, Pardon Authorities, Employment and Licensing barriers.
 - Sen. Dyson noted that one of the charts contained an error, as it assumed that SB 108 had been signed into law.
- Report on DOC Reentry conference: from Janet McCabe and Mary Geddes.
- Senator Dyson: some kind of Courtview or expungement bill will be coming up this session.
- Janet reported on her and MG’s investigation of new technology now utilized by the EM unit of DOC Probation that might make re-entry easier:
 - The SoberLink2, a handheld PBT unit at the cost of \$6.40/day that checks the person’s ETOH 2-3 times a day by buzzing them to take the test and taking a photo image of them at the time of using the test. The technology uses photo recognition technology.
 - 24/7 program offers testing 2x a day at the cost of \$3.00 a test.

DISCUSSION OF WORKGROUP PRIORITIES

- Consideration of ABA’s Collateral Consequences Inventory of Alaska’s barrier crimes is daunting. Workgroup needs to figure out some way of going through this. Ultimately any proposal must address the public safety concerns which motivated it in the first place. Maybe workgroup can begin by identifying a specific number, such as top 50 barrier crimes, for study.
- Chuck Kopp said that Title 28 reform may be forthcoming this legislative session. There may be a bill to unify criminal and administrative revocations, and to allow a drivers’ license after a one-year suspension. Sen. Dyson noted that it would be invaluable for Barriers workgroup to consider and weigh in on any such bill.
- Janet McCabe noted that any efforts should emphasize a multiprong approach that includes increasing public safety, reducing costs, and bolstering reentry success.

- Jeff Jessee suggested digging into this specific issue, i.e. the limitations placed on drivers' licenses, given that the loss of a DL is one of the greatest impediments to a successful reentry. Explore the policy aspects of it. Keep in mind the pre-file dates of December 5 and January 7-9.
- Mary Geddes noted that SB 64 requires the Commission to review and comment on Title 28. That report is due the last day of the commission. She and Giuila Kaufman have already done a work gathering information on other jurisdiction's sanctions and ameliorative processes.
- Dyson: We could least say this is a very important issue, without specifically endorsing a bill, if we are not yet there. Keller's office may be taking the lead on a reform this session.
- Brenda Stanfill: The way to avoid future pushback is by engaging all stakeholders early on. Let's engage MADD or whomever early on in any consideration of reforms of Title 28.
- Janet McCabe: life will pass ACJC by unless it comes up with specific suggestions for law reform.
- Jeff Jessee noted that the ACJC process must begin by identifying the principles on which we proceed and the criteria by which reforms will be judged. One principle has to be that any change will increase and not decrease public safety. The process needs to stick with evidence-based best practices.
- Senator Dyson informed the committee that a bill would be pre-filed with the legislature dealing with public access to information on CourtView.
- Brenda said she was aware, from her work, that a lot of women are convicted of misdemeanor assaults and experience disabilities from those convictions. She noted that the barriers start at arrest and can exclude them from jobs as nurse's assistants, bus drivers, child care workers, and from housing. The question is how appropriate are barrier crime restrictions for misdemeanors and for how long.

RESOLUTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Identify potential problems/changes in Title 28 as worthy/appropriate/timely for a symposium in Juneau for January or February
 - Make "a plan to come up with a plan" by next workgroup meeting, and present it to the Commission for its approval on December 18
 - Plan is to engage DMV and MADD in the process
 - MG will do some preliminary planning on this and the workgroup will discuss at its next meeting
- Plan to discuss SB 108 at next workgroup meeting.
- The workgroup should look at barriers arising from misdemeanor convictions. Those volunteering to explore this area were Brenda, Janet and Deb, and Susie. Jeff Jesse offered the assistance of Steve Williams, as well.