

OHIO

CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION

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TO: Members of the Ohio JR 2.0 Ad Hoc Committee

FROM: Thomas J. Stickrath, Director – Ohio Department of Public Safety
Sara Andrews, Director – Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission

RE: Ohio JR 2.0 Final Summary

DATE: May 16, 2019



The final scheduled meeting of the Ohio Justice Reinvestment (JR) 2.0 Ad Hoc Committee was on November 8, 2018. The goal of the group was to “develop a statewide public safety strategy to reduce crime, improve behavioral health treatment and adopt more cost-effective sentencing, corrections and supervision policies.” The work resulted in four related policy objectives: reducing violent crime, expanding mental health and drug treatment, reducing recidivism and its costs, and improving criminal data collection – all of which received final votes by committee members. [More information is available here.](#)

The work of JR contributes to the ongoing commitment to reasoned, thoughtful criminal justice reform efforts in Ohio. As such, the recommendations of the group have been instructive and some are being pursued in whole or in part, as they conceptually align with several key provisions in Governor DeWine’s proposed budget, current Executive agency and Supreme Court of Ohio initiatives and legislative efforts, including Sub. Senate Bill 3. Those common themes address issues such as:

- Building on Ohio’s effective treatment system and its positive outcomes with recovery. Recovery Ohio is designed to coordinate a statewide strategy and system of accountability to achieve improved prevention, treatment, and recovery outcomes for Ohioans, including an emphasis on those involved with criminal justice.
- Continuing to strengthen support for law enforcement efforts to reduce violent/drug crimes and bolster collaboration between law enforcement and treatment professionals in Ohio.
- Expanding treatment to people suffering from mental illness and supporting programs that target substance use disorders, including the use of Medication Assisted Treatment.
- Expand access to and the number of specialized dockets in Ohio courts.
- Establishing a presumption of community supervision and allocating funds for locally managed probation departments to ensure people supervised in Ohio’s communities are receiving treatment to address addiction and mental health needs.
- Improving behavioral health care coordination and recognizing the prevalence of mental illness among incarcerated Ohioans.
- Modernizing and streamlining sentencing laws through examination of the length of community supervision terms, focusing supervision based on risk and needs, reducing administrative complexity of the Revised Code and enhancing opportunities for judicial release.
- Movement toward a statewide criminal justice data repository, including maximizing the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission efforts.

We are proud to have participated in JR 2.0 – engagement proved to be constructive and helpful in building relationships, identifying challenges and using information to guide us in developing the most impactful policies for a safer, fairer and more cost-efficient criminal justice system. We are confident that the work of JR will assist state leaders of the three branches of government and practitioners in the advancement of comprehensive criminal justice system reform and a data informed approach that will achieve positive change in criminal justice policy for Ohio.