



# OHIO

CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, Chair • Sara Andrews, Director

## Ad Hoc Committee on Bail & Pretrial Services

July 22, 2016

### Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Lara Baker-Morrish	Judge Cynthia Rice
Michele Mumford	Brenda Willis
Julie Doepke	Mike Kochera
Penny Underwood	Judge Ken Spanagel
Paul Dobson	Judge Beth Root
Susan Sweeney	Chrystal Alexander
Kari Bloom	Diana Feitl
Dan Peterca	Branden Meyer
David Phillips	Judge Ronald Adrine
Kari Bloom	Mary Smith
Jeff Clayton	Sara Andrews
Jo Ellen Cline	

**1. Introductions:** Ms. Cline welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

### **2. Selection of Ad Hoc Committee Chair**

Ms. Cline pointed out that the Ad Hoc Committee lacked a chairperson and solicited volunteers. Judge Spanagel and Mr. Dobson agreed to serve as co-chairs of the Ad hoc Committee.

### **3. Presentation by Mary Smith, Ohio Bail Agents Association**

Mary Smith, representing the Ohio Bail Agents Association, spoke with the Ad Hoc Committee about the surety industry. Her presentation included the process of bonding, statistics from Franklin County, Ohio showing that surety bonds result in greater court appearance rates and the regulatory system that surety companies are subjected to in Ohio.

### **4. Presentation by Jeff Clayton, American Bail Coalition**

Jeff Clayton, Policy Director for the American Bail Coalition, addressed the Ad Hoc Committee giving a current national picture of reform efforts from the bail industry's



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perspective. He indicated that the Coalition is not adverse to risk assessment but noted that most jurisdictions reforming their systems are not eliminating all financial conditions of bail. He noted that risk assessment is another tool in the toolbox. He encourage the Ad hoc Committee to gather Ohio specific data and to determine, separately from national trends, what works and does not work for Ohio.

### **5. Work Group Updates**

Ms. Cline updated the Ad hoc Committee on the progress of the various work groups, focusing mainly on the completion and dissemination of surveys from several work groups. Ms. Underwood discussed the work of the Clerk work group in putting together a flow chart or description of processes in the clerk of courts offices regarding bonds.

### **6. New Business**

Mr. Kochera discussed the possibility of Ohio becoming a statewide pilot project for the Arnold Foundation to implement use of a risk assessment tool statewide. Ms. Feitl, Ms. Smith, and Judge Adrine talked about the ongoing discussions in Cuyahoga County regarding bail. Ms. Feitl also discussed Summit County's use of the Luminosity assessment. The ad hoc committee discussed the differences between municipal courts handling misdemeanors and common pleas courts handling felony defendants. Although it may, at some point, become necessary to think along two parallel tracks the ad hoc committee agreed that while data collection is ongoing everything can be considered together.

The Ad hoc Committee will invite someone from Summit County, Lucas County and the Arnold Foundation to address the committee in September.

### **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 12 p.m.

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**NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 16, 2016  
HILTON @ EASTON**