Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy Judiciary Training Center Training Room 3 Annapolis, Maryland June 7, 2004

Commission Members in Attendance:

Honorable Raymond G. Thieme
James V. Anthenelli, Esquire
Russell P. Butler, Esquire
Honorable Arrie W. Davis
Honorable Timothy J. Doory
Richard A. Finci, Esquire
Robert Gibson
Patrick Kent, Esquire for Stephen E. Harris, Esquire
Honorable Robert Riddle
Honorable Joseph F. Vallario
Charles Wellford, Ph.D.

Staff Members in Attendance:

David Soulé, Ph.D. Gary Locust

Visitors in Attendance:

Guy Cherry, Legislative Service

1. Call to order

Judge Thieme called the meeting to order.

2. Roll call and declaration of quorum

The meeting began at 4:10pm when quorum was reached and roll was taken.

3. Approval of Minutes, March 1, 2004 meeting

The minutes were approved with the addition of Senator Kelley to the list of Commission members in attendance.

4. Introduction of the new Executive Director

Dr. David Soulé was introduced to the Commission by Judge Thieme and cordially welcomed by the Commission members.

5. Discussion of House Bill 918

Judge Thieme asked the guidelines committee to look at the impact this bill will have on the worksheets. Dr. Wellford explained that the committee would return with a specific proposal of an amendment to the worksheet. The committee will have to determine which offenses will be included and how to categorize the dollar amount of damage. Judge Doory asked where the dollar amount would come from and Robert Riddle replied that it probably will come from the charging document in the case. The guidelines committee will report back to the commission concerning this bill in the next meeting.

6. Discussion of Cell Ranges Project

The guidelines committee will continue working on the 35/65 compliance rates and report back next meeting.

7. Update of Commission Policy on Release of Data

Patrick Kent asked about the custom reports section of the Information release document. After discussion, Judge Doory suggested that the sentence "Custom reports are available on a case by case basis" be struck from the report. The Commission had no objection to this amendment. Dr. Wellford suggested that a clarification under the Standard Reports section of the policy should be made. Under Type of Sentence, the description should address the in-prison or out-of-prison decision of a case. Judge Thieme asked that these changes be made to the Information policy so he could take it to the Attorney General for review.

8. National Association of Sentencing Commissions Conference

Judge Thieme let the Commission members know that 3 additional people would be able to attend the conference in August. All people interested should contact the Judge as soon as possible.

9. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

10. New Business

Dr. Wellford asked that a 2004 legislative session chart be made and presented to the members as soon as possible. Also, the new pages to guidelines manual should be completed soon.

A new meeting time of 4:30pm was decided upon.

The next meeting will be October 4, 2004