

Correction Advisory Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 2, 2023
6:00 PM via Zoom

The following committee members were present:

Melinda Johnson
Daryl McGraw
John Cipolli
Ben Howell
Andrew Giering
Tadhg Dooley
Melvin Medina

The following committee members were absent:

Reena Kapoor
John Bowen
Kyisha Velazquez
Scott Semple

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Melinda Johnson.

Introductory remarks were made by Co-Chair Johnson.

Co-Chair Johnson introduced herself and invited other committee members to introduce themselves and share why they are passionate about the committee and what skills they bring to the table.

Members reviewed the committee's responsibilities, as outlined in Public Act 22-18:

The committee is composed of 11 members and is tasked with submitting a list of candidates for Correction Ombuds for the Governor's consideration. The committee is responsible for reviewing the actions of the Correction Ombuds, meeting at least quarterly to bring matters to the Ombud's attention, and consulting on the correction ombuds services' findings and recommendations.

The committee is required to convene a semi-annual public hearing to discuss the correction of ombuds services, findings, and recommendations. Committee members will not receive compensation, they are eligible for reimbursement of necessary expenses, subject to available appropriations.

To conduct official business, a quorum of at least six members is necessary. Each committee member is appointed for a four-year term, with the option to serve for up to two terms.

The administration of oaths was read to the committee members.

Co-Chair Dooley described the ombud service as coded in the Connecticut General Statutes. He explained that the position will have staff within available funds; the amount appropriated for FY2023 is \$677,581, which is intended to cover salaries and benefits.

Co-Chair Dooley explained that the selection process will involve conducting interviews with the most qualified applicants. A public hearing will be held once finalist applicants are selected. Subsequently, a maximum of five candidates will be recommended to the Governor's office for appointment and confirmation by the General Assembly.

Co-Chair Dooley encouraged members to contemplate possible candidates for nomination.

Co-chair Dooley and Melvin Medina will collaborate on developing the initial draft of the job description of the ombuds position and they will share it with the other committee members via email to gather suggestions.

The floor was opened for public opinion. Representative Porter expressed gratitude towards the work of the committee.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ben Howell, and seconded by Co-Chair Dooley. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.