

Correction Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 26, 2024

7:00 PM via Zoom and [YouTube Live](#) and [CT-N](#)

The following committee members were present:

Tadhg Dooley, Chair  
Marisol Garcia, Chair  
Ben Howell  
Melvin Medina  
Scott Semple  
Reena Kapoor  
Daryl McGraw  
Andrew Giering

The following committee members were absent:

John Bowen  
Kyisha Velazquez

I. CONVENE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM by Chair Dooley.

II. ADOPTION OF JULY MEETING MINUTES

A motion to adopt the July meeting minutes was made by Mr. Howell, seconded by Chair Garcia. Chair Dooley asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the July 22, 2024 minutes were approved by voice vote.

III. UPDATE ON INTERIM OMBUDS

Chairman Dooley noted the Interim Ombuds Attorney DeVaughn Ward, was present in the meeting and thanked him for attending. He attended as a member of the public as his term as Interim Ombuds does not begin until September 23, 2024. Chairman Dooley encouraged members to reach out and introduce themselves to him.

IV. UPDATE ON PERMANENT OMBUDS APPLICATION PROCESS

Chairman Dooley than said that the application for the permanent position will hopefully be posted later in the upcoming week. The Department of Administrative Services have created a mock up that was voted on in the last meeting. There was discussion about changing the "soft deadline" for applications, which is currently September 15 as it could serve as a deterrent for candidates. He suggested September 30.

Dr. Howell asked if they would still be accepting applications after interviews begin. Chairman Dooley was open to creating a "hard deadline" following the "soft deadline." Chairman Garcia said that the "hard deadline" should be set at September 30 because there is already awareness about the position and it has been circulated and the Committee has already waited to make the application live.

Mr. Medina agreed that the Committee should give their recommendation to Governor Lamont by end of October so that the legislative confirmation process can begin when session begins in January.

Dr. Powell wondered what would happen if September 30 comes and they do not have enough applications for consideration. Chairman Dooley reminded him that they extended the deadline last time as they did not receive enough applications. He is confident that if the Committee gets the word out there will be enough applications.

Mr. McGraw asked if the Chairs were in communication with the Governor on this matter, as he will have to appoint a candidate. Chairman Dooley said that their recommendation will have 30 days for the Governor to act on it. If he does not, the candidate will be appointed Acting Ombuds until they are confirmed.

Chairman Dooley made a motion to change of the deadline to September 30 and send the application out. It was seconded by Chairman Garcia approved by voice vote.

Mr. McGraw asked if anyone who applied before could apply again and Chairman Dooley encouraged anyone who is interested to apply again if they are interested.

Mr. Semple asked if only Connecticut state residents could apply to the position. Chairman Dooley said that the requirement is statutory and hasn't tried. You do not need to be a resident apply, but applicants must be a resident at the time of their interview.

Chairman Dooley asked if the Committee would like to have a subcommittee to go over the applications once they are in. Chairman Garcia suggested that once applications are in, they could have an in-person meeting and go over them all together. Dr. Howell agreed but wondered how that would work in the interview portion of the process. Chairman Dooley agreed that the Committee needs a subcommittee for the interview process but that could be addressed at the following meeting. He asked if anyone would prefer to have a subcommittee for application review but said that Chairman Garcia's idea to meet and discuss applications in a closed, informal meeting was a good idea.

Chairman Garcia moved that this meeting would take place, seconded by Chairman Dooley. During discussion Mr. Semple wanted to point out that there should be medical professionals included in the discussion. Chairman Dooley

agreed that was important in the interview subcommittee and that it would be covered in the broader group discussion.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Fair thanked the Committee for meeting and agreed with the hard September 30 deadline. She wanted to be sure that all applications would be seen by the committee. She also wanted to note the urgency of this matter and hopes that will get done.

Mr. McGraw asked about sending a letter to the candidates not selected for interviews, and Chairman Dooley said that was the plan but based on Ms. Fair's comments some people may not have received one and the Committee would be sure to get that done this round.

There was discussion about the accessibility of the Zoom link and the tough transition between Zoom and YouTube. It was decided that in the future, members of the public could be live on the Zoom call for the duration of the meeting so long as they do not interrupt Committee business.

Mr. Medina thanked Attorney Ward for joining the meeting and that he is excited to work with him when his term begins.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was formally adjourned at 7:56 PM.