

CCJJ COMMISSION MINUTES – pending approval	
Committee	Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice
Date	Thursday, December 11th, 2025
Time	12 PM – 2 PM
Location	Hybrid Zoom Virtual meeting – Capitol Board Room 240
Members Present	<p><u>In-Person Attendance:</u> Michael Dreschel (for Ron Gordon), Spencer Turley (for Jared Garcia), Eric Tadehara (for Tracey Gruber), Tyler Kotter (for Commissioner Beau Mason), Stewart Young, Chief Craig Black, Blake Hills, Pam Vickrey, Daniel Meza (for JJOC), Richard Mauro, Ryan Robinson, Steve Burton (for Mark Moffat), Tom Ross, April Graham</p> <p><u>Virtual Attendance:</u> Sheriff Chad Jensen, Alissa Black, Amanda Bollinger</p>
Staff & Visitors	<p><u>Staff:</u> Danica Bodley, Danica Bodley, Dan Strong, Bud Powell, Marlesse Jones, Dr. Michele Leslie, Van Nguyen, Kara Hetrick, Chyleen Richey, Tiffany Nguyen (virtual), Morgan Williams (v), Dale Olyer (virtual), Ken Matthews (virtual), Sheena Yoon (virtual), Ben Peterson (virtual), Richard Ziebarth (virtual), Dakota Cambruzzi (virtual), Sofia Nystroem (virtual), Rachelle Hill (virtual), Niyo Aimable (virtual), Vickie Bushman (virtual), Mei Xue (virtual)</p> <p><u>Visitors:</u> Brett Robinson, Carl Hollan, Brittany Karzen, Liliana Olvera-Arbon (virtual), Robert Steed (virtual), Martin Munoz (virtual), Jennifer Campbell (virtual), Max Pierce (virtual), Albert Cramer (virtual), Savannah Pike (virtual), Matt Anderson (virtual), Wendy Winder (virtual), Erin Jemison (virtual), Amanda Martin (virtual)</p>
Agenda Item	Welcome and Approval of Meeting Minutes – <i>Sheriff Chad Jensen, Commission Chair</i>
Notes	<p>Sheriff Jensen brings the commission meeting into session.</p> <p>The commission reviewed the previous meeting minutes from Thursday, October 9th, 2025.</p> <p>Motion: Stewart Young motions for the commission to approve the minutes as presented. Spencer Turley (for Jared Garcia) seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.</p>
Agenda Item	Introduction of Bud Powell – <i>Tom Ross, Executive Director</i>
	<p>Tom Ross formally introduced two new individuals to the commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Bud Powell: The new director of the Prosecutor Conduct Commission. (Will not be serving on CCJJ as a seated member) ◦ Daniel Meza: The new juvenile court administrator and representative for the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC).
Agenda Item	JAG Funding Recommendation – <i>Morgan Williams, Program Manager</i>
Notes	<p>Morgan Williams reviewed an \$85,000 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for the Salt Lake City Police Department and the Utah Criminal Justice Center at the University of Utah. The funds will support a study of Project CONNECT, a collaborative program targeting high-frequency, "revolving door" offenders to better understand their needs, service use, and outcomes. The project is viewed as a pilot with potential for statewide scalability.</p> <p>Motion: Sheriff Chad Jensen motions for the commission to approve the JAG Grant as presented. Stewart Young seconds the motion. The motion passes.</p> <p>Abstention(s): One (1) Abstention; Richard Mauro</p>
Agenda Item	CCJJ Restructure Update and Discussion – <i>Tom Ross, Executive Director</i>

Notes	Executive Director Tom Ross presented a plan to restructure CCJJ into a new state agency, the "Department of Criminal Justice." This change aims to resolve long-standing organizational inefficiencies described as a "hodgepodge" structure. The proposal, which has support from the Governor's Office and legislative leadership, would change Tom's role to a "Commissioner," introduce a new Executive Director to oversee commissions, and must be implemented on a "revenue neutral" basis within the existing budget. It was emphasized that the advisory role and stakeholder voice of the commissions would remain intact.
Agenda Item	2026 Legislative Session - Early Bill Review – <i>Dan Strong, USC Director</i>
Notes	<p>The commission conducted an extensive review of six draft bills, providing preliminary feedback to legislative sponsors before the 2026 session begins. The format was a discussion to generate input, not a formal vote on the bills.</p> <p><u>Victim Restitution Amendments</u> <i>Creates mandatory restitution of \$3,000 for Child Sexual Exploitation and \$10,000 for Aggravated Child Sexual Exploitation. In cases where there is no known or identified victim, that money would go into a fund administered by UOVC. CSAM victims can file for restitution from that fund, capped at \$10,000 per victim.</i></p> <p><u>Commission Feedback</u> The Utah Office for Victims of Crime (UOVC) expressed concern that creating a separate fund with different eligibility rules and a lower benefit cap (\$10k vs. existing 25k/50k) is inefficient. UOVC prefers the revenue be channeled into its existing program.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to call the payment a "surcharge" rather than "restitution" to avoid statutory conflicts where payments must be split pro-rata between known victims and this fund.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the mandatory nature of the restitution, the potential for excessive fines if applied per-image, and the need for an "ability to pay" analysis.</p> <p>One member questioned if incentivizing prosecution of end-users was the most effective strategy compared to targeting producers and distributors of CSAM.</p> <p><u>Emergency Reporting Abuse Amendments</u> <i>Enhances penalty for emergency reporting abuse from an MB to a 3F if an individual has two or more priors, or causes an emergency response (or delay in other response) that results in physical injury or pecuniary loss exceeding \$5,000; Enhances to a 2F if the response results in SBI or death.</i></p> <p><u>Commission Feedback</u> It was widely noted that this behavior is predominantly committed by individuals with severe mental illness. Ryan Robinson estimated "90% of these cases of my experience historically affected our mentally ill people."</p> <p>Multiple members discussed that increasing the penalty is not the right solution for a problem driven by mental health crises. It was noted these individuals are part of the "Project CONNECT population." Suggestions included mandating a mental health evaluation for repeat offenders, creating pathways to receiving centers, or adding a "safety valve" provision allowing for diversion or sentence reduction upon completion of treatment.</p> <p><u>Obscene Animal Abuse Amendments</u> <i>Prohibits distributing images of animal sexual abuse and "animal crushing." 3rd Degree Felony for Adults, Class A for 16 and 17 year olds, Class B for individuals under 16 years old.</i></p>

Commission Feedback

The bill is largely seen as recodifying and clarifying existing prohibitions on distributing pornographic material, but making them specific to animals. The bill clearly adds "animal crushing" videos, which may not have been covered by prior statutes.

A concern was raised about potential criminal liability for inadvertent sharing, especially by youth. It was suggested that the bill ensure a clear intent element (e.g., "knowingly" or "recklessly"), though the draft text does specify "with intent to distribute."

Coercion Amendments

Creates the offense of aiding or encouraging suicide - defined as intentionally, and with knowledge the individual intends to commit or attempted suicide, aids the individual in committing suicide; or on four or more separate occasions, intentionally encourages an individual to commit suicide, while reckless as to whether their course of conduct would cause the individual to commit suicide, and the individual does commit or attempt suicide (2nd Degree Felony). Includes an exception for medical treatment if it is not provided for the purpose of aiding suicide. Also separates sexual extortion and aggravated sexual extortion into separate offenses. Also adds elements to sexual extortion to include refusing to delete or remove intimate images from actor's possession or websites/accounts managed by the actor

Commission Feedback

The bill is understood to be targeting organized online groups (e.g., "Harm Nation") that prey on vulnerable youth by goading them into self-harm and suicide.

Members questioned the necessity of the "four or more" standard for encouragement, arguing that in some bullying cases, a single instance could be sufficient to cause a tragedy. The bill also modifies sexual extortion statutes. A member suggested these offenses should be designated as eligible for a Domestic Violence (DV) tag, as they often occur within intimate partner relationships.

Child Suicide Amendments

Clarifies that it is not a defense to child abuse homicide if the child commits suicide after child abuse or child torture and suicide is a direct or proximate result of the abuse or torture.

Commission Feedback

The language caused some confusion. The provision appears aimed at preventing a defendant from using the victim's suicide as an "intervening cause" to break the chain of causation needed for a homicide conviction.

A member recalled a local case from several years prior where a parent was charged with aggravated child abuse, and the child victim died by suicide shortly after, illustrating the relevance of the proposed statute.

Unlawful Tracking Amendments

Expands the offense of Unlawful Tracking to include placing tracking devices on personal property or using a tracking application installed on an individual's possessions to track their movement without permission. Also expands the offense by creating a provision whereby a person can revoke previously granted consent to track. Includes exceptions for parents, guardians, and caregivers of vulnerable adults.

Commission Feedback

Expanding the law to cover trackers on items like luggage was seen as a logical and less controversial extension of the current statute. The provisions related to tracking apps and

	<p>revoking consent were seen as more problematic. Members raised questions about what legally constitutes revocation (e.g., a verbal statement, text message) and the potential for litigation over whether consent was clearly withdrawn.</p> <p>A member suggested adding a criminal intent element to the statute, such as requiring that the tracking be done for the purpose of committing another crime like stalking or domestic violence.</p>
Agenda Item	Other Business
Notes	No other business was addressed.
Agenda Item	Public Comment
Notes	Public comment time was given but none was addressed.
Agenda Item	Adjourn
Notes	<p>Motion: Richard Mauro motions for the commission to adjourn. Blake Hills seconds the motion. The motion was unanimously agreed upon.</p> <p>The commission adjourns.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12th, 2026 from Noon-2 PM. Location: <u>Anchor Location:</u> CCJJ Large Conference Room Google Meets link: https://meet.google.com/onp-dauq-bye</p>
DISCLAIMER	Please note that these meeting minutes have been primarily generated or assisted by an artificial intelligence (AI) tool. These notes have been edited by staff to ensure accuracy and completeness.