

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, September 24, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Chairman *Mike Lawlor*, Under Secretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM; *Josh Howroyd*, Legislative Program Manager, DCF; *Miriam Dephin-Rittmon*, Commissioner, DMHAS, *Steve Grant*, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division; *Rich Sparaco*, Executive Director, Board of Pardons and Paroles; *Brian Carlow*, Deputy Chief Public Defender, Division of Public Defender Services; *Dora B. Schriro*, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; *Chief James Kenny*, Connecticut Chiefs of Police Association; *Kevin Kane*, Chief State's Attorney; *Cheryl Cepelak*, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Correction, *Laura Cordes*, Executive Director, CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services; *Nancy Turner*, Director of Offender Risk Reduction, Connecticut Coalition against Domestic Violence; *Charlene Russell-Tucker*, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Education, Sean Connolly, Commissioner of Department of Veterans Affairs

## I. Introductions

Members introduced themselves and stated what agency they represented.

## II. Welcome and Policy Update

Meeting was convened at 9:37 am due to a fire alarm test in the Legislative Office Building.

Link to CT-N coverage: <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12004>

The Monthly Indicators Report can be found on the OPM website at:  
[http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2976&Q=383680&opmNav\\_GID=1797](http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2976&Q=383680&opmNav_GID=1797)

Highlights of the summer included: an apparent crime decline throughout the state, and a general plateau in prison population this summer, concerns arose out of the State's Attorney Office surrounding the use of body cameras by police officers, and a focus on CJTS. Upcoming discussions will be had surrounding youth offenders.

## III. Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2015

## IV. Commission Correspondence

There was no commission correspondence.

## V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## VI. Projects

- a. Second Chance Society <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12004> (15:24)
  - i. Change in penalty of drug possession from felony to misdemeanor
  - ii. Parole Board: Expedited Paroles
  - iii. Parole Board: Expedited Pardons
  - iv. Labor Department is in final stages of Hartford offenders employment initiative
  - v. FUSE Expansion
- b. MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge Grant <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12004> (58:11)
  - i. Handouts can be found on CJPAC's Website <http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2970&Q=383604>
  - ii. Two Goals: reduce jail population and reduce racial disparities
  - iii. CT was selected for the first phase, \$150,000 awarded for planning process
  - iv. Malta Justice Initiative Executive Committee member, Rev. Marilyn Hendrix voiced concerns her group has, since their involvement with the planning process.
  - v. More statistics are available on @mikelawlor twitter account and OPM's website.

## VII. Agency Updates

Members provided updates on their agencies and latest initiatives.

<http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12004> (1:42)

**Division of Public Defender Services** – Their office is working hard on the MacArthur grant.

**Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP)** – BOPP's hearing numbers are up, grant rate up to 63%, but overall grant rate has gone down over the past several years.

**Judicial Branch-Court Support Services Division (JB-CSSD)** – CSSD granting certificates of employability and credentials for employment at a 56% percent approval rate applicant; volume is so high CSSD is now reviewing them on a monthly basis rather than quarterly as planned. CSSD is going to employment agencies and promoting confidence in the certificate. CSSD is continuing to work on the jail reinterview process, which helps people get released who would be sitting in jail.

**Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)** – 15 integrated care facilities across the state are now offering behavioral health and primary care.

**State's Attorney Office** – Police and Prosecutors need to be aware of what alternatives are available (jail diversion) to arrest or prosecution in order to make a decision that is appropriate and best for the community.

**Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)** – 2014 crime data is on their website. Next week the FBI will release the FBI data. Body Camera Bill is in effect, DESPP, POST and CSP will be executing the first phase of the new law by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Three deadlines are approaching in January: guidelines for recruiting and retaining minority law enforcement, guidelines on use and selection of data and safe storage methods, and lastly, agree on minimal technical selections for body cameras and training and equipment, no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>. DSET division rolling out new 911 system, converted 22 PSAPs to accept new ways of communication, such as texting. Magnetic purple ribbons on CSP cruisers, for domestic violence month.

**Department of Children and Family** –A consultant issued a report in July and an action plan was immediately put into action in response to the release of high profile videos. The videos have been uploaded onto their website: <http://www.dir.ct.gov/DCF/cjts-pueblo%20surveillance/index.htm> DCF secure confinement population is at an all-time low, a reduction of 52% in just one year.

**Connecticut Coalition against Domestic Violence (CCADV)** – Next week is the first week of the meeting of the Domestic Violence Program Standards Advisory Council. Statewide response to minors exposed to Domestic Violence research is underway. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and Purple Tie Tuesday is Oct 27<sup>th</sup>. There have been three intimate partner homicides in the state this year, typically this number is tracking around 14.

**State Department of Education (STE)** –There is a conference tomorrow (9/25/2015) on School, Family and Community Partnerships.

**CONSACS** – There has been an increased number of victims and survivors in CONSACS member programs. CONSACS is helping make final recommendations with the Victims' Rights Enforcement Advisory Commission. A press conference at CONSACS for PA 15-207 signing occurred. The Evidence Commission conducted a survey of law enforcement agencies in the state, and a special workgroup was created to look at sexual assault kits. Half of the kits that have been identified have already been sent to the lab. CONSACS is in the process of a name change to: Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

**DOC** – The DOC is opening a second re-entry unit at Cybulski for veterans. The jail reinterview collaboration is going very well. SCORES automation will begin in October.

## **Adjournment**

Chairman Lawlor adjourned the meeting.