

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, March 25, 2021

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Hosted on Microsoft Teams Live Event

Meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00am

I. Introduction

The Chairman thanked members for dedicating time to the monthly meeting. A roll call was taken, and introductions of members followed.

II. Attendance:

- John Frassinelli, Chief, Bureau of Health, Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, State Department of Education;
- Judge Patrick Carroll III, Chief Court Administrator, and Gary Roberge, Director of Court Support Services Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch;
- Dr. Michael Norko, Director of Forensic Services, and Chris Burke, Assistant Director, Division of Forensic Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services;
- Brian Foley, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection;
- Humayun Beg, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information System;
- James Kenney, Chief of Police, Vernon Police Department;
- Beth Hamilton, Executive Director; Lucy Nolan, Director of Policy and Public Relations, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence;
- Geralyn O'Neil-Wild, Director of Legal Advocacy, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
- Christine Rapillo, Chief Public Defender, Division of Public Defender Services;
- Sarah Fox, LMSW, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness;
- Jane Siegal, Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Rich Colangelo, Deputy Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice;
- District Administrators Eulalia Garcia and Nick Rodriguez as well as Deputy Commissioner Sharonda Carlos, Department of Correction;
- Rich Sparaco, Executive Director, and Carleton Giles, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles; and
- Fiona Doherty, Clinical Professor of Law, Yale Law School.

III. Approval of Minutes from the February 25 meeting.

- Attorney Rapillo made the first motion and Director Beg seconded it.

IV. Discussion of March Monthly Indicators Report

Kyle Baudoin, Statistical Analysis Center Director, OPM CJPPD, gave a review of the Monthly Indicators Report for March and described the new arrest methodology that has been incorporated into tracking the report.

V. Presentation regarding the pilot program to provide representation at parole revocation hearings.

There was a presentation on a pilot program to provide counsel from public defenders at parole violation hearings. The program rests on a partnership among the Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP), the Division of Public Defender Services (DPDS), the Department of Correction Parole and Community Services (DOC PCS), and other stakeholders. The pilot was established under Public Act 19-59 resulting from legislation Governor Lamont introduced in the 2019 legislative session.

Fiona Doherty, Clinical Professor of Law, Yale Law School, highlighted the focus on reducing parole violations as part of former Governor Malloy's Second Chance Society initiative. Yale Law School's Samuel Jacobs Clinic studied Connecticut's parole revocation process and issued a study containing analysis and recommendations.

Attorney Rapillo described the creation of a pilot program to represent individuals accused of violating parole conditions who lack resources for an attorney. This unit began on July 1, 2019. Approximately \$250,000 was allocated to provide representation to as many individuals as possible with the funding. Attorney Elisa Villa delivered a presentation describing the program, providing data analysis, and sharing her observations and reflections on the program since its launch.

Rich Sparaco, BOPP Executive Director, described the collaboration among the several entities that helps individuals in the system to navigate parole with greater ease and provide BOPP decision-makers with information needed for effective parole violation hearings. BOPP staff Joe Garibaldi, Vilmaris Diaz, and Leigh Floody delivered a presentation containing data analysis and a summary of the program.

DOC PCS Director Eric Ellison applauded the work that has been done since 2016 to reduce technical violations through the statewide recidivism reduction grant. He concluded that evidence-based practices that have been adopted brings integrity and fairness to the process. He described findings released by the DOC showing a reduction in the technical parole violations from 2012 to 2020. The Director stated that the parole officers are administering risk assessments at appropriate levels.

VI. Adjourn

Chairman thanked everyone for their participation. Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

The next meeting is April 29th at 9:00 am and, again, will be virtual.