

**Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission**  
**February 14, 2008**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members of the Commission Present:** Brian Austin, Chair, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management; Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Department of Correction; Judge Patrick Carroll, Deputy Chief Court Administrator; Commissioner Thomas Kirk, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Robert Farr, Chair, Board of Pardons and Paroles; Deputy Commissioner George Coleman, Department of Education; Commissioner John Danaher, Department of Public Safety; Richard Healey, Commission Member; Rev. Shelley Copeland, Commission Member; DSS Deputy Commissioner Amalia Vazquez Bzdyra, Commission Member; Deputy CPD Brian Carlow representing the Chief Public Defender; DCF Deputy Commissioner Floyd Blair representing the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families; and Judith Rossi representing the Chief State's Attorney.

**Others Present:** Peter Rockholz, Robert Kenny, Michael Norko, Thomas White, Richard Sparaco, Ellen Gillmartin, Cheryl Cepelak, Leo Arnone, Patrick Hynes, Steve Grant, Dan Bannish, Donna Cupka, Joseph O'Keefe, Jerry Stowell, Loel Meckel, Christopher LeMay, John Forbes, and Linda Hothan.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting at 9:11am.

**Minutes** of the September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting. Approved unanimously.

**Correspondence:**

Governor M. Jodi Rell's December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 letter to OPM Undersecretary Brian Austin, requesting that all CJPAC Members receive copies of the Commission's statutory responsibilities was read verbatim.

**Public Comment:** there was no public comment.

**OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Update**

Chair Brian Austin reported that the CJPPD staff had provided administrative support to the Governor's Sentencing and Parole Review Task Force, and that the final report, comprised of consensus proposals, had been forwarded to Governor M. Jodi Rell on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This report became the basis of Senate Bill 1700, *AAC Criminal Justice Reform*, which became Public Act 08-1 in the January 2008 Special Session and was signed by Governor Rell on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Some of OPM's new responsibilities under PA08-1 include developing a guide to best practices for re-entry of the offender back into the community; sponsoring full-day criminal justice conferences (such as 'CJ 101'), including a special day dedicated to mental health issues, to educate state employees and sub-contractors on the myriad and complex aspects for the criminal justice system.

The annual Recidivism Report and Prison Population Forecast are in progress with the assistance of the Connecticut Statistical Analysis Center at Central Connecticut State University. The CJPPD staff is giving much thought to incorporating the new mandates under PA08-1 into the Community Reentry Strategy report.

### **Department of Correction Population Update**

Commissioner Theresa Lantz reported that:

- total incarcerated population was about 19,770 which was higher than a year ago, but lower than in January 2008;
- the accused/unsentenced population was about 4,300;
- the sentenced population was about 15,400;
- the transitional supervision population was 1,000+; and
- there were 1,200 halfway house beds with waiting lists.

Under PA08-1:

- the re-entry furlough program was limited by language changes; this program with an approximate 97% success rate had been a significant resource for the State. Examples of language changes limiting the reentry furlough program include:
  - Sect 16: . . . furlough may be granted only to permit a visit to a dying relative, attendance at the funeral of a relative, the obtaining of medical services not otherwise available or the contacting of prospective employers, ~~or for any compelling reason consistent with rehabilitation~~ PROVIDED THE COMMISSIONER HAS CONFIRMED THAT AN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EXISTS OR AN EMPLOYMENT INTERVIEW IS SCHEDULED.
  - Sect 27: . . . Any victim of a crime or any member of an inmate's immediate family who desires to be notified whenever an inmate makes an application to the Board of Pardons and Paroles, Department of Correction, sentencing court or judge or review division as provided in section 54-227, AS AMENDED BY THIS ACT, or whenever an inmate is scheduled to be released from a correctional institution other than on a furlough, ~~except a furlough that is granted for the purpose of reintegrating an inmate into the community and allows such inmate to serve the period immediately preceding such inmate's parole release or discharge date in the community~~ may complete and file a request for notification with the Office of Victim Services or the Victim Services Unit within the Department of Correction.
- DOC received additional resources:
  - a total of 135 reentry beds
  - 12 beds in residential facilities for sexual offenders
  - electronic monitoring of an additional 300 parolees via global positioning systems (GPS)
  - funds for the renovation of 2 quads (about 114 beds each)
  - additional parole officer and correctional officer positions.

There was some discussion about capacity in the facilities. Commissioner Lantz explained that the classification system drives the matrix of inmate placement in the facilities, and that the priorities of DOC are:

- constitutional
- safe
- secure
- benchmarks

### **Board of Pardons and Paroles Update**

BPP Chair Robert Farr reported that PA08-1:

- abolished the Administrative Review process which streamlined BPP's case review for parole release of non-violent inmates (PA08-1 §44 repealed CSG54-125b effective 7/1/08). Under PA08-1, all inmate cases will now receive a full review and hearing; it is anticipated that about 9,000 transcripts will be required to be reviewed which may triple the amount of time, work, and cost.
- expanded the Board with 5 full-time members (with advice/consent of both legislative houses) with qualifications in community corrections, parole or pardons, criminal justice, criminology, mental health services to offenders, etc.

- requires BPP to hire a forensic psychologist to assist Board members in making parole release decisions.
- BPP must review all available offender records, including delinquency proceedings prior to parole consideration. BPP requested 1,700 cases juvenile records from the Judicial Branch; 1,100 of those 1,700 cases had no juvenile records so the review of those cases can begin.

### **Judicial Branch's Court Supported Services Division Update**

It was reported that PA08-1:

- provided funds for an additional 135 diversionary beds for transitional and supported housing.
- provided \$1M for 12 beds for residential treatment for sexual offenders
- diversionary program for mentally ill offenders

The Technical Violation Program has demonstrated much success. Evaluations of this 120-day program have shown a significant 42% reduction in technical violations; 2 years later, the program effects are still sustained.

CSSD and the Board of Pardons and Paroles are collaborating on the development of a "common risk tool" for assessing parole and probation offenders.

### **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Update**

Commissioner Thomas Kirk noted that PA08-1 provided DMHAS with about \$9.5M:

- to expand the offender reentry program at Garner. Staff go into the facility about one year prior to the offender's release to help prepare the offender for reentry back into the community; the program only has about a 10% recidivism rate.
- to establish 3 15-bed units associated with emergency rooms for people with significant psychiatric disabilities or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.
- to establish a 10-bed secure step-down unit at Connecticut Valley Hospital.

The Access To Recovery (ATR) program received \$12.5M over the next 3 years to relieve systemwide pressures (eg, housing, transportation, etc). ATR is the payor of last resort.

### **Behavioral Health Subcommittee**

Line staff continues to need information to be released to them from the agencies. It was noted that point staff from both the Department of Social Services and the Department of Developmental Services need to be involved in the process.

The Subcommittee is reviewing municipal police department custody rates. The custody rates are calculated from the number of "Cases Added" from the Judicial Court Operations Division and the number of "Arrest Incidents" from the Judicial Court Support Services Division. Chair Brian Austin suggested that Richard Kehoe in the Attorney General's Office be contacted.

Minutes of the Subcommittee meeting of 11/14/07 are here attached.

### **Working Groups**

Chair Brian Austin reported:

#### Prevention

The State awarded 17 grants totaling \$1.5M via a Request for Proposals (RFP) for neighborhood groups to provide youth prevention programs. In addition, as a recommendation of the Working Groups, \$500,000 has been proposed by the Governor in the midterm budget adjustments for Urban Youth Violence Programs.

### Prison and Jail Overcrowding and Reentry

The next meeting is scheduled for 2/20/08 at the Department of Correction. This Working Group provided many of the suggestions for the Governor's Sentencing and Parole Review Task Force.

### Victim Services

PA08-1 adds language to allow members of a victim's immediate family the ability to appear before a hearing of the Board of Pardons and Paroles to make statements regarding an inmate's potential parole and streamlines the flow of victim information between the Judicial Branch, Department of Correction and the Board of Pardons and Paroles. These were two recommendations were forwarded by the Victim Services Working Group. PA08-1 §31 also requires the Judicial Branch to contract for the establishment/implementation of a statewide automated victim information and notification system (SAVIN) to provide automatic notice of relevant offender information and status reports to registered crime victims. Such system shall be used to provide victim notification by the Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department, the Victim Services Unit within the Department of Correction, the Board of Pardons and Paroles, and the Division of Criminal Justice.

### Other Business

Chair Brian Austin reported that PA08-1 §33 establishes a committee to study the manner in which the state may effectively provide incentives to municipalities throughout the state to allow the siting of community-based facilities such as halfway houses and transitional and supportive housing for offenders released into the community.

The Northeast Regional conference of the USDOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance was held January 29-31, 2008 at the Hartford Hilton. There were over 400 registrants from the New England and the Mid-Atlantic States - the biggest regional conference BJA was hosting.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 10:46am.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

**Behavioral Health Sub-Committee  
Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission  
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division  
Connecticut Office of Policy and Management**

**Minutes**

**November 14, 2007 9:00 – 11:00 am (Russell Hall, CVH)**

**In attendance:** M. Aiello, D. Bannish, A. Chin, B. Coco, G. DesBiens, J. Grzelak, G. Holley, L. Meckel, L. Pyers, E. Mattison, S. Zanger,

- 1. Introductions:** Roundtable introductions were made by everyone attending today's meeting; sign-in sheet was passed around to sign-in and to update any information on roster.
- 2. Review of August 29, 2007 minutes:** Minutes were reviewed and changes noted. Corrected minutes will be distributed via e-mail.
- 3. Additions to agenda:** MHAR; CJPAC Recommendation meeting, Diverting data, Update proposals from Alcohol & Drug Policy Council
- 4. BH program updates**
  - a) Project ASIST report
    - i. Kick off meeting held, went well. The program has received referral even though not yet officially open. The hiring process is continuing. More trainings will be scheduled for December.
  - b) Jail Re-interview report
    - i. Reports indicate that there has been more work done this year in six months than in the entire past year alone.
  - c) Probation and Parole
    - i. Every case is being reviewed by parole. Violent offenders are not being paroled. Discussion ensued regarding end of sentence offenders. This will be discussed further at DOC meeting. Mike and Brian will discuss with their bosses to set up possible meeting.
    - ii. DOC applied for grant money to lead co-occurring project for whole behavior health system. DMHAS has federal co-occurring state incentive grant and is assisting DOC.
- 5. DOC MH Infirmery Bed utilization data**

Dr. Bannish presented data about the numbers of people with various mental health scores, and various bond levels in Garner. Questions were raised regarding those people who are DMHAS target, when did they decompensate. Dan will review data. [data sheets attached]

## **6. Request by CJPAC to review Adam Walsh Child Protection Act**

- a) Follow-up report [informational] on progress re SO registry in other venues: Draft report completed.

## **7. Workgroup updates**

### **a) Housing/employment**

This group has not met recently. Dan Bannish stated that housing limitation is being identified in multiple venues with no tie ins. Loel stated that the group needs to come up with recommendation to CJPAC regarding coordination of topics being address by all the task forces. Dan will speak with Barbara Geller regarding the sharing of housing information.

### **b) BH Services/system barriers**

Discussion ensued concerning ability to implement recommendations. Mike and Loel will put together a condensed list of recommendations and solutions to forward to this group before passing on to the commission.

## **8. Other Items**

Loel presented the group with a handout he compiled that looks at the number of criminal cases and lock-up cases. Data indicate there may be significant differences among police departments in proportion of persons charged with criminal offences who are taken into custody vs. given summons. Loel proposed, and the group agreed to make recommendations to CJPAC to look at the data more closely and determine if police need more options.

The BH Subcommittee will present three recommendations to the CJPAC. Loel will create a draft to be circulated prior to the Dec 13 CJPAC meeting.

#1 inventory and coordinate initiatives by multiple committees, commissions, task forces etc. regarding criminal justice and behavioral health

#2 investigate what appear to be wide differences in custody rates across police departments for individuals charged with criminal

#3 A coordinated state-level initiative to address system barriers for behavioral health clients in the CJ system based on the barriers identified by the System Barriers workgroup

## **9. Quarterly Meetings**

**A. Feb 2008 – To be held February 7, 2008 @ 9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus**

**B. May 2008 - To be held May 15, 2008 @ 9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus**