

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
Minutes October 08, 2009 Meeting

Legislative Office Building (LOB), Hearing Room 1B
Hartford, CT
Thursday October 08, 2009
9AM

Members Present: Brian Austin, Chair, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management; William H. Carbone, Executive Director, Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division; Brian R. Murphy, Acting Commissioner, Department of Correction; Laurie Deneen, Public Member, Robert Farr, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Parole; Nancy Kushins, Victim Services Representative; Susan Story, Chief Public Defender; Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; Pat Rehmer, Acting Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services; Chief James Kenny, Vernon Police Department; George Coleman, Deputy Commissioner, State Department of Education; Richard Healy, Public Member.

In addition, Lt. Ed Henion attended for John Danaher, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety and Director Leo C. Arnone attended for Susan Hamilton, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:21 am. The Commission members introduced themselves.

Minutes: Minutes of September 10th meeting were approved.

Public Comment: There was no comment.

Discussion of Agency Updates:

The Judicial Branch and Court Support Service Division Gary Roberge and Brian Hill gave a PowerPoint presentation pertaining to Adult Bail Services. In 2003, the Judicial Branch's CSSD initiated a multiyear project to develop a more systemic and consistent bail determination process ultimately resulting in increased numbers of defendant's released on non-financial bonds; increased use of the service provider network; a decrease in the number of failures to appear; more consistent and equitable financial bond recommendations.

In this project there were three significant developments, in 2003 Validation of the Case Data Record; 2005 Bail Decision Aid; 2008 Financial Bond Guideline.

The Validation Process Based upon recommendations by CCSU the weighted release criteria was modified and pilot findings showed, Bail staff were more likely to order or recommend non-financial releases (665 vs. 52%). Fewer individuals released on non-

financial bonds failed to appear (20% vs. 10%). In 2004, the revised weighted release criteria was implemented statewide. There were also discussions referring to Case Data Record- Decision Aid, Decision Aid- Pilot Study please see PowerPoint presentation attached.

Commission members discussed the value of sharing the CSSD Bail/Bond assessment tools with state and local police departments as well as with the prosecutors.

OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Update:

Brian Austin, OPM Undersecretary informed commission members that in accordance with PA 09-223, a new CJPAC Subcommittee has been formed to focus on correctional staff health and safety. However, OPM is not a member of the subcommittee. As the CJPAC chairperson, Brian Austin will sponsor the first meeting of the sub-committee later in the month of October. Informational letters regarding the sub-committee were sent to commissioners and appointed officials.

OPM CJPPD has scheduled the Criminal Justice Cross Training Conference for March 25, 2010 at Southern Connecticut State University. Lisa Secondo from OPM will coordinate a working group of commission members to develop an agenda and format for the conference.

OPM CJPPD has awarded approximately \$7 million in Recovery Act federal funds to more than 150 agencies and organizations. Almost every municipality in the State of Connecticut has received funds; most grants are effective as of Oct.1, 2009. The priority was to distribute funds to municipalities followed by the state agency projects. OPM CJPPD will provide federal grants to DOC and the Judicial Branch to expand Video Conferencing capabilities. Also, the Governor signed the General Governmental Bill, House Bill 7007, that included e-signature and e-storage for the Judicial Branch.

Ivan Kuzyk from OPM CJPPD gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the September 2009 revised Prison Population Projection. OPM CJPPD produces a prison-population forecast report that is due in February and a six month forecast update due in September. Projections are based on historical data, input from criminal justice practitioners and OPM's input-output model of the criminal justice system. Ivan spoke of the accuracy of the October 2008-April 2009 projection. Monthly estimates proved to be within 1% of the actual values and accurately predicted a 3 month, 700 inmate decline in the prison population. The projection assumed monthly population changes would reflect trends of low-growth/no growth years including Fiscal Year 2003, Fiscal Year 2004 and Fiscal Year 2008, and with seasonal patterns, the projected range would be 18,600 to 19,200. In September 2009, OPM produced a six month adjustment on the state prison population projection. In producing its revised projection, Ivan noted that prison admits were below historical levels; although arrest was up, non-sentenced admits were flat. In addition, community release numbers increased steadily throughout the summer and fall. These two factors accounted for widening the over-estimation of the prison population. The projection was readjusted downward. In October through March the projected range was

from 18,400 to 19,000. To review OPM's PowerPoint Presentation for further information please see the OPM website..

Department of Corrections Update:

Commissioner Brian Murphy of the Department of Corrections spoke of the current inmate population in DOC. As of October 01, 2009 the population count was 18,819. This is approximately 89 below the projections. The current population today is 18,701, 200 below the projection. In comparison to last year, there are approximately 930 fewer inmates. This is very encouraging considering the average cost per inmate in \$36,000 dollars a year. Commissioner Murphy informed the commission that the Second Chance Act grant was not funded; however, DOC would prepare a revised grant proposal for the upcoming federal grant application period. The Commissioner spoke of the two bills that were recently passed. House Bill 7007 enhances the transfers of inmates to I.C.E. There are currently 105 individuals that are being considered for this program. House Bill 6685 addresses the reporting of inmate population density and other correctional facility data. This legislation will require the reporting of statistics of assaults on inmates and on correctional staff, disciplinary reports and related items.

Boards of Pardon and Parole Updates:

Chairman Farr discussed issues addressed in the recently enacted implementer bill including re-entry furloughs and the use of part time board members. Also, the use of electronic transcripts will save considerable time in retrieving and copying hard documents. BOPP is authorized for 7 part time board members and 6 positions are currently filled. The part time board members have the same responsibilities as the full time board members.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Update:

Commissioner Patricia Rehmer updated the commission on residential support programs for clients with serious mental illness and substance abuse issues. She discussed the 45 residential housing units that have been funded through the Violent Offender Crime Bill. Occupancy of the housing units is as follows, 15 openings in New Haven, 8 in Bridgeport, 22 in Hartford. Admissions to this program began as of October 1, 2009. There are 7 clients currently in the program today. Discussions focused on the Pre-Trial Drug Program included how it was developed as a diversion for first time drug possession. The program went from an 8 week-12 hour sessions to a 10 week 15 hour session. Successful completion of the program leads to the dismissal of all charges. Services are provided to approximately 4000 defendants a year.

Behavioral Health Services Subcommittee Update:

Representatives of the Subcommittee spoke of the different types of homelessness effecting offenders reentering the community. There have been discussions on a case by case basis to find out what the needs are for people to keep permanent housing. The Subcommittee is also looking into how individuals who are being treated for mental illness or addiction services in the Department of Correction that tend to be more costly, would be better served in the community.

Often these individuals are people that have high mental illness and high addiction needs and also high medical needs. A plan to integrate treatment to operate more efficiently is the goal.

Other Business: Brian Austin stated that the Victims Services Working Group has not met since the last legislative session. He will be scheduling a meeting before the next CJPAC meeting in November. Brian will send out an e-mail to all commission members to see if they would like to participate or designate an individual to participate in the Victims Service Working Group. The meeting will focus on what legislative changes will be proposed for 2010. In addition, he is seeking an individual to chair the Prevention Work Group. If there is a commission member that is interested in chairing this group please contact Brian Austin.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:41am.

Remaining 2009 CJPAC Meetings

Thursday, November 12th Legislative Office Building Room 1B
Thursday, December 10th Legislative Office Building Room 1B