

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
Legislative Office building
Minutes for October 14, 2010 Meeting
9:00 AM

Members present: Brian Austin, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management, *Chairperson*; William H. Carbone, Executive Director, Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division; Robert Farr, Chairman Board of Pardons and Parole; Mayor Scott Kaupin; Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender; Leo Arnone, Acting Commissioner, Department of Correction; Lt. Ed Henion, Department of Public Safety; Patricia Rehmer, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Nancy Kushins, Executive Director CONNSACS; Susan Hamilton, Commissioner Department of Children and Families.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:05 am. The Commission members introduced themselves. The minutes for the September 9, 2010 meeting were unanimously accepted.

Public Comment: There was no comment.

Discussion:

Linda Cimino, Director, Office of Victim Services and Tina Bouchard, Court Planner provided an overview of the new *Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN)* program. Public Act 08-01 required the Judicial Branch to establish an automated service to help crime victims keep informed of offenders' cases throughout the court process. The SAVIN system is intended to serve as one tool for victims in developing a safety plan. Victims of crime, criminal justice staff, advocates and other interested individuals may access the system 24 hours day /365 days a year. The system will provide updates on case status, bail information and court actions. Please see the posted PowerPoint presentation.

Agency Updates:

Acting Commissioner Arnone reported that Cheryl Cepelak was appointed as the Director of Administrative Services for DOC. The prison population dropped from the "summer peak" of 18,593 to 18,487 on September 30, 2010. These numbers are fairly consistent with the OPM's projection of the prison population. The decrease in population may be due to CSSD expanded commitment of resources for the "Jail Re-Interview" program.

In September, 434 hearings were conducted via the new video conferencing technology resulting in significant savings in transportation and personnel costs. There are 19 videoconference machines in facilities, parole offices and Central Office. The installation plan includes a total of 61 machines.

Director Cepelak asked the commission members to consider merging the “Risk Assessment Strategy” with the “State-wide Re-entry Strategy”. Both projects involve similar agencies, participants and issues areas. Merging the separate reports into a single document would create a more efficient and effective planning process. The commission members agreed to merge the workgroups and prepare a single report that the Prison and Jail Overcrowding/Reentry Workgroup (PJOR) would present to the CJPAC. The final report will be submitted to the Legislature by the statutory deadline of February 15, 2010.

Commissioner Rehmer reported that DMHAS received \$1.2 million to provide housing subsidies for offenders. DMHAS will collaborate with DSS, DOC and CSSD to develop the “wrap-around” services to support successful community re-entry.

Dr. Norko reported that the agencies continued to work on standards related to the “Release of Information MOU”. Federal agencies came to CT to conduct SOAR training for multiple state agencies on how to qualify individuals for SSDI and SSI. SOAR pilot will be conducted in New Haven.

Attorney Storey reported that Connecticut was awarded a new federal grant to provide incentives for attorneys to continue their careers as prosecutors and public defenders. The grant will help eligible attorneys pay a small portion of their student loans. The grant project was developed through the collaborative efforts of OPM, Office of the Chief Public Defender and Office of the Chief States Attorney.

John Forbes, Assistant Director, OPM presented data showing that the sentenced prison population is at the lowest level since January 2006. This demonstrates the impact of the various “release” strategies that have been employed. OPM’s upcoming *Annual Recidivism Report* will include new analysis of trends in age and combined number of sentences. PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Brian Austin, CJPAC Chairperson indicated that OPM is preparing documents for the gubernatorial transition including a CJPAC transition report. Chair Austin requested that CJPAC agencies submit summaries of significant issues addressed by CJPAC, or any of its working groups/subcommittees. Special emphasis should be placed on the reforms enacted as part of PA 08-01 and issues to be considered for CJPAC in the coming administration. Summaries should be sent to Undersecretary Austin or Lisa Secondo, OPM CJPPD.

Remaining 2010 Meeting Schedule

November 10, 2010 9:00 AM, Legislative Office Building, Room 1B

December 09, 2010 9:00 AM, Legislative Office Building, Room 1B