

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
October 12, 2006
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 William Lavery, Chief Court Administrator; Commissioner Thomas Kirk, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Commissioner Patricia Wilson-Coker, Department of Social Services; Commissioner Patricia Mayfield, Department of Labor; William Carbone, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch; Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender; Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; LTC Cheryl Malloy, Commission Member; Laurie Deneen, Commission Member; Nancy Kushins, Commission Member; Donald DeVore representing the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families; Associate Commissioner George Dowaliby representing the Commissioner of the Department of Education; and John Lahda, Executive Director representing the Chairman of the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Others Present: Karl Lewis, Patrick Hynes, Jerry Stowell, Peter Rockholz, Dan Bannish, Deborah DelPrete Sullivan, Judith Rossi, Deborah Fuller, Tom Berendt, Loel Meckel, Louise Pyers, Alan Calandro, Alicia Woodsby, Erin Leavitt-Smith, Megan Goodfield, Colette Orszulak, Terry Schnure, John Jaramillo, Christopher LeMay, Marjorie Petrucci, John Forbes, Lisa Secondo, and Linda Hothan.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:04am.

Brian Austin introduced new Commission members:
Susan O. Storey, Chief Public Defender
Kevin T. Kane, Chief State's Attorney

Minutes of the July 13th, 2006 CJPAC meeting: Commissioner Kirk made the following correction:

Town meetings have been SCHEDULED TO BE held IN THE FALL throughout the State for policy and planning strategy.

Amended minutes approved unanimously.

Correspondence: Welcoming correspondence including copies of the *Commission on Prison and Jail Overcrowding Report, 2006*, had been sent to the new statutory members. A flier was received on a November 13th free teleconference "*Dispelling the Myths about Sharing Data between Mental Health and Criminal Justice Systems;*" this flier will be sent out via email.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Update. The CJPPD has 6 major tasks: monthly admission and releases report; annual correctional population forecasting study; annual recidivism study; biennial comprehensive plan; annual re-entry strategy; and sentencing task force. The forecasting/research group includes representatives from OPM, DOC, State Police, Judicial, Board of Pardons and Paroles, and Central Connecticut State University. The goal is to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the CT Criminal Justice System, including policy initiatives, planning initiatives, and research initiatives. Brian Austin noted that 3 new staff have been authorized.

Department of Correction Population Updates. Commissioner Lantz reported:

DOC's total incarcerated population is 19,060; this is 574 more than were incarcerated on 10/10/05 (an increase of 3.2%). An all-time in-state record for incarcerated population was set on 10/3/06 with 19,183 inmates. Historically, the inmate population decreases in the fall, but this year an increase is occurring. The DOC facilities are facing a serious overcrowding situation.

The accused/unsentenced population is 4,667. This total is 293 above the 10/10/05 total (an increase of 6.7%). It should be noted that this number includes both federal inmates (approximately 375) and special parole violators (approximately 210).

The sentenced population is 14, 393. This is 1.9% above the total sentenced last year (10/10/05).

The total number of offenders supervised in the community on Parole, Special Parole, Transitional Supervision and Transitional Placement is 3,706; this is a slight decrease from this same time last year.

DOC contracts for over 1,000 halfway house beds; these beds are filled virtually at all times. There are approximately 800 incarcerated waiting for a halfway house bed. An RFP for up to an additional 150 beds closed on 10/10/06; DOC does not discharge an offender under supervision without a place for him to live and a sponsor. DOC needs new beds, not beds 'borrowed' from Judicial or Parole.

The number of offenders on re-entry furlough on 10/10/05 was 185; this is 24.2% above the 12-month average. This program allows a 30-day furlough prior to discharge to transition the offenders into the community on supervision.

There was discussion about the profile of those incarcerated: predominately African American and Latino from urban settings; single parent/mother families; increase in youth violence; reasons were drug arrests, low bonds, high bonds, and sweeps for deadbeat dads, drugs, and guns.

Eligibility for supervised parole is reflective of the crime committed; for a very serious violent offense, the inmate must serve 85% of the sentence prior to release eligibility; for a less serious crime, the inmate must serve 50% of the sentence prior to discretionary release to the community. After being on supervised parole for one year, there often is a dramatic drop in recidivism. Some states then drop the 'supervised' condition to free up resources.

There was much discussion about problems of siting halfway house beds. Communities do not want ex-offenders in their communities despite the ex-offender coming from the community; this is also true for the juvenile offenders. Mr. Carbone noted that Connecticut has had great success in establishing community programs, but that some communities, especially major urban areas, are saturated with programs. The private non-profits have a greater ability to get local zoning approval than does the State. Commissioner Kirk noted that this is not a classic NIMBY issue, and that the State needs to develop a strategy for the siting of residential and/or inpatient programs.

Court Support Services Division Update. Mr. Carbone noted:

The Jail Re-Interview Program assesses and refers defendants being held on bond for community supervision who would otherwise remain incarcerated. These defendant clients have been identified as having a DOC mental health need score of 3 or 4 (moderate impairment from psychiatric condition, mental illness of sub-acute or chronic nature), and who are stable and do not require hospitalization. These specialized Jail Re-Interviewers, with experience and knowledge in behavioral health services, greatly enhance the coordination with local DMHAS services in developing a comprehensive community supervision and treatment plan for the defendant. These JRIP staff will also serve as a liaison with local community programs and courts. For calendar year 2005, the Jail Re-Interview Program interviewed 8,685 people and the court accepted 5,548 of these people for release to community programs; this is 64%. This compares to 7,775 people interviewed and 5,176 released to community programs for 2006 to date; this is a 67% release rate. Judicial has 388 people on the DOC wait list for a halfway house bed. Currently, interviews are being scheduled to fill 4 JRIP positions: one for adolescents at Manson Youth, and one each for mental health at Garner, Osborn and York.

Pre-Trial Probation Supervision: This is an intensive pre-trial supervision program combined with appropriate outpatient services to decrease the court's reliance on CSSD's residential network, reducing the long waiting list while still providing community interventions without jeopardizing public safety. The Probation Officers (PO) provide supervision and monitoring for pretrial defendants referred by the Jail Re-Interview Program and coordinate outpatient services for defendants who would otherwise remain incarcerated on bond. The POs would remain on this case load for a period of three (3) months and then transition the person to a less intensive level of pretrial supervision. The Judge has to authorize the person's release to adult probation with intensive outpatient services under a Probation Officer's supervision. Inpatient programs have proven very difficult to site and costly to operate.

Probation Transition Program: The Probation Transition Program (PTP) targets inmates 90 days prior to release who have a term of probation following their discharge from correction custody. This includes those discharging at the end of a sentence from a correctional facility, halfway house, parole, transitional supervision, or a furlough. The purpose of the project is to identify a probationer's specific needs prior to release, in order to plan for transition into the community, reducing the likelihood of a violation of probation. The goal of PTP is to stabilize probationers during the first few weeks following release and transition them to traditional probation caseloads. Specialized, dedicated probation officers will have caseloads of twenty-five (25) probationers to allow them the time and resources to facilitate this transition. National research has shown that the first days of release are critical in successful completion of probation; the ex-inmate would be under the supervision of a Probation Officer for 4 months - this is a critical time for recidivism.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Update. Commissioner Kirk reported:

The Access To Recovery (ATR) program is a 3-year, \$22M partnership to develop a network of support services accessible to the DOC population at time of release in each of the 5 mental health/substance abuse regions. The ATR Program will terminate in August 2007. The portals are Probation, DOC, and DSS; the ATR Program focuses on support services (housing, child care, education, treatment and job opportunities) to

assist people in recovery. Originally the program was operating in the Hartford Superior Court one day per week; now it is 3 days per week.

Mental Health Transformation Grant. Fourteen state agencies and the Judicial Branch are collaborating on this federal initiative, the Mental Health Transformation Grant, for infrastructure activities supporting prevention. It is intended to create systematic changes to erase health care disparities. A report to transform the state's mental health system has been drafted for submission to the feds. The feds will target states that move to a voucher system to receive Access To Recovery (ATR) grants to purchase recovery support services.

Behavioral Health Services Subcommittee:

It was reported that the Connecticut Offender Reentry Program (CORP) for the serious and violent offenders may expand services to include Osborne Correctional Institution as well as Garner Correctional Institution, and York Correctional Institution if resources can be identified.

The offender Reentry Program has a current census of about 80; low levels of re-arrest are reported.

The Women's Diversion program serving Bristol and New Britain courts has received national attention for accomplishments with women with histories of trauma, substance abuse and long histories of arrest and incarceration.

The Crisis Intervention Team program has had 5 40-hour trainings for police officers to provide them with skills and knowledge in dealing with persons with mental health issues; 180 police staff and 35 mental health staff have been trained.

The Mental Health Alternative to Incarceration Center has not been able to establish a residential program due to zoning barriers and objections by neighborhood residents. However, a day reporting program has been operating in Hartford for over a year and has resulted in reduced incarceration of the target population. Leadership of DMHAS, CSSD, and DOC will review options for meeting the housing needs for clients that will not encounter siting barriers.

Due to the success of the day reporting program mentioned above, a Request For Proposals (RFP) for a second program, the Mental Health Day Reporting Center, was released on 10/4/06 for Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport or Waterbury. This program will serve individuals who have housing in the community.

Connecticut is nationally-recognized for its programs that serve adults with serious mental health issues who are involved in the criminal justice system. This accomplishment is attributed to successful collaboration among DMHAS, DOC, and CSSD. It is inspiring to be seen as a leader in this area.

Comprehensive Plan for the Criminal Justice System. Brian Austin explained that OPM is in the process of identifying issues for exploration over the next 2 years. A form has been developed; Commission members are to give at least a paragraph of narrative for each question asked. Final issue identification deadline is November 9th; Commission members can submit their responses at the November 9th CJPAC meeting. Issues will be reviewed at the December 14th

CJPAC meeting. Please forward responses to Brian Austin at Brian.Austin@po.state.ct.us or fax him at 860-418-6496. If there are any questions, please call him at 860-418-6394.

Interagency Collaborative Working Groups: Brian Austin noted that PA05-249 and PA06-193, creating the CJPAC, with significantly more areas of concern than had the PJOC. In order to accomplish the Commission's statutory requirements, the Commission might consider establishing collaborative working groups. Commission members were asked to identify what working groups needed to be established, and to volunteer to chair a working group; OPM will provide staff support. Some groups might be:

- Prison and Jail Overcrowding and Reentry
- Victim Services
- Prevention Policies
- Victim Notification System

Members were asked to provide their feedback on these collaboratives at the November 9th meeting of the CJPAC.

There was no other business. Meeting adjourned at 10:43am.

Future Meetings

Thursday, December 14, 2006 9AM

2007 Schedule

Thursday, February 8, 2007 9AM
Thursday, April 12, 2007 9AM
Thursday, June 14, 2007 9AM
Thursday, September 20, 2007 9AM
Thursday, October 11, 2007 9AM
Thursday, November 8, 2007 9AM
Thursday, December 13, 2007 9AM