

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)  
MINUTES  
FOR  
THURSDAY, October 27, 2011 MEETING**

*Members Present:* Chairman Michael Lawlor, *Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division*, Leo Arnone, *Commissioner, Department of Corrections*; Kevin Kane, *Chief State's Attorney*; Erika M. Tindill, *Chairwoman, Board of Pardons and Paroles*, Susan O. Storey, *Chief Public Defender*; Elizabeth (Libby) Graham, *Department of Children and Families*; Dennis Murphy, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor*; Richard P. Healey, *Public Member*. Reuben Bradford, *Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Commissioner*, Bill Carbone, *Executive Director, Court Support Services*, Scott Kaupin, *Mayor, Town of Enfield*, Patrick Carroll, *Deputy Chief Court Administrator, Judicial Branch*, Laurie Deenen, *Public Member*

**1. Welcome Mike Lawlor, Under Secretary, OPM CJPPD**

The meeting was called to order at 9:28 a.m. Chairman Lawlor started the meeting by highlighting today's discussion in regard to updates on various commissioner and others on new initiatives and how they are following out. Chairman Lawlor stated that there are a variety of them and some of them are just starting to be implemented. Chairman Lawlor believed that this was a great opportunity to have an update of the status of the new initiatives and how they will be expected to be rolled-out over the next few months. We are currently at our high point of the inmate population for the year. It will begin to start trending downward as it usually does in November and December. It will be interesting to track this and the new initiatives being implemented. Chairman Lawlor made note of CT-N taping. He further discussed the genesis behind CJPAC and its mission and purpose to address matters that develop in the criminal justice system.

**II. Introductions**

Members introduced themselves and stated what agency they represented

**III. Acceptance of Minutes**

Motions was moved and seconded. Minutes were accepted unanimously

**IV. Commission of Correspondence**

There was no commission correspondence

**V. Public Comment**

There was no public comment

**VI. CCSU Presentation: Connecticut's Reentry Roundtable Collaborative (CRRC)**

Andrew Clark introduced himself to the Commission as a representative from the Connecticut Reentry Roundtable Collaborative (CRRC). Andrew described the collaboration among

community providers, local municipal and agency representatives and formerly incarcerated individuals to help address the issues on reentry following release from prison. Some of the communities that are involved include Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury and Windham. Bridgeport is the oldest participant.

They have met over the last five years on a monthly basis. The origin of the meetings was the providers had been working independently on reentry issues. The providers decided to meet collectively to discuss what they are doing in their communities, share information and strategize on how they can improve their services.

Andrew indicated that there was a website for the public to access: [www.ctreentry.info.org](http://www.ctreentry.info.org). Andrew stated that CCRC is seeking to create an annual reporting template that provides meaningful and comparable information about the current services provided to the ex-offender population and also compares that information to need in their communities. Also discussed the two main functions of the website: (1) to serve as a house for the various roundtables to share minutes, agendas and to see what other communities are doing (2) to serve as a resource guide.

Andrew stated that the CRRC would like to find out if the providers are matching up with the needs of the inmates coming out of prison. Essentially, CRRC would like to the opportunity to interface with the state in terms of trying to create a way the state could assist the roundtables in getting this information.

Andrew offered suggestions as to how this may work. One suggestion he had is when the state contracts with the providers in having possibly a web with the number of beds available and if or when they are available. Also, if there was a way to save this information for a particular client and they would be able to return to make notes on what's happening on a local and state level on services that may be available.

Andrew made the announcement the Julia Wilcox is the new chairperson of the Hartford CRRC.

Chairman Lawlor wanted to clarify that the goal is to have some way to have direct access for both clients and providers. Andrew responded in the affirmative and followed-up by saying this information would not only be helpful to providers, but also to the members of the reentry community.

Chairman Lawlor anticipated one concern that would emerge is of people who are allocating halfway house beds and treatment facilities, which is a very complicated process. He agreed that it would be beneficial for providers to have direct access to the number of beds that are available in a particular location, but it may create additional problem if people on the outside were granted access.

Andrew Clark recognized there are concerns and limitations but believes they can be addressed by having all the stakeholders sit down and address the concerns collectively. Andrew stated that the best platform to use was 2-1-1.

Chairman Lawlor opened the discussion up to the group seeking their opinion and if they already did something similar to this in their agency.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) *Commission Pat Rehmer* stated that there is already a site ([networkcare.org](http://networkcare.org)), which they purchased through a grant that featured any service or program that is available in the state to individuals facing mental health and/or substance abuse issues. In addition, it lists services that are available through DSS that is linked through 2-1-1. Commissioner Rehmer believes this program is working well. She discussed that the website is pretty comprehensive and a member of the public who is experiencing a crisis would be able to navigate the system and find resources. Commissioner Rehmer the website originated in California and is now used by multiple states.

Court Support Services Division (CSSD) *Executive Director Bill Carbone* stated that CSSD used to print booklets and made them available at different locations. However, six or seven years ago, CSSD bought into the 2-1-1 services. He explained how their site is user friendly. He did mention that some things might not be available to the public. It is routinely updated. Mr. Carbone said clients are reintroduced to the site upon release from prison to inform them of additional resources that are available.

*John Santa, Bridgeport Businessman*

Participated as one of the initial members of the Bridgeport CRRS. Discussed the growth of the Bridgeport roundtable. He described how he comes at this from two perspectives. (1) As a facilitator of the ministry prison group. (2) As a businessperson and wanting to hire ex-offenders because there is a less chance of reoffending if there is gainful employment. He also believes that unless policy and ideas of the government are reflected in the community, the collaboration and resources available to ex-offenders aren't going to succeed.

Chairman Lawlor summarized the problem and goal of CRRS. He said the problem is there is no current, comprehensive information about the variety of services that are offered to ex-offenders entering back into the community. The goal is have something that used to exist on paper become accessible online indicating how many beds are available, how many people are participating, etc.

Executive Director Bill Carbone asked Andrew Clark questions regarding this concept. Mr. Carbone stated that building on the foundation of 2-1-1 is ideal. He asked Andrew Clark about restructuring 2-1-1 to become more user-friendly. Also, the features that is available to offenders and providers.

Department of Corrections (DOC) *Commissioner Leo Arnone* wanted to express his support for the concept. He discussed his experience at the first roundtable meeting he attended. He is impressed with the comprehensive literature that is available at these meetings.

Chairman Lawlor asked Commissioner Arnone what is going on with information made accessible to inmates. Most recently, there have been limited resources available. He asked what else is happening with having information available.

Commissioner Arnone responded by saying DOC is looking at what the federal government and the Federal Bureau of Prisons are doing as well as other jurisdictions across the country. Commissioner Arnone guessed around 30% of inmates around the country has some access to online services. He cited an example. He also stated that inmates have very limited lockdown online services in a common area and that nothing goes into cells. Discussed updated ways of family members, friends, etc, can deposit money into an inmate's commissary account.

Chairman Lawlor cited an example of the frequent Freedom of Information (FOI) requests from inmates. He suggested a feature on a website to submit a FOI requests. He said this is a medium to long-term plan for inmates to have limited access to submit such a request.

## **VII. Agency Updates**

CSSD Executive Director Bill Carbone updated the group on the intensive supervision probation. He said the legislation had officially passed in June and that CSSD started in earnest in October. Mr. Carbone discussed the plan that has been worked out. There are three populations: (1) Pretrial. (2) Incarcerated individuals post-sentence that have two years or less who have at least served 90 days of their sentence and DOC determines the inmate has been compliant with the rules and may be eligible for a sentence modification. (3) Plea agreements which the court has received where the sentences are two years or less.

Mr. Carbone stated that there are two pieces to the intensive supervision probation. The first piece: during the month of October, CSSD thought they would deal with the pre-trial portion of the intensive supervision unit. In the first two weeks, the data that CSSD has available is 61 cases referred back to the court for consideration. Thus far, there have been 21 approvals. Mr. Carbone feels this is a good start and response working collaboratively with the public defenders office. He did say some have been denied, not all are approved. Mr. Carbone stated that the second piece would start the first week of November. DOC has identified two facilities, which they will start with the sentence modification piece. CSSD is in the process of interviewing candidates that are in the sentenced to two years or less pool and who has served at least 90 days. There is a continuing outreach to judges. Mr. Carbone concluded by saying the hope is to add 30 new cases a month and they are gradually building on the number that was expected.

DOC Commissioner Leo Arnone stated that DOC is coming out of a three to four year low of staffing. They are starting to build the number of counselors available. By using overtime at the Osborne Correctional facility and placing counselors on overtime, this has allowed them to run necessary programs. DOC was able to parole these inmates, after they met their requirements. After the overtime was paid, DOC was able to save \$500,000. Commissioner Arnone did say these activities really do save the taxpayer money because these people pose no risk and would have been released anyways. The only reason there was a delay was due to a particular program starting.

Commissioner Arnone explained the Risk Reduction Credit program. He said that is has been slow and has required tremendous training. There were several legislative changes made to the original bill. There has been a lack of technology and there is a lot of manual labor that needs to go into this program. It started last month (September), on applying credit to those people in the

community. This month (October), DOC has started applying credits to inmates in facilities. The Commissioner estimates that DOC has released 50-60 people out of facilities so far this month and that number will slowly increase. The legislature gave DOC a year to implement the program. Commissioner Arnone stressed that they want to be careful and certain of people who are eligible for the program and when and where they go. Also, to make certain it is a safe environment. He anticipates more in December.

Commissioner Arnone stated the numbers for October. He said DOC is down 449 from October 2010, which is a 2.5% reduction. The sentenced population is down by 114 inmates, which is a 0.8% reduction. The accused is down 5% to 17.4%, due to Risk Reduction Credit program.

Commissioner Arnone said the home arrest program is underway. Has an advisory committee that was established through legislation. DMV, DOT, DOC, MADD, UConn Health Center, BOPP, AG's office and other interested parties make-up the committee.

The committee has had two full meetings and working groups. They are looking at a four-track system that mirrors other community programs DOC has done in the past. He expects this to be online around the first of the year.

DMHAS Commissioner Rehmer discussed two updates for her agency (1) Jail Diversionary program. Hartford started the program on October 17, 2011. From 10.17 – 10.25, four clients were diverted from arraignment: two from community court and 2 from G.A. 14. The program targets people who need immediate treatment. They are also partnering with community agencies. (2) Pre-trial residential program for temporary housing with serious mental illness. They were able to add seven more beds as well as additional staffing.

Board of Pardon and Parole Chairperson Erika Tindill discussed how they are establishing best practices and that there are two large projects underway. (1) Organizational restructuring to make sure the Board is as efficient as possible. Chairperson Tindill has expressed that one thing they don't have is a measuring tool to determine how well the Board is doing. (2) BOPP is starting a planning and researching unit.

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) Commissioner Reuben Bradford updated the group on the work that has taken place between the department, Under Secretary Lawlor and the Crime Lab Working Group to address the backlog of cases at the crime lab. He said due to expedited efforts of the working group, they have been able to identify the staffing levels that are needed, which has been approved by OPM and DAS. The Department is looking forward to the hiring. The Commissioner also took a moment to thank everyone in the Crime Lab Working Group for their time and effort. He also stated that 54 of 56 state police that were laid off are back to work, with the other two coming back November 4, 2011. They have also been able to deploy additional resources into the field.

Department of Children and Families (DCF) Deputy Commissioner Elizabeth Graham responded to a request Chairman Lawlor made at the last meeting. She stated that the focus of DCF's attention, for the purpose of CJPAC, is Raise the Age initiative. She provided the group with information on the average daily population of juveniles:

2008 – 89  
2009 – 102  
2010 – 101  
2011 – 109 (through September)

Ms. Graham also stated that the focus of DCF's attention is the type of program necessary to meet the needs of the older population. She said six are graduating and they are investigating relationships with local community colleges. There has been an increase emphasis on out-of-state population. They are seeing numbers consistent with their mission. The Commission is seeing success with keeping kids in CT.

The Chief States Attorney Kevin Kane received approval to fill eight of the 31 vacancies. Four will go to federally funded position, three to the fraud unit and one as a DUI prosecutor. Mr. Kane said staffing is down by 15% since 1989.

Chief Public Defender Susan Story expressed her concern of not seeing a drop in cases. The public defenders office still has 10 courts that meet or exceed the common caseload goal. She is hoping the numbers will drop. Attorney Storey discussed projects that are underway in the division and throughout different jurisdictions as well as the collaborative effort with other agencies. She explained the limitations and positive outcomes with new programs that have been implemented. She individually thanked agencies around that table that have assisted in the new programs.