

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)
MINUTES FOR
Thursday, December 29, 2011 MEETING

Members Present: Chairman Michael Lawlor, *Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM*; Leo Arnone, *Commissioner, Department of Corrections*; Kevin Kane, *Chief State's Attorney*; Dan Bannish, *Department of Corrections*; Theresa DeFrancis, *Attorney, Department of Education*; Susan O. Storey, *Chief Public Defender*; Commissioner Katz, *Department of Children and Families*; Judge Patrick Carroll, *Deputy Chief Court Administrator Judicial Branch*; Dennis Murphy, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor*; Commissioner Bradford, *Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection*; Scott Kaupin, *Mayor of Enfield*; William H. Carbone, *Executive Director, Court Support Services, Judicial Branch*; Erika Tindill, *Chairwoman of the Board of Pardons and Paroles*; Pat Rehmer, *Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services*; Claudette Beaulieu, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services*

I. Welcome Mike Lawlor, Under Secretary, OPM CJPPD

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. Chairman Lawlor stated that progress has been made on many important initiatives. He recognized that it is a popular week people take off due to the holidays. Chairman Lawlor acknowledged that the FBI cited the crime index for the first six months of 2011 which included virtually a drop in every criminal justice category. Furthermore, Chairman Lawlor cited that it is a national trend that was discussed in the monthly indicator report prepared by OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division.

Chairman Lawlor discussed that the Connecticut prison population is at an eleven year low, which is around 17,000 and will probably trend downward. There were important and ambitious goals set out in the biennium budget for the criminal justice portion of the budget. The goal and target is a continued reduction in the prison population.

There was a brief discussion on boards and commissions that CJPAC members may participate. Members were encouraged to offer their suggestions and contribute thoughts on what boards and commissions that is dormant. Legislation will be offered regarding overlapping boards and commissions. The reason is the next meeting in January; CJPAC can consider whether or not the boards and commissions can be grouped according to subject matter. In addition, try to decide and identify what boards and commissions have outlived their usefulness or are dormant. With boards and commissions potentially being consolidated or coordinated, the intent would be for members to avoid going to repeat meetings that essentially say the same thing.

Chairman Lawlor proposed the idea of putting the list of boards and commissions on the next CJPAC agenda for discussion. The purpose would be to receive an update, status of anything new and annual reports that give CJPAC an idea of what's going on in that

commission. Standard process by which CJPAC considers what the commission is up to. Coordinating efforts is the primary principle of CJPAC.

II. Introductions

Members introduced themselves and stated what agency they represented

III. Acceptance of Minutes

Chairman Lawlor stated that the minutes from November's meeting were not ready and would be approved at the January meeting.

IV. Commission of Correspondence

There was no commission correspondence

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment

I. Agency Updates

Patricia A. Rehmer, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DHMAS) – discussed two program updates within DMHAS:

(1) Jail Diversionary Substance Abuse Program.

(2) Crisis Intervention Team

The Jail Diversionary Substance Abuse Program was implemented in October 2011. It is a collaboration with Capital Region and ADRC programs in Hartford. Since its inception, 64 people were screened. Out of 64 people, treatment was proposed for 35, 23 were diverted and the current sentenced is 17. Commissioner Rehmer said it's too early to discuss outcomes but highlighted that because of this program, they are avoiding the cost of incarceration. DMHAS is averaging three diversions a week.

Crisis Intervention Team funds five day, 40 hour week training. The Team has trained over 1,000 police officers and 200 other professionals since 2004. Training is provided by CABLE (The Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement, Inc.).

Announcement: Louise Piers, Executive Director and Founder of CABLE received recognition at the national level 2011 as the CIT Coordinator of the Year.

Comment: LOEL MECKEL discussed the purpose of referrals to the jail diversionary program. If a person meets the clinical requirement (before they get to jail), a decision will be made at arraignment whether the person needs a bed for medical purposes.

Dr. Dan Bannish, Department of Corrections - Treatment Program for Inmates and Defendants with Chronic Illnesses. Dr. Bannish wants to maintain a viable method to keep these criminals in DOC without disrupting their medical treatment process. Individuals with chronic illnesses, who are in the criminal system for a short period of time (2 or 3 months), may have problems with regaining their treatment after their release and reentry. Many times, these individuals end up in the emergency room because their past treatment process was no longer available.

Susan O. Storey, Chief Public Defender - Attorney Storey elaborated on what Dr. Bannish discussed regarding revamping the interview model to include some of the medical history of some folks because it's been so successful working with DOC and DMHAS as far as severe chronic illnesses. Although, some of the clients do not want their health information aired in court. However, she did mention that the program is working very well.

Attorney Storey highlighted that the OCPD (Office of Chief Public Defender) consolidated with the Office of the Child Protection as of October 1, 2011. It is complete, with the exception of the child protection being housed in a satellite office. However, the consolidation has been working very well. They have been working with OPM to streamline the administrative side of things.

William H. Carbone, Executive Director, Court Support Services, Judicial Branch

(1) Topic: Employment among adult probationers - Court Support Services was able to determine that half of inmate population is need of full time employment after release. Director Carbone emphasized that employment can be not only a large component of successful of reentry but also a component to keep them from the system again. Incarceration itself is a barrier prohibiting the inmate population from connecting to people in the work force.

Furthermore, Carbone gave an update on a year old program which helps prepare the probationer for the work force. The program requires an attendance of three days week for three weeks, teaches the probationers the necessary preparation for work (resume workshop, how to dress for an interview, etc.) and methods of job retention. Within the last month the DOL and AIC worked together to find the best ways to implement the STEP-UP program. The program puts the ex-offender in a position to find an employer willing to hire them. The state will give the employer a subsidy to dissolve some of the risk factor they may face. The program may improve recidivism rates over time. Director Carbone expressed his happiness with STEP UP program, which is set to begin in January.

(2) Bail Commissioners Report - Judges Quinn and Carroll were presented with a Year-End Bail Commission Report with recommendations for 2012.

(3) The Intensive Probation Program kicked off in October. Two components mentioned:

(a): The pre-trial component is aimed to help people who waiting for treatment bed. During the first eight weeks of the program, 150 such referrals were made. Some were not accepted but most are being considered.

(b): The second component of the Intensive Probation Program deals with sentence modification for persons with sentences of 2 years or less. Carbone hopes that this will help decrease the prison population.

**** In September, DOC began implementing the risk reduction credit program, passed but the legislature last session to reduce inmates' sentences based on participation in education and treatment programs. ****

****Part of the jobs bill, the Subsidized Training and Employment Program (STEP UP) would pay the salary costs of new employees for up to 6 months in areas of high unemployment.****

Judge Carroll

(1) Last meeting, there was a presentation on the development of a state-wide fiber optic network. Judge Carroll is concerned that the courts and states attorneys' have not been included on the list to receive this new technology. However, the project as a whole is moving in the right direction.

(2)The Statutory Required Report to Legislature has been submitted. The CJIS Criminal Information Sharing System is now available on the OPM website.

(3)The issue of electronic signatures in court documents needs to be discussed. It can be an important gateway to electronic booking. Judge Carroll will be meeting with State Police on the issue. He hopes to find way to allow electronic booking a way into courts but realizes the long process ahead. Updating all the current computer systems with electronic booking would be an extensive process. A process is being pursued to automate the system which judge's orders are entered into the courtroom. Judge Carroll hopes that over the next six months they will have something to show for it.

****CJIS – Connecticut's Justice Information System – is the umbrella term for the information system activity among all the agencies with criminal justice responsibilities in Connecticut.****

Commissioner Katz, Department of Children and Families

Notable Initiatives:

(1) CJTS - 50% of underage violators are arrested on parole violation. DCF is bringing the parole officers back into the region in hopes to find alternative possibilities so that kids do not violate again. At CJTS, many kids already come in with a diploma. Bill Rosenbeck is seeking ways to engage kids in continuing education. She discussed with Commissioner Prior ways to continue educational opportunities for these kids. He is interested in partnering with her to work on a project of entering such children into

vocational schools. Commissioner Katz will propose legislature that affords up to five spots at each of the vocational schools. The proposal will include an inquiry to hire mentors to help these children obtain success.

(2) Currently Connecticut holds 232 out-of-state of underage violators. The state has seen close to a 40% reduction of out-of-state violators. Commissioner Katz brought up the issue of kids going AWOL. The police are not sure whether to proceed with an arrest or to report the child to DCF. She suggested make a distinction between normative behavior and risky behavior to eliminate unnecessary contact between police and DCF in unnecessary cases

(3) DCF is continuing RFP for adolescents in the eastern part of the state. However, they are looking for resources to carry out this program in eastern Connecticut.

****Located in Middletown, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) is the state's only high security facility for boys ages 13-17 years old.****

Kevin Kane, Chief State Attorney

Kevin Kane stressed the importance of funding for the Criminal Information System. He advocated for newer and more technology which will create more effective policymaking. Attorney Kane also suggested extending parole, which may protect the community from repeat offenders. For instance, if ex-offenders show signs of posing a threat to the community with smaller violations, it would be easier to get them back into the system as parolees rather than being off on probation. Kane brought attention to the dramatic reduction of shootings in Hartford since the implementation of a new shooting task force (began in July). The savings from the medical costs from would-be-victims exceeded the cost of maintaining this new task force.

Note from Mike Lawlor: Hartford's success with the new task force has initiated interest in New Haven, which wants to try out that model in New Haven.

Attorney Kane also discussed the extreme staff cuts that the Division of Criminal Justice has suffered within the last two years. Attorney Kane described his concern over the fact that the personnel cuts, along with the inability to refill the positions, have caused failures in catching cases that should have been caught early on. Attorney Kane described many of the challenges that his agency is now facing as a result of the reduction of resources, and the impact that such reductions have on the criminal justice system.

****The state recently signed a \$14.2 million contract with Affiliated Computer Systems (ACS), a subsidiary of Xerox, to build the state's new Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS).****

Bradford, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

(1) Despite minor logistical hurdles, the consolidation of DEMHS (Emergency Management and Homeland Security) with the former Department of Public Safety is progressing.

(2) The working advisory group at state forensic lab is progressing in its work

****Located in Meriden, the Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory in Meriden is one of the three labs that are part of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's Scientific Services Division.****

Leo Arnone, Commissioner, Department of Correction

****Steadily declining since 2008, the state's prison population dipped below 17,500 inmates as of December 1. It is the state's lowest Dec. 1 prison population since 2011.****

(1) DUI home confinement is to kickoff in January.

(2) The Intensive Probation Program has 75 cases in the screening process and 26 being physically reviewed.

(3) Working project with UCON on ways to save money and create better services

(4) The use of Medicaid for inmates who are out of facility but in hospital has had changes; a new change in federal law will allow the state to receive partial reimbursement: It is possible for the state to receive 50% reimbursement rather than absorbing 100% of medical cost of that inmate. However that does not apply for inmates in the actual correctional facility.

(5) Peter Joy from CBIA is searching for companies having a hard time finding employees and pair them with inmates who will be in need of employment post release. He will soon have a meeting with these companies to inquire what type of training they expect and at which level of training.

Note: Arnone- The state has created a tax break for private and public companies who hire ex-offenders.

Mayor Enfield

Enfield has had 2 teen suicides in past month. Mayor Enfield wanted to thank Commissioner Katz on behalf of Enfield for providing services after tragedy.

Erika Tindill, Board of Pardons and Paroles

(1) Director Rinaldi and Tindill are meeting on January 5th to discuss recidivism issues in CT.

(2) Reorganization of the Board of Pardons and Paroles is underway

(3) The Board is preparing to go paperless with parole release hearings in March

(4) The Center for Effective Public Policy – working with Ohio Risk Assessment Systems - will overlook a leadership summit and collaboration workshop with key staff.

(5) The transfer parolees number is currently 1050; 370 already in half-way houses and 675 have received dates and are awaiting a decision.

****Eligible inmates can receive risk reduction earned credits of up to 5 days per month for adhering to offender accountability plans, taking treatment and education programs, and obeying prison rules.****

****The Board of Pardons and Paroles has the authority to grant convicts early release from prison after they have served a percentage of their sentences. If granted, parole officers then monitor them.****

Claudette Beaulieu, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services

DSS is spending a lot of time restructuring medical program. The Administration Services Organization, an entity responsible for coordinating care the prison population, will begin discussion on January 1st.

John Santa: Vice Chairman, Santa Holding Company Bridgeport Reentry Collaborative Roundtable

Sean Gio from United Way is working on a new community reentry site, which will enable statewide location base searches. John Santa expressed his hope that ex-offenders do not become marginalized in the job market.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 2B of the Legislative Office Building.

Drafted: Morgan Collings

Approved: Sarah Kolb