

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)  
MINUTES  
FOR  
THURSDAY, January 26, 2012 MEETING**

*Members Present:* Michael Lawlor, *Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division*; Steve Spellman, *Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection*; Kevin Kane, *Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice*; Laura Cordes, *Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services*; Leo Arnone, *Commissioner, Department of Corrections*; Erika Tindill, *Chair, Board of Pardons and Paroles*; Chief James Kenny, *Vernon Police Department*; Michael Norko, *Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services*; Elizabeth Graham, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Children and Families*; Mike Carbone, *Court Support Services Division (CSSD Judicial Branch)*; Dennis Murphy, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor*; Judge Pat Carroll, *Deputy Chief Court Administrator Judicial Branch*; Susan O. Storey, *Chief Public Defender*; Dan Bannish, *Director of Behavioral Health, Department of Corrections*;

**I. Welcome Mike Lawlor, Undersecretary, OPM CJPPD**

The meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m. Chairman Lawlor recognized the hardships all present agencies are experiencing due to the recent budget crisis. Chairman Lawlor stressed that despite the budget shortfalls, opportunities to create significant savings were possible. Given the reduced amount of resources at their agencies' disposal, it is even more so important to manage the system as efficiently and effectively as possible. The continuation of reduced crime rates and recidivism will result in reduction of DOC expenditures. Based on that, we can consider reallocating resources that are being saved to meet some short-term needs.

Currently, the crime rates have risen as expected around this time of year. However, the actual rise in the crime rate this year is lower than the predicted rise in the crime for this year. (The population is up about 300 in DOC). Chairman Lawlor presented a projection of significant saving due to a decrease in the criminal population. This saving can only occur if they continue to achieve progress with reducing recidivism and maintain a strong focus on risk assessment.

Chairman Lawlor also mentioned that in the last few days, news media has focused on incidents in East Haven, which involved allegations of racial profiling in the municipality's response to the crisis. Later in the meeting Andrew Clark will give a briefing on traffic stop statistics. The East Haven incidents are not isolated, but occur throughout the state.

A 2006 report from the International Association of Chiefs of Police is available on the OPM website. Chairman Lawlor encouraged members review it, as it provides the best practices currently available.

## **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. Agency Updates:**

**Dan Bannish, Director of Behavioral Health, Department of Correction** - received a technical assistance grant from the National Institute of Corrections to look at treatment of sex offenders within DOC. Connecticut generally does well with treatment and supervision of sex offenders released into the community. Gaps in the system still exist, however, which often involve unintentionally releasing sex offenders back into the community without supervision or treatment. Dr. Bannish is planning to visit states that have built a “gold standard” system for treatment of sexual offenders. The comparing and contrasting of the “gold standard” system with our Connecticut system will allow DOC to eliminate obsolete methods and implement newer and more effective ones. The trips include sites in Vermont, Maine, Colorado, and Bridgewater State Hospital. These sites are excelling in effective risk management. Hopefully, his team can learn ways to tighten the gaps in the Connecticut system from these other sites and improve the treatment and supervision of sex offenders within the state overall. Presently, 27% of people classified as having had sexual offending behavior in their history leave the system with no supervision whatsoever. This alarming statistic calls for the revision of a strategic plan.

**Susan O. Storey, Chief Public Defender** - is working with OPM, the Office of Fiscal Analysis, and the Judicial Office regarding budget cuts. Storey stressed the importance of a strong public defender system, especially in light of the incidents in East Haven and in regards to child welfare matters. It is vital that people entering the court system continue to receive good representation in the court system despite budget cuts.

**Judge Pat Carroll, Deputy Chief Court Administrator, Judicial Branch** - spoke about particular issues the Judicial Branch is experiencing and their impact on the rest of the criminal justice community:

1. The budget crisis has forced the Judicial Branch to cut certain jobs:
  - a. The Court Room Monitor and temporary assistance clerks – impacted the scheduling of trials and slowed down the trial processes. (Judge Carroll suggested possibly shifting around judges and personnel from other districts because of shortages.)

The loss in court monitors impacted the provision of transcripts needed by the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

- b. The one statistician in the branch – The branch is in the midst of a hiring freeze and is prioritizing jobs. Judge Carroll expressed the difficulty in establishing appropriate priorities because all jobs have their own significant impacts.
- c. Jury Administrator – Depletion in staff who can man trials. This is a key position he is worried about losing and filling.

Problems aside, his branch is working on the e-signature issue. On January 27, Judge Carroll will have a meeting with Judge Devlin, IT employees, and court operation employees to expedite the process to accept e-signatures in courts.

**Dennis Murphy, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor** - The STEP UP program will be rolling out shortly; the bond council will be meeting next week to approve it. Hopefully, better integration of job training programs will continue.

**Bill Carbone, Court Support Services Division (CSSD Judicial Branch)** - presented some good news. The CSSD had recently received the Year End Report for 2011 on recidivism reduction with good results. Bill Carbone would like to applaud the cooperative collaboration between agencies (bail staff, probation staff, etc. with the public defenders and with courts and DEHMAS) to create community supervision plans for probationers. He believes the recipe for such achievement involved risk assessment tools, manageable caseload for officers, getting individuals to work in earnest on certain issues once in the community, and making sure contracted programs were proven to be successful.

DOC can see the results within the report:

- (1) Adult probation: In 2007, there was 47% recidivism (24 months after start probation) and came down to 42% in 2011. This brings up the question: Can we achieve recidivism reduction? The collaboration between agencies is assisting in the reduction.
- (2) Domestic violence: From last year to this year, (12 months after completion of probation) the re-arrest rate dropped from 13% to 12%. The national re-arrest rates in this subgroup are higher.
- (3) Juvenile rates: Individuals who complete probation (12 months after completion) fell from 51% last year to 45% this year.

This data implies that transformation of these offenders into individuals successfully reentering the community is within a feasible range. Bill Carbone also mentioned that employment remains a barrier for ex-offenders. Hopefully, the STEP UP Program will be another useful tool for reentry.

*\*\*The Court Support Services Division (CSSD) is the part of the court system that oversees adult probation through local court probation offices. It also includes the Office of Alternative Sanctions. \*\**

**Elizabeth Graham, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Children and Families**

DCF is focusing on reduction of out of state placements. They have seen a decline in out of state placements from a year ago (364 to 216 placements). There have been positive features of recent activity; DCF received a \$3.2 million grant for trauma informed practice. This is critical to their operation in best servicing children in their care and custody. The grant will allow for a programmatic approach to increase efficiencies while ensuring DCF stays within their budget's boundaries.

**Michael Norko, Director of Forensic Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services**

Behavioral Health Subcommittee Report:

1. Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT): DEHAMS funds CIT program (a 5 day/40 hr. training), which has successfully trained over 1000 police officers.
2. CABLE is working with DOC to provide CIT training to corrections officers, state police, and probation and parole officers. The requests for training have exceeded capacity (Each training program has a capacity of about 150 to 200 people). DEHAMS is looking to fund a 6<sup>th</sup> training program in the next fiscal year.
3. Behavioral Health Subcommittee – had a lengthy discussion about the Psychiatric Security Review Board; at the meeting a written report for commission was prepared which goes into detail how PSRB functions. Summary of highlights: There has been a recent effort in a particular municipality to prevent the release of insanity acquittees into community even after PSRB ordered release. The process is very structured and reviewed at high levels of hierarchy within the system to ensure the best results. PSRB has been tracking data recidivism since June 2009 and found favorably low recidivism results: Individuals released from hospitals and re-arrested is less than 1%. Individuals granted a temporary leave from hospitals and re-arrested is less than 3%. Michael Norko's concern lies in the level of public awareness and knowledge about the PSRB. He hopes such awareness will help abate some fears in the community.

*\*\*Established in 1985, the Psychiatric Security Review Board determines the level of treatment and supervision necessary to protect society for those defendants acquitted by reason of insanity.\*\**

**Erika Tindill, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles** -gave an update on the progress in implementing the ORAS program in Connecticut. The program is a comprehensive offender risk and needs assessment program. From the offender's sentencing and through their completion of their incarceration or supervision, the offender will have been assessed multiple times. The offender will be assessed at intake and given appropriate treatment throughout their sentence. Prior to a parole hearing, the Board would be presented with information regarding the multiple assessments and determine whether the appropriate measures have been met and evaluate the probability of reoffending. Erika Tindill mentioned the risk assessment tool currently in use is the TPAI. The former "salient factor score" will not be used.

Consultants from the Center of Effective Public Policy facilitated the ORAS Implementation and Leadership Summit. The next step is the collaboration workshop on April 2 and 3 at the Maloney Center of Training and Staff Development. Ed Latesa from the University of Cincinnati will be coming in to train the group. ORAS is a non-proprietary program, which will make distribution less costly. The process of implementation is a difficult one, but Tindill anticipates it going smoothly.

*\*\*TPAI (Treatment Program Assessment Instrument) is a risk tool used by the Department of Correction in studying the likelihood of inmates to return to criminal behavior upon their release.\*\**

*\*\*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.\*\**

**Leo Arnone, Commissioner, Department of Corrections** - Leo Arnone expressed his excitement with the kickoff of the ORAS program. The Commissioner believes the program will help consider the offender's activity and behavior, along with criminal incidents in the public community, to best assess their risk. With this new tool, the facility and the Parole Board will see things more clearly than before. ORAS is a recipe for success in regards to reducing recidivism.

Some updated statistics about the criminal population:

1. DOC is down a total of 650 incarcerated from last year (3.6 % reduction). The accused population had an increase of 49 people (up 1.2 %). The community is down 11.8%. In response to the community statistic, DOC created a team of five administrators whose objective is to assess the operation and mechanisms of the release program throughout Connecticut facilities. DOC has seen some systemic issues with the review process of inmates for community release.
2. The REC (earned credit program) is on schedule and moving ahead nicely.
3. DUI home confinement is forthcoming. The program will release the first participant to home confine within a few weeks.
4. Assessment supervision protocols have been developed in consultation with the Advisory Board; Parole officers began staff training in the past week.
5. Intensive Probation Program – The Commissioner is trying to get this new program understood by all the staff. In January, DOC has seen an uptick in packages going back to judicial; 13 were approved, 28 denied at the facility level (other charges made person ineligible), and 27 are pending and will be moving along quickly.
6. January House will open in early February. It is the first sex offender program of its kind in CT. This residential program is for low security inmates.

**Laura Cordes, Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services**

CONNSACS and the Office of Victim Services will be marking its 1<sup>st</sup> year anniversary of the state's new Sexual Assault Forensic Unit in Wethersfield, CT. The SAFE program provides 24 hour on call access for adult and adolescent sexual assault victims at six participating hospital located in the central and eastern part of the state. SAFE employees are trained in victim dynamics, know how to treat special health care issues related sexual assault, and are proficient in collecting evidence necessary to prosecute the offender. Furthermore, victims using their services have become more likely to stay in the prosecution process. SAFE is funded through OPM and federal dollars. However, the funding runs out in February 2013 and the program will be asking for refund to continue servicing victims. Within its first year, 163 victims have benefited from its services.

**Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice**

The Sentencing Task Force is meeting this afternoon (Thursday, January 27).

There has been a dramatic reduction in crime in Hartford. The success can be in part accredited to the collaboration between different state agencies on different issues. New Haven officials began meeting with the State Attorney's Office to explore ways to adopt a program similar to the one in Hartford.

Kevin Kane asserted that different ways of doing small things could have a big impact on the entire system. He recalled cases from decades ago in which police officers had a different understanding/approach to processes in the criminal system. Informing police officers of different steps of the judicial process could help reduce the number of certain allegations as we have seen in the East Haven case.

**Steve Spellman, Chief of Staff, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection**

Chief Spellman commented on the successful teamwork Commissioner Bradford and his agency have accomplished with other agencies. Chief Spellman also gave an update on his agency's staffing: In each of the five divisions, the numbers staffed are down. The sworn count of state police is 1080, but with an actual available workforce of 1024. This is making it difficult to keep overtime down. A solution could be to civilianize certain duties. However, the ability to accomplish that may be limited. Reorganizing dispatch can be a viable solution. The agency is taking small steps in changing the state police dispatch. There has become a large disparity in 991 calls coming into troops. Plans to combine the northwest corner of state are underway. The intentions of this maneuver have been publically questioned. Chief Spellman assured that there is no intent to close state police troops but rather to combine dispatch.

**VII. Special Commission Topics**

**1. Criminal Justice Task Forces, Boards and Commissions: Consolidations Proposals**

Chairman Lawlor and the CJPAC Board reviewed a list of boards and commission to determine the activity or dormancy of their statuses. Also kept in mind was the possibility of consolidation or the elimination of certain boards and commissions.

<u>Listing of Committees and Boards</u>	<u>Status</u>
<i>CJPAC</i>	Active
<i>CJIS Governing Board</i>	Active
<i>Condition on Ethnic and Racial Disparity in Criminal Justice System</i>	PUT UNDER REVIEW (will refer to Justice Harper on his opinion; maybe should be combined with CJPAC)
<i>Criminal Justice Commission</i>	Active
<i>Advisory Commission on Wrongful Convictions</i>	PUT UNDER REVIEW (dormant but could be reconstituted into a different group)
<i>Investigatory Grand Jury Panel</i>	Active
<i>Board of Firearms Permit Examiners</i>	Active
<i>Nick's Record Improvement Task Force</i> <i>Advisory Council to Victim Services: active</i>	Active
<i>E911</i>	Active
<i>Police Officers Standards and Training Council</i>	Active
<i>Child Fatality Review Panel</i>	Active
<i>Justice for Abused Children Task Force</i>	Active
<i>Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee</i>	Active
<i>Juvenile Jurisdiction Policy Operating Committee</i>	Active
<i>Child Advocate Advisory Committee</i>	Under review

<i>Sentencing Commission</i>	Active
<i>Psychiatric Security Review Board</i>	Active
<i>Gaming Policy Board</i>	PUT UNDER REVIEW
<i>Whiting Advisory Board</i>	Active
<i>Alcohol Drug Policy Council</i>	Active
<i>Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services</i>	Active
<i>Fatality Review Board with Persons with Disabilities</i>	Active
<i>Law Enforcement Response to Family Violence Task Force</i>	Active
<i>Law Enforcement Response to Family Violence Task Force</i>	Active
<i>Sex Assault Forensic Advisory Committee</i>	Active

Notes: The group *SANE* has been replaced by *SAFE*.

## **2. Reentry Website Development Project Overview and Update:**

### **Introduction: Linda DeConte, from OPM: Update on the 2-1-1 Project**

The 2-1-1- Project is a reentry website development project. The Connecticut Reentry Roundtable Collaborative asked for a comprehensive multiagency directory of current services for the ex offender population. Richard Porth of United Way was invited to the November meeting to give an overview of the 2-1-1 resources. Check out [www.211.ct.org](http://www.211.ct.org) for the more information. The Connecticut state government is a primary contributor to this program.

### **Richard Porth, President and CEO, United Way of Connecticut**

Connecticut was the first state in country to be authorized to use the 3 digit calling number 2-1-1. The program has about 4,500 government and non-profit providers and a listing of about 48,000 different services. The program enables multiple issues to be addressed in the same database. If an individual has one problem, the website can refer them to different resources that help solve problems which may be related to their initial problem. Keeping these services up to date and in an easy to follow format are essential in promoting self-help. United Way believes this project will leverage significant previous state investments and work to the benefit of people reentering the community. The website is a few days away from going live.

### **Sean Ghio, Director of 211 Process and Performance**

Sean Ghio gave a demonstration of the newly developed the 2-1-1 website. The site provides new landing page where a user can find a resource by entering a zip code, town, or city. After entering the location given categories appear. The user can select services relevant to his situation and will get a list of resources and their contact information and website links. Results can be “mapped” through Google Maps.

### **Julia Wilcox, Senior Public Policy Specialist, Connecticut Association of Nonprofits; Chair, Hartford Reentry Collaborative Roundtable**

As the 2-1-1 Program builds on the capacity, accurate informational updating is vital to success. Julia Wilcox stressed the need for consistent data management of providers represented within the system. CJPAC members had been previously given a copy of the draft memo addressed to criminal justice professionals and criminal justice providers. This is a call to encourage updates in the 2-1-1 system. The draft calls for input in recommendations in several categories: (1) is your organization listed?; (2) verification that the organizational information is accurate; (3) encouraging providers to put a 2-1-1 banner on their website; (4) questions or suggestions. Overall, the provider community is looking to assure that the criteria for programs listed on the website are clearly outlined to avoid unrealistic expectations on part of stakeholders within the community.

### **Ken Barone, Central Connecticut State University**

On Monday, February 6, 2012 from 1-3 p.m. there will be a forum/focus group meeting in the Student Center, Alumni Hall at Central Connecticut State University. Ken encouraged all to attend to focus group. There will be a brief presentation of the website and discussion of the following questions:

1. What features would be useful to the consumer using the website?
2. How can your agency use this website?
3. What can your agency can contribute to the project?
4. How to spread the word of the website.

### **3. Andrew Clark, Police Traffic Stop Statistics**

Andrew Clark met with Connecticut’s Department of Transportation to discuss funding. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration can provide funding at this point. Funding would be available to any state with a racial profiling law. Connecticut applied and was assured that funds would be available to move forward with providing resources to implement the law. The Institute has looked at racial profiling as it has been addressed across the nation to identify the best practices or models. DOT and the African American Affairs Commission helped put a proposal forward. They have reached out to Northeastern University to advise them. Northeastern could provide them with good technical advice on how to move forward in Connecticut. Funding could go towards training activities, education, and public outreach to address racial profiling.

**Chief Kenny:** CPCA is fully supportive of the program. The Chief's main concern is the change on how data needs to be submitted. Reprogramming will have a big impact in their system and hopes funding will be available to facilitate this change.

**VII. Adjournment:** Next meeting will take place on Thursday February 23, 2012.