

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)  
MINUTES  
FOR  
THURSDAY, May 31, 2012 MEETING**

*Members Present:* Chairman Michael Lawlor, *Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM*; Reuben Bradford, *Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection*; Leo Arnone, *Commissioner, Department of Correction*; Erika M. Tindill, *Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles*; Laura Cordes, *Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Center (CONNSACS)*; Dennis Murphy, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor*; Susan O. Storey, *Chief Public Defender*; Dan Bannish, *Director of Behavioral Health, Department of Correction*; Bill H. Carbone, *Executive Director, Court Support Services Division (CSSD) (Judicial Branch)*; John Russotto, *Deputy Chief State's Attorney for Administration, Personnel and Finance, Division of Criminal Justice*; Barbara Claire, *Department of Children and Families*; Loel Meckel, *Forensic Services*; Deborah Henault, *Addiction Services Counselor Supervisor, Department of Correction*; Jennifer Bennett, *Parole Manager, Department of Correction*; Gary Roberge, *Assistant Director, Adult Services, Court Support Services Division (CSSD) (Judicial Branch)*; Claudette Beaulieu, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services*; Johanna Krebs, *Victim Services and Court Monitoring Specialist, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD- CT Chapter)*; Michelle Lettieri, *Assistant Director, Victim Services Director, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD- CT Chapter)*; Laurie Deneen, *Public Member*.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m. Chairman Lawlor began by discussing the fact that the trends that have been observed over the course of the past few years seem to be continuing. Particularly, prison populations have continued to drop. The state is currently housing about 1300 fewer inmates than in February 2011, and approximately 3300 inmates fewer than three years ago. The crime rate has also continued to drop, and, interestingly, the number of arrests in the state of Connecticut has also dropped dramatically. Chairman Lawlor attributed much of this success to the effort of those working in the criminal justice world to reduce recidivism in particular.

Chairman Lawlor also discussed a few major policy changes that occurred last year in order to set the stage for updates on their statuses and progress:

(1) The first policy change dealt with license suspensions for repeat DWI offenders. Chairman Lawlor explained that simply suspending a person's license does not mean that they can no longer drive. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) was one of the biggest proponents of a change to the old laws because of this fact, and because of the number of people who were getting arrested for driving with suspended licenses, and doing so while intoxicated. The new law now requires a fairly short license suspension period of 45 days, but is followed by a long period of time during which their vehicle is monitored and controlled by an ignition interlock device.

(2) The second policy change dealt with a change in the law that requires a mandatory period of incarceration for repeat DWI offenders. Rather than requiring that all offenders are incarcerated during this time, the new policy allows for a time period of home confinement. The benefits of this change include that fact that these people will be able to pay for their own room and board, care for their families, maintain employment and attend rehabilitative services that have proven to be effective.

## **II. Introductions**

Members introduced themselves and stated what agency they represented.

## **III. Briefing: 2011 Ignition Interlock Law and House Arrest for Repeat DWI Offenders (DOC, CSSD and MADD)**

Deborah Henault, supervisor of the Addiction Services counselors within the Department of Correction (DOC), began by explaining the ways in which the mission of DOC coincides with these new policies. DOC mission coincides with these new policies based on the fact that DOC counselors protect the public mainly by examining both the risks presented by and the needs of the DWI population. In addition, addresses opportunities to support rehabilitation and successfully reintegrate these individuals into the community.

Deborah Henault emphasized the fact that all individuals convicted of DWI who will be involved in the new home confinement program will be allowed to do so only after consideration through a risk and needs assessment. Furthermore, the only individuals who will be eligible to receive a risk and needs assessment, for this new policy, are those whose offense did not result in any injury. The statute specifically relates to individuals convicted only of operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence.

Deborah Henault further explained that all individuals involved in this new program will be selected based on eligibility and suitability on a holistic level. She also emphasized, however, that every individual convicted of DWI is screened for the program, regardless of their lawyer, the judge's opinion, or any other factors, simply as a matter of course. However, whether or not they are deemed eligible and suitable for the program is based on their charges, their previous criminal history, their health, and a host of other factors. Thus far, 395 individuals have been screened for the program, 287 of them were deemed eligible, and 108 were deemed ineligible based strictly on their charges.

Jennifer Bennett, parole manager for DOC, explained the field supervision and ignition interlock system aspect of the policy. There are currently 100 offenders serving their sentence on home confinement, and five officers monitoring these individuals. Only two individuals are currently utilizing the ignition interlock system. Ms. Bennett believes that this is simply a reflection of the mere two months that the program has been in effect, and is sure that that number will steadily rise over time.

Jennifer Bennett also emphasized the importance of the home confinement program in conjunction with the ignition interlock system because of the number of individuals who are employed. She cited that 64.3% of the offenders are currently employed.

The extent of supervision throughout the course of the home confinement period is also described as intensive. Parole officers have weekly contact with these individuals. Contact frequently occurs at the individuals' homes, but can also occur at their place of work, place of treatment or a specified reporting cite.

Since this policy was first implemented in February 2012, 126 individuals have been released into the community under home confinement.

Gary Roberge, Assistant Director of Adult Services of the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) then spoke in more detail about the implementation of the ignition interlock system. The ignition interlock systems are coordinated with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for the purpose of developing information sharing protocols. Among these protocols will be the automatic notification from the DMV to CSSD of any probationers whose licenses have been reinstated, and the automatic notification from the ignition interlock device vendors, through the DMV, to the CSSD of any recorded violations.

The ignition interlock devices will require both start-up tests necessary in order to turn the vehicle on, as well as "rolling tests", which require the driver to submit to a breath test while operating the vehicle.

Johanna Krebs from MADD then demonstrated the functioning and reporting of two different types of IID systems.

#### IV. Agency Updates

**John Russotto, Deputy Chief State's Attorney for Administration, Personnel and Finance, Division of Criminal Justice-** The Division of Criminal Justice has received new resources from the legislature and will begin to fill those positions on July 1, 2012. Overall, their position count is still down from where it was in 2009 and the division is consequently struggling to cover certain "hot spots" throughout the state where there are larger caseloads.

**William (Bill) H. Carbone, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division (CSSD) (Judicial Branch)-** The next stage of Raise the Age goes into full effect on July 1, 2012. Raise the Age is the process by which seventeen-year-olds who are currently in the adult system will be brought into the juvenile system. This process took place for sixteen-year-olds about two years ago. Mr. Carbone suggested that the next CJPAC meeting involve an update on the sixteen-year-olds who are now in the juvenile system, as well as the plan for the management of seventeen-year-olds who will be transferred into the system.

**Dr. Dan Bannish, Director of Behavioral Health, Department of Correction-** The nursing home RFP process has been completed and a vendor has been selected. The next step in the process is the contract negotiation. A cite for the nursing home has also been selected by the vendor, but the DOC has not been informed of that selection yet. The ultimate goal is to have the nursing home up and running on February 1, 2013.

**Susan O. Storey, Chief Public Defender-** The public defender's office also received new positions as a result of the Raise the Age implementation for seventeen-year-olds. They have also been working on advertising for lawyers and social workers who can work on both the delinquency as well as the child protection side of the juvenile court process. Many of the children who come in have dual petitions filed on both sides.

**Laura Cordes, Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Center (CONNSACS)-** reported that CONNSACS anticipate closing the fiscal year with a 10% increase in the number of sexual assault victims served. CONNSACS will also be participating in victim impact training for Board of Parole members.

**Dennis Murphy, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor-** The office of research within the Department of Labor (DOL) has requested to use its database to measure the success of the job-training program that is run by DOC. DOL will begin conducting their research soon and hope to have good measurements to report in the near future.

**Claudette Beaulieu, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services-** They are continuing to work with CSSD to implement a system that allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) to grant Medicaid eligibility to people coming through the probation system.

DSS is now fully staffed and trained on processing the applications with a special unit of five employees devoted to the program. The department has already experienced an increase in the number of applications that they are processing. They processed 463 applications in the month of May as compared to 418 in April.

**Erika M. Tindill, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles-** Parole board members will be receiving refresher training on the structured decision-making framework from Renee Gobeil, a researcher from Carleton University.

There will be a Statewide Collaborative Offender Risk Evaluation System (SCORES) collaboration workshop on July 10<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup> involving CSSD, DOC, and the Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP).

**Leo Arnone, Commissioner, Department of Correction-** The sentence population is down 955 people compared to this time last year, while the accused population is up 196 people overall compared to this time last year. DOC is working with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to look more closely at that rising accused population in an effort to better understand where they are coming from. They suspect that some of the discrepancy has stemmed from those who are accused as "special offenders" rather than pre-trial offenders.

DOC also expects to lose between 160 and 200 inmates over the course of the next year as a result of the Raise the Age legislation that now includes seventeen-year-olds.

**Reuben Bradford, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection-** The division of state police is continuing with their dispatch consolidation. Despite some differing opinions on the issue, the purpose of the consolidation is to enhance public safety

and to better utilize their resources in that area. There is also a new recruit class of approximately 55 students who will be working with the Division of State Police beginning June 1, 2012. Bill Shea has also been named the new Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. He will officially join the department on June 1, 2012.

#### **V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. The next meeting will take place on 6/28/2012 at 9:00am in Room 2B of the Legislative Office Building.

Drafted by Morgan Collings 6/28/12

Approved by Sarah Kolb 7/6/12