



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION



CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Mike Lawlor, *Under Secretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM*; Josh Howroyd *Legislative Program Manager, Department of Children and Families*; Laura Cordes, *Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services*; Rueben Bradford, *Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection*; Kevin Kane, *Chief State's Attorney*; Erika Tindill, *Chairwoman, Board of Pardons and Paroles*; James Dzurenda, *Interim Commissioner, Department of Corrections*, Sean Thakkar, *Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information Systems*, Garvin Ambrose, *Victim Advocate*

I. Welcome and Policy Update

Mike Lawlor, Undersecretary, OPM CJPPD

Chairman Lawlor convened the meeting at 9:16 a.m. and provided the group an update on big picture criminal justice issues.

Chairman Lawlor discussed the recent spike in the inmate prison population. The trend that has been of concern is continuing. As of June's CJPAC meeting, the inmate prison population is over 17,000. Interestingly, as was the case in May, it continues to be the case this number does not appear to be attributable to any kind of spike in crime. Arrests were down in May. In addition, arrests compared to the last couples of years are significantly down. Chairman Lawlor indicated that arrests do not appear to be what is contributing to the spike. As it is typically this time of year, the pre-trial population begins to grow.

II. Introductions

Members went around the table and introduced themselves and stated which agency they represent.

III. Approval of Minutes from May 30, 2013

Minutes were approved

IV. Commission Correspondence

There was no commission correspondence

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment

VI. Presentation: Project Longevity in New Haven

Link to presentation at CJPAC meeting:

<http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=9169>

I. Agency Updates

Garvin Ambrose, State Victim Advocate, Office of the Victim Advocate – Since the last CJPAC meeting in May, the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) has worked with the chief state's attorney's office to resolve a few issues in order to better address victims' rights. The Office is currently updating their presence through their website and other avenues. In addition, the OVA was invited for the first time by the Office of the Chief State's Attorney to speak at their annual training on June 14, 2013 to speak on pleas and negotiations. On June 21st, OVA hosted a training on cyber crime for the law enforcement community, prosecutors, and victims' groups in conjunction with national organizations relating to victims' groups. Mr. Ambrose also acknowledged and thanked the Department of Correction for the ongoing working relationship between the two offices.

Laura Cordes, Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONSACS), Inc. - CONNSACS is working with Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) and Connecticut Police Chief's Association to update and revise pieces of the standardize training for law enforcement officers, particularly, the curriculum around addressing sexual assault. Ms. Cordes announced a two-day training in August specifically for law enforcement officers and law enforcement training officers. On August 12 and 13, the focus will be on a few different provisions around intervening and report writing as well as forensic evidence collection and new modules around working effectively with sexual assault victims and sexual assault victim advocates. Also, CONNSACS announced it will be working with their partners at CSSD and DOC this summer to look at how to best summarize and implement the Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) guidelines. Specifically, CONNSACS is looking at the new provisions to have access to sexual assault victim advocates and crisis services for both inmates in correctional facilities and juveniles in detention facilities.

Sean Thakkar, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information System - Announced the next governing board meeting, which was scheduled for this summer and indicated that CJIS will be able to demonstrate their progress at that meeting.

Reuben F. Bradford, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection - Discussed the six divisions of DESPP:

Fire Academy – In the first week of their third week of the summer camp program, there was 35 participants. On August 26th a new fire recruit class started with approximately 40-50 recruits from throughout the state.

Division of Emergency Homeland Management System – Is busy with the passage of the gun bill. The Commissioner discussed updates on school security and staying in line with the gun bill. In addition, to the Division cataloging and keeping track of school functions in conjunction with the State Department of Education.

State Police Division – Currently, the Division has a recruit class, which started with 100 students and is now at 88. The class is on schedule to graduate January 9th. Also, the Division is preparing to consolidate the dispatch function in the eastern division of the state. Afterwards, just the central division will need to be completed and then the consolidation of the dispatch functions from 12 to 5 dispatch centers will be finalized.

Special Licensing and Firearm Unit – This unit was granted several different positions as a result of the gun bill. Commissioner Bradford congratulated everyone working in the unit on doing a great job.

Division of Emergency Telecommunication – This unit is currently in the process of meeting the guidelines of replacing the statewide 911 system.

Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council – Currently has two classes of municipal recruits. Each class has 50 students.

Division of Scientific Services – Dr. Guy M. Vallaro provided the group with an update on the various reductions in backlogs at the lab as well as three separate audits that have taken place since the beginning of the year.

Chairman Lawlor acknowledged the great work of Dr. Vallaro on his first six months in his position. Chairman Lawlor asked specific questions in terms of target dates and goals going forward, including staffing and hiring updates.

James E. Dzurenda, Interim Commissioner, Department of Correction – At the time of June's CJPAC meeting, DOC's inmate count was 17,014. DOC is currently supervising 4,019 offenders in the community. Out of 4,019 offenders, 121 are DUI home confinement status. The Commissioner discussed the continued success of the home confinement program. He stated that DOC will study the recidivism rate two years from now. In regard to the nursing home in Rocky Hill, it currently has five offenders, with four more under review. Lastly, 128 new recruits are at currently at the academy and scheduled for graduation on September 4th. Chairman Lawlor noted that there are approximately four DMHAS patients at the nursing home in addition to the DOC inmates.

Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender, Office of the Chief Public Defender – Attorney Storey discussed a few ongoing collaborative projects with various

agencies, including DOC. Attorney Storey discussed the DOC Medical Divisionary Program and bringing it to the courts attention when necessary. Attorney Storey discussed an ongoing project with Court Support Services Division that is taking place working with at risk youth.

Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice – Discussed the divisions highest priority, which is addressing the most violent crimes in the state. The Division has assigned a significant amount of resources to the task forces that are currently working in Hartford, New Haven, and New Britain. Attorney Kane discussed the ongoing collaborative projects with other state agencies in the interest in expanding the task force's work into other areas of the state.

Loel Meckel, LCSW, Assistant Director, Forensic Services Division – Mr. Meckel discussed the issue of stable housing for those who may have unstable lives and currently in and out of the criminal justice system. He also discussed the importance of the having supportive housing and rental subsidies.

Josh Howroyd, Legislative Program Manager, Department of Children and Families – Mr. Howroyd discussed the increase in the population at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School as result of the Raise the Age initiative, which has been implemented over the last two years. He also discussed what the agency expects to see going forward this year and next.

II. Behavioral Health Sub-Committee

There was no update at this time.

III. PJOC subcommittee

James Dzurenda, Interim Commissioner, Department of Correction, provided the group an update on the discussions taking place at the monthly PJOC meetings.

IV. Other Business

There was no other business

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:14. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.