

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, November 17, 2016

## Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** *Chairman Mike Lawlor*, Under Secretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM; *Carleton Giles*, Chairperson, Board of Pardons and Paroles, *Judge Pat Carroll*, Chief Court Administrator, Judicial Branch, *Laura Stefon*, Legislative Liaison, Department of Education, *Mark Shock*, Department of Social Services, *Scott DeVico*, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, *Cheryl Cepalak*, Commissioner, Department of Corrections, *Butch Hyatt*, Director of Law Enforcement Services, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; *Steve Grant*, Court Support Services Division, *Meriam Delphin-Rittmon*, Department of Mental Health and Addition Services, *Chief Kenny*, Chiefs of Police Association, *Laura Cordes*, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence, *Len Boyle*, Deputy Chief State's Attorney for Operations, Chief State's Attorney Office *Josh Howroyd*, DCF Legislative Program Manager, Department of Children and Families

### I. Introductions

This meeting was broadcast on CT-N: <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=13447>

The Monthly Indicators Report can be found on the OPM website:

[http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjresearch/monthlyindicators/monthlyindicatorsreport\\_nov\\_2016\\_final.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjresearch/monthlyindicators/monthlyindicatorsreport_nov_2016_final.pdf)

### II. Welcome and Policy Update

- a. The prison population has dropped to a 20 year low.
- b. This drop is significantly lower than any other state, due to drop in arrests and admissions. Additionally, no state had a bigger reduction in violent crime than Connecticut over the last three years.
- c. Due to felony mandatory minimum of possession in a school area last October, the total population of possession of narcotics dropped substantially.
- d. JRI program interviews dropping substantially, due to cuts, and the result is the number of people released from the JRI pretrial program has dropped significantly.

### III. Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2016

- a Minutes were approved with amendments to the BOPP and DMHAS sections.

### IV Commission Correspondence

- b No Commission Correspondence

### V. Presentations

- a. *Dr. Swanson, PhD, Duke University School of Medicine and Dr. Norko, DMHAS* Implementation and Outcomes of a Preemptive Risk-Based Gun Removal Law in Connecticut (video of this presentation can be found here 17:05- 38:45: <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=13447>) and the full paper can be found here: [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2828847](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2828847)

Members provided updates on their agencies and latest initiatives.

**Department of Social Services (DSS)** – They are a month into the deployment of a new eligibility system, which began in Middletown and will be completed by May 2017. Once the system is fully deployed it will help people suspend Medicaid for people entering correctional facilities (which makes it quicker to reinstate it once they leave prison). There is a financial incentive for DOC to keep a case in suspended status instead of closed status. There would be a potential impact of the Medicaid expansion if a repeal of the affordable care act would happen. Most of people leaving correctional facility qualify for Husky D, which is the version of Medicaid.

**Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)** – DMHAS applauds DESPP and the State Police for bringing people revived by NARCAN to emergency rooms. Collaboration between emergency response teams and crisis response teams allows individuals to get into treatment and receive follow up phone calls to help them get the help they need. DMHAS also collaborates with CCAR (CT community and addiction recovery), which is peer run and peer led by individuals who have recovered from addiction and work to help people services they need. DMHAS received the Sampson Grant to increase access to medication assisted treatment for individuals grappling with heroin addiction, particularly in high risk areas of the state.

**Department of Children and Families (DCF)** – November is national adoption awareness month. There will be 73 children adopted including 16 sibling groups adopted tomorrow in a group event across juvenile courts in Connecticut. Six of those in open court settings, so public and media access can share in the positive experience. CJTS population is currently at 43. The planned closure of Juvenile training school is being headed by Fernando Muniz.

**Department of Education** – Chronic Absenteeism in 2015-2016 dropped 2 percentage points from the 2012-2013 school years, resulting in about 10,000 more kids going to school on a daily basis. Charlene Russel-Tucker would be happy to do a smaller version of this presentation at CJPAC in the future. A link to the report can be found here: [http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/board/boardmaterials110216/report\\_on\\_chronic\\_absenteeism.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/board/boardmaterials110216/report_on_chronic_absenteeism.pdf) And a link to the presentation can be found here: [http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/chronicabsenteeism/chronic\\_absence\\_board\\_presentation\\_11\\_2\\_2016\\_w\\_links\\_to\\_videos.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/chronicabsenteeism/chronic_absence_board_presentation_11_2_2016_w_links_to_videos.pdf)

**Chiefs of Police Association** – no updates

**Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)** – The state police received 131 calls, responded, and saved 124 lives since the NARCAN program. 76 of those people had had prior contact with mental health and addiction services. On Oct 29<sup>th</sup> and Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> DESPP conducted the annual preparedness exercise, which was a simulated ice storm. It was a successful exercise. 1,817 lethality assessments have been conducted to date, with 914 high risk of imminent harm; 836 have accepted the troopers offer to speak to a hotline worker. DESPP encourages everyone to download the new CT Prepares app. State police barracks have drug drop boxes available, you don't have to speak to anyone, no questions asked.

**Chief States Attorney Office** – They received a grant from the Singer Foundation to continue to work with the Center for Court Innovation to create pilot programs throughout the state; which allows them to maintain mental health professionals to allow assessment of the needs of low level or low risk offenders, in order to get as many people out of the criminal justice system as possible. The end goal being that they never even get into the system. This is mirroring the MacArthur Foundation Grant to prevent people coming into the system that don't need to be there, similar to the JRI program.

**Department of Correction (DOC)** – The DOC community population is up almost 14%, DUI HC stands at 106 inmates. An open house for the public is being held at Osborne Correctional Institute by Vera Institute working on Reimagining Prison. This week is visiting prisons week. Four units have been closed at Osborne Correctional. Connecticut prison population is under 15,000.

**CT Coalition against Domestic Violence (CCADV)** - no report

**Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP)** – Continuing implantation of expedited pardons reviews.

**Judicial Branch**– There are major challenges in the court system due to the budget cuts, specifically with the court recording monitors, court marshals, and temporary assistant clerks—unfortunately these people are critically important. Plans to close Stamford and Torrington juvenile courts have been deferred and delayed. Judge Carroll met with Commissioner Scott Semple to fix the JRI program with collaboration with CSSD. The Judicial Branch is working with the State’s Attorney Office to implement a digital audio recording as an official record in every court in the state, which might result in a small delay in calling the case in the court.

**Court Support Services Division (CSSD)** – CSSD receives roughly 8,000-9,000 civil order restraining order applications annually. As of Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, family relations counselors will be relaying risk and lethality assessments and more information to include the possession of firearms, that information is authorized to be presented to the court. The information CSSD receives about firearms is able now to be relayed to law enforcement as well. As of January 15, CSSD will be implementing a massive rewrite of their adult case management system, allowing them to capture more information and strengthen capacity to do more research.

**CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence** – They conducted a cross training on formerly incarcerated individuals who have sexual violence pasts (PRIA). Also they are sponsoring training on campus sexual assault. Following the election, they are talking about ways to make sure all people, specifically—sexual assault survivors, women, LGBT and children— know there is a safe space available and that they are upholding people’s rights to a criminal justice system that will support them and they have programs to support people too.

## **VII. Subcommittee Updates**

**PJOR** – no updates

**Behavioral health** – no updates

**Victim issues** – no updates, next meeting January 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the office in East Hartford

## **VIII. Public Comment**

Rick Healey, a public member, noticed that there is a lot of collaboration in CJPAC; everyone seems very well informed and he thinks it is great that people are sharing information and the members of CJPAC are working very hard. Specifically, Mike Lawlor’s level of attention to collaboration and communication.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Mike Lawlor adjured the meeting.