

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, October 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Chairperson Mike Lawlor, Undersecretary, Office of Policy and Management; *Gary Roberge*, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division; *Humayun Beg*, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information System; *Karen Jarmoc*, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; *Laura Cordes*, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence; *Scott Devico* Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; *Carleton Giles*, Chair, Connecticut Board of Pardons and Paroles; *Scott Semple*, Commissioner, Department of Correction; *John Day*, Deputy Chief Public Defender; *Merit Lajoie*, Office of the Victim Advocate; *Laura Dineen*, Public Member; *James Kenney*, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association; *Loel Meckel*, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; *Josh Howroyd*, Department of Children and Families; *Kevin Kane*, Chief State's Attorney; *Judge Carroll*, Judicial Department

I. Introductions

1. This meeting was broadcast on CTN.

<http://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=15717>

2. Members present introduced themselves.

II. Welcome

1. Welcome was provided by Chairperson Mike Lawlor.

III. Presentation

Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group - *Laura Cordes*, Executive Director, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence and *Kristin Sasinouski*, Deputy Director – Forensic Biology and DNA, CT DESPP Division of Scientific Services

Laura Cordes explained that the Working Group has spent two years developing consensus recommendations for processing rape kits. A voluntary survey of police departments resulted in an unprecedented 100% response rate and, as a result, Connecticut was the first state in the nation to receive a comprehensive overview of untested rape kits even before a national mandate took effect. Among other innovations, victims will now be able to track the progress of testing on in their own cases. Ms. Cordes thanked all involved, especially Dr. Vallaro and Eleanor Michael.

Kristin Sasinouski explained the new process for tracking rape kits in compliance with Public Acts 15-207 and 18-83.

IV. Policy Updates

Chairperson Lawlor referred to the October Monthly Indicators Report and highlighted the continuing decline in statewide arrests, the steady total prison population since June and the Chart 2a indicating an uptick in the number of pretrial detainees subject to a detainer.

V. Agency Updates

Judicial Branch – Judge Carroll reported on the Opioid Task Force. There was extensive research regarding specialized dockets for opioid involved defendants. A consensus developed that the best approach to addressing opioid dependence was a public health approach rather than a criminal justice approach. A final report will be delivered to the General Assembly in January.

Court Support Service Division – Gary Roberge reported that the juvenile justice transition process continues to unfold. On July 1, 2018 172 juvenile cases were transferred from the Department of Children and Families to CSSD. All but 6 have the required court hearing prior to October 1. The 6 remaining cases involve juveniles who have absconded. CSSD has entered into two contracts for staff-secure residential facilities for juveniles, one for 12 beds in Milford and the second for 8 beds in Waterbury. A revised solicitation for secure locked beds will be released early in 2019. In the interim, juvenile detention facilities have been retrofitted to accommodate longer term stays for juveniles who have been adjudicated. Today there are a total of 72 juveniles in detention, 22 of whom are in the long term pods.

Chief State's Attorney – Kevin Kane discussed the big picture regarding Connecticut's unique procedure resulting in all arrests being automatically docketed for court appearance. He explained that DCJ has received a grant from the Singer Foundation to pursue a diversion process to avoid unnecessary court appearances in Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Haven, New London, New Haven and Hartford. Each jurisdiction has hired a case coordinator to assist in assessing new arrestees for alternative services.

CCADV -- Karen Jarmoc announced that the 2018 Fatality Review Task Force Report had been released last month. There were 14 domestic violence related homicides last year, which is about average in recent years. A tool kit for addressing domestic violence reported by co-workers in the workplace and how workplace colleagues and supervisors should respond will be released soon. A potential grant from U.S. Housing and Urban Development is under consideration and will help with housing for persons subjected to and at risk for domestic violence.

DMHAS – Loel Meckel reported that the state has received two separate federal grants related to opioid addiction: one for \$5.5 million per year for two years and a second for \$11 million per year for two years. There is also a new partnership with DOC for reentry and ongoing diversion initiatives focusing on drop off centers for those with behavioral health issues.

CJIS – Humayun Beg provided an update on CISS implementation which is proceeding apace as described in the September CJPAC meeting.

CAESV – Laura Cordes described the ongoing sex offender supervision and training initiatives involving probation and parole.

Public Defenders – John Day announced that OCPD had received a grant from OJJDP which will provide for representation of minors during interrogation by police. The OCPD has also consolidated several appellate functions, including transferring attorneys in the Capital Unit to regular appellate work and combining juvenile post-conviction work with child protection.

DOC – Scott Semple announced that the transfer of the inmate health care function from UConn to DOC will be complete by January 1. Senior management announcements will be made in the next few weeks. He also explained that growth in the over 40 year old age cohort in corrections will bring additional challenges to the health care unit. Vera Institute of Justice held a first ever simulcast event last month at the Cheshire Prison and from John Jay College in New York City.

DCF – Josh Howroyd announced that, due to legislation this year, DCF will be convening a summit to address racial disparities and to incorporate those strategies into the DCF mission.

DESPP – Scott Devico announced that almost 200 lives were saved by state police administering Narcan in overdose situations. “Text 911” is now operational.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

PJOC – no update

Behavioral health – no update

Victim issues – no update

VII. Public Comment

No public Comment

VII. Adjournment

Chairperson Mike Lawlor adjourned the meeting.