

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, December 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Marc Pelka – Office of Policy and Management, *Gary Roberge* – Court Support Services Division, *Patrick Carroll* – Judicial Branch, *John Frassinelli* – State Department of Education, *Humayun Beg* – Criminal Justice Information System, *John Day and Chris Rapillo* – Office of the Chief Public Defenders, *Kevin Lawlor* – Office of the State’s Attorney, *Tammy Marzik* – Department of Veterans Affairs, *Carlton Giles* – Board of Pardons and Paroles, *Cheryl Cepalak* – Department of Corrections, *James Ravello* – Department of Emergency Services and Protection, *Heather Aaron* – Department of Public Health, *Tracy Miller* – CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence, *Karen Jarmoc* – Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, *Sarah Fox* – CT Coalition to End Homelessness, *Natasha Peirre* – Office of Victims Services

I. Opening Remarks

- Marc Pelka gave introductory remarks
- CJPAC was broadcast on CTN <http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=16979>
- November minutes were approved by Commission members
- Monthly Indicators Report was reviewed by Chairperson Marc Pelka

II. Presentation and Discussion

- *Judith Dicine, J.D. – Supervisory Assistant State’s Attorney – Housing Bureau and Kevin Lawlor, J.D. – Deputy Chief State’s Attorney – Operations – The Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice – Office of the Chief State’s Attorney* Presentation on Housing Initiatives to Prevent Crime, Injury, and Illness
- *Discussion by Commission Members Followed Presentation*

III. Agency Updates

Kevin Lawlor – Chief State’s Attorney – Kevin Kane has officially retired, and the Commission will be making the decision on who will be the new Chief State’s Attorney in January.

Chris Rapillo – Chief Public Defender’s Office – Moving forward with the veterans project, the sentencing commission has been working on a change in bail policy, effective in 2020, that will allow people with a bond under \$20,000 to post 10% cash alternative at the police department, at court, or at jail. This will give more people the chance to conserve some of their resources and if they comply and come to court, they will get that money back. Their office prepared an informational poster (Approved by the Sentencing Commission) about this and have given it to the police chief association, some non-profits and other organizations that work with this population – to keep them informed about this. If you would like a poster, please reach out to the Chief Public Defender’s Office.

Humayun Beg – Criminal Justice Information System – Completed phase 1 developments in CIS Application. Working toward connecting all agencies. Working with the division, judicial, and DESPP on deployment.

John Frassinelli – SDE – Housing instability issues, lead poisoning and other issues can lead to chronic absenteeism in school. The SDE will be presenting on the juvenile justice division programs and school-based arrests at the CJPAC Feb. Meeting.

Michael Norko – DMHAS – They have been working with 20 years of data with their risk-warrant seizure laws, they discovered a problem in the database, that they have been working on fixing. After they fix it, they would like to work with judicial to make sure their numbers match up. And then would like to do a presentation on this information in the spring at CJPAC.

Gary Roberge – CSSD – Juvenile Justice progress, CSSD executed a contract with CPIA for a secure facility in Hamden, 8 beds initially, and another 8 beds by the end for the year. An informational session was scheduled but cancelled due to ice storm. It has been rescheduled for Jan. 6th, 2020. CSSD already opened two staff secure facilities in Waterbury and Milford, and another one will be opened in Hartford in March. The aim of this is to get the kids out of the detention centers. Visited Safe Connect Program at CCADV, Mr. Roberge was impressed with the layout and responsiveness of this program. Acknowledging the good work of the CSSD – Business Intelligence Unit is working a lot on the Sentencing Commission’s research projects including the pretrial disparity project, and the Governor’s Task Force on Vulnerable Populations. The CSSD Treatment Pathway Program – over 800 people admitted to this program, this is a positive factor in helping to divert people from Pre-Trial to this program – a factor in helping to decrease the Pre-Trial Population. CSSD would like to expand this program.

Tracy Miller – CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence – Looking at their legislative agenda and more updates to come.

Natasha Pierre – Office of the Victims Advocate – Working with clients excluded from court, based on the passage of PA 19-187, which required that juvenile hearings are closed to the public – including victims. The judicial branch has been working on a solution for next session.

Karen Jarmoc - Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence – HUD gave \$1.7 million to CT for DV and housing organizations to work together. And so far through this funding there have been 10 families housed and 42 more in progress.

Sarah Fox – CT Coalition to End Homelessness – Annual Point in Time Count will take place on Jan. 22, a census track count – smaller than a block count. Looking for people to help with this. A way to identify people who might be outside on a cold night. A youth outreach count will take place from 22nd to 28th – sign up links on CCEH webpage. A good way to get involved with ending homelessness. Tomorrow doing a tour on rapid rehousing at Columbus House, discussing how to scale up these interventions – looking at one rapid rehousing pilot models there.

Heather Aaron – Department of Public Health – Deputy Commissioner had some questions regarding follow up on housing matters. Ms. Sarah Fox mentioned that CTCANData.Org collects information on rapid rehousing housing outcomes, data comes from homelessness programs, about 90% success rate in their programs in terms of those people not coming back into their homelessness programs and MS. Fox mentioned that DOH looking at prevention, there is a prevention group – The Partnership for Strong Communities.

Cheryl Cepelak – Department of Correction – Reduce duplication of efforts and capitalize on resources. DOC is focusing on healthcare, employment, education and the juvenile population. The industry and business advisory board meeting was held recently and graduation at York with Wesleyan/Middlesex, The SDE was visiting MYI, and DOL was visiting the reintegration center. A theme of collaboration and working together at the DOC.

James Rovella – Department of Emergency Services and Protection – Mr. Foley went to national convening in Washington, DC on hate crimes. Four major city chiefs presented on how we will impact next summer, state labs introduced mobile databases to bring to police department, to look at real time casings, open a 24-7 at state lab for those casings to be uploaded by the police departments. HIDA Unit has a consultant to address overdoses that police department experience to turn around a timely chemical analysis. Also, talking to police departments about the Project Longevity and working with SDE on tip lines to collect anonymous tips of school-aged children.

Carlton Giles – Board of Pardons and Paroles – Sign off on special parole discharge policy, helping folks who have been crime free, to discharge out of special parole. Had been some issues about the worth of CT Pardons at the federal level, after press conference that has been put to rest. Continuing to work on the E-Pardons project.

Tammy – Department of Veterans Affairs – Nothing to report at this time

IV. Subcommittee Updates

Behavioral Health Subcommittee – Hasn't met yet since last CJPAC meeting

Victims Subcommittee – Meeting was yesterday, talked about legislative agenda, some core concepts that as agencies they would like to have a common voice on

V. Adjournment

- Next meeting is January 30, 2020 at 9 am in the LOB
- Chairman Pelka adjourned the meeting