

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

APPROVED MINUTES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Members Present:

Marc Pelka – Office of Policy and Management, James Rovella and Brian Foley – Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Dr. Richard Cho – CT Coalition to End Homeless, Dr. Michael Norko – Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Christine Rapollo – Public Defenders Office, Humayun Beg – Criminal Justice Information System, Karen Jarmoc, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Jane Siegel – Department of Veterans Affairs, Rollin Cook – Department of Correction, Carleton Giles – Board of Pardons and Paroles, Gary Roberge and Mike Hines – Judicial Branch-Court Support Services Division, Vincent Russo – Department of Children and Families, Chief Kenny – Chief of Police Association, and Beth Hamilton – CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence

I. Opening Remarks

Chairman Marc Pelka gave introductory remarks
CJPAC was held virtually and recorded in a MP4 file
Kyle Baudoin is the new director of the OPM CJPPD Research Unit
Presenters were introduced by Chairman Marc Pelka
April minutes were approved by Commission members
Chairman Marc Pelka reviewed the April Monthly Indicators Report

II. Presentation and Discussion

Marc Pelka, Undersecretary of Criminal Justice – Office of Policy and Management
Presentation on Further Analysis of Recent Criminal Justice System Data

Commissioner Rovella and Brian Foley - DESPP, Chief Kenny, Chief Thody – Hartford Police Chief and Chief Mello – Milford Police Chief

A conversation about adapting and innovative ways to continue police work during this public health emergency; conversation topics included use of PPE and social distancing, changes in calls for service, criminal behavior, arrests, domestic violence, and other trends seen during COVID-19 so far from the police perspective in Connecticut.

III. Agency Updates

Chief Kenny – Chiefs of Police Association – Past advocacy for the State of Connecticut Division of Scientific Services has paid off. In 2008, a violent home invasion and sexual assault occurred, and a joint investigation between Manchester and Vernon Police Departments along with the Division of Scientific Services and the Tolland and Hartford State’s Attorneys helped solve a

case. They will be announcing an arrest in this case today at 1 o'clock. Thankful for the Division of Scientific Services' tremendous effort.

Commissioner Cook – DOC – Record low pop counts, credit due to front and back end of the system. Space is critical during the pandemic. DOC is approach reduction of almost 2,000 since March 1, 17% in sent and 18% reduce in pretrial since March 1. Many partners to thank for this work, Gary Roberge, and CSSD, Colangelo, Chris Rapillo, and Chairman Giles, and special thanks to DOC employees, CRU and PCS units. Releasing offenders without jeopardizing public safety, it is a balance, of public safety and public health. Up until 2 weeks ago resting was only for symptoms but now mass testing at Osborne and Corrigan Radgowski. Positive cases at these facilities are asymptomatic. Moving only positive and symptomatic to Northern, positive asymptomatic are in isolation at their facility. The DOC is offering employee testing as well. There is a screening process at each location; there have been 378 employees positive and 351 recovered employees. There have been 7 offender deaths unfortunately. Committee to review actions during pandemic and use their knowledge for second wave presumed to hit in the fall.

Chairman Giles – BOPP – BOPP has had a 55% increase in the transfer parole population. Also increase in expedited pardons hearings from the 2015 change in the law, to do them administratively. Increase review and approvals of medical parole as well.

Beth Hamilton – Alliance to End Sexual Violence – Sexual assault crisis services are working remotely at full capacity. Services numbers are slightly normal than before COVID-19, but an uptick, probably more collaboration by the end of the summer, of our programs and police. There is a direct correlation between warm-weather months and an uptick in DV. Their centers are working on plans to work in person and in hospitals soon. On the post-conviction side the treatment of sex offenders will resume in June.

Judge Carroll and Gary Roberge – Judicial Branch – COVID-19 19 challenge for judicial branch. Priority is the safety and health of employees, judges and members of the public. There have been a number of measures to achieve this goal with guidance from public health officials. With these measures, closed 32 of 38 court houses, as of June there will be 13 court houses open. Hope to expand and open additional facilities as time passes. With limited resources, they expanded remote and virtual capabilities exponentially. Installed a virtual court room, integrates with FDR digital audio recording system to conduct hearings remotely. Acknowledge state and local police for their work during this time. On June 8th they are going to resume business in 3 adult court locations and 3 more locations in the juvenile side for priority 1 work. They are working with Chris Rapillo and the chief state attorney office to plan to resume business; they are also working with the DOC with video conferencing, identifying cases ready for disposition. There has been a lot of planning in the last month for the reopening of courts.

Dr. Norko – DEMHS – DMHAS passed the peak of patients and staff testing positive. There have been no new patient cases at Whiting since last month. One new staff member has tested positive since last month at CVH which is up to 63 patients and 45 staff members. 88 staff members in DMHAS and 78% recovered and 75% of patients have recovered. There has been voluntary

testing for patients and staff at CVH and Whiting. There have been 468 staff tested. DMHAS continues to update protocols based on CDC guidelines. DMHAS is discharging patients from Whiting on competency using virtual hearings. Up to May 11, there have been 24 people discharged during pandemic. DMHAS is ramping up capacity for office of forensic evaluation to do evaluations remotely to match court business increase, which will allow DMHAS to interview detainees remotely. The biggest expected challenge will be community evaluations. DMHAS is expecting a surge in competency evaluations in the community and jail diversions.

Jane Seigel – Department of Veterans Affairs – DVA is issuing modifications to temporary COVID-19 measures. They increased testing, so they were able to test every single veteran patient in health care facility. DVA posted all modifications and protocols on their website. A 100 WWII veteran recovered from COVID-19 and moved out of the isolation unit.

Dr. Richard Cho – Coalition to End Homelessness – They worked closely with state agencies to decompress shelters and move people into hotels. They are working with the state to provide systematic COVID-19 testing to the homeless population. Early results show that decompression of shelters resulted in a low number of cases in shelters – 12% in one Hartford shelter. There have been 0 positive cases of COVID-19 among people who have been placed in hotels. Shelters are taking fewer new admissions. Their programs were in partnership with OPM and DOC via Byrne JAG to help EOS people by providing permanent housing options to prevent homelessness. OPM identify \$40,000 additional funds to fund this program further. During COVID-19 CDC does not recommend the disbursement of homeless encampments, so they issued guidance for towns and state parks to take a public health approach for assisting homeless encampments. They should not be dispersed, but rather provided public health needs.

Humayun Beg – CJIS – They are working on the integration and deployment of CISS to partner agencies. CJIS is working with DCJ and partner agencies on the eProsecutor electronic case management system. They are providing access to all criminal justice and PD information. They are working with police departments so arrest data can flow into eProsecutor. They are working with judicial to have their information combined with DCJ information. DCJ is just about to start testing their product. Judicial is working with them get remote capabilities identified. The Sentencing Commission is preparing a report exploring racial disparity in sentencing, on which CJIS is helping provide access to data. They are also working with DESPP on their deployment of the new identification system, which is biometric and not fingerprint. Working from home has been effective for CJIS.

IV. Subcommittee Updates

Mental Health Subcommittee – The next meeting is June 4th – coordination of activities is the main agenda item for the meeting.

Victim Issues Subcommittee – The next meeting is to be determined but expected to occur before the June 25 CJPAC meeting.