

## **Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC)**

**Thursday, June 27, 2019**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### Members Present:

*Marc Pelka*, Office of Policy and Management; *Charlene Russell-Tucker*, Board of Education; *Cheryl Cepelak*, Department of Correction; *Carleton Giles*, Board of Pardons and Paroles, *Loel Meckel*, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; *James Rovella*, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, *Christine Rapillo*, Chief Public Defender; *Karen Jarmoc*, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; *Richard Cho*, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness; *Kevin Kane*, Division of Criminal Justice; *Tracy Miller*, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence; *Humayun Beg*, Criminal Justice Information System; *Gary Roberge*, Court Support Services Division, *Natasha Pierre*, Office of the Victim Advocate; *Judge Patrick L. Carroll*, Judicial Branch; *Jessica Pizzano*, Survivors of Homicide, *Chief James L. Kenny*, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association; and *Werner Oyanadel*, Commission on Equity and Opportunity.

#### I. Introductions

- Welcome and introduction by Marc Pelka, Undersecretary of CJPPD, OPM
- Introductions by Committee Members

#### II. Approval of Minutes

- Chairperson Pelka asked for a motion to approve the minutes from May 30, 2019. The minutes were approved as presented.

#### III. Overview of Topics

- Chairperson Marc Pelka gave a brief overview of topics covered from January 2019 to May 2019 and opened the floor to further propose and discuss the topics of the remaining 2019 CJPAC meetings. Chairperson Pelka shared that his goal of CJPAC is to coordinate strategies that result from communication across systems.
- Chairperson Marc Pelka proposed five areas for further development during future meetings:
  1. Address gaps in services for crime victims
  2. Support data-driven prosecutorial decision-making
  3. Improve employment outcomes for people with criminal histories
  4. Reduce homelessness among people in the criminal justice system and victims
  5. Lower recidivism and promote recovery among people with behavioral health needs
- Committee members echoed Chairperson Pelka's emphasis on these topics and highlighted the point that data and technology, as part of prosecutorial decision making as well as within other areas of criminal justice, is an essential topic.

#### IV. Presentation

- CJPAC Victim Issues Subcommittee, led by State Victim Advocate Natasha Pierre, presented on gaps in services for crime victims. Presenters included Jessica Pizzano, Survivors of

Homicide; Karen Jarmoc, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Tracy Miller, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

- The Victim Issues Subcommittee is pursuing a victimization survey and needs assessment. Next steps include consulting with national experts regarding a survey.

V. Discussion of previous CJPAC topics for further development during the interim and in future meetings.

- Chairperson Pelka further expanded on the five topics mentioned earlier in the meeting regarding victims, prosecutorial decision-making, employment for people with criminal histories, reducing homelessness among people in the criminal justice system and victims, and lowering recidivism and promoting recover among people with behavioral health needs.
- Richard Cho of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness updated the group regarding the data match between those who entered the shelter system within the last three years and those with inmate records. 8,187 people were matched between both data sets. Richard Cho also mentioned that CCEH is looking to perform a data match between CCEH data and DSS data.
- Chairperson Pelka mentioned that as agencies continue to delve into the topic of employment, CJPAC would be interested in continued updates.

VI. Agency and CJPAC Subcommittee Updates.

- Chairperson Pelka invited committee members to provide agency updates as well as to remark on any previous discussion topics or additional topics that they would like CJPAC to expand on in the future.

**Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak, Department of Correction**

The DOC population is at 13,095 and continuing to decrease. Total incarcerated is down by 2%; there are 110 inmates on home confinement for DUI; the DOC is continuing to focus on the ARES grant. Deputy Commissioner Cepelak emphasized a focus on technology and data as CJPAC continues to work on many initiatives.

**Werner Oyanadel, Commission on Equity and Opportunity**

The Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors merged with the Commission on Equity and Opportunity, and the merger will be happening over the next few months.

Clean slate legislation – the Commission is looking at ways to help the population, specifically Latino and African American populations, to reintegrate back into society post-incarceration and would like to work with Pennsylvania to understand how they have successfully implemented such legislation.

**Karen Jarmoc, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

The Lethality Assessment Program is a screening tool used at domestic violence incidents; there have been 38,000 screens in CT since it started in 2014; half of these screenings rated at high risk for homicide. During the screening, law enforcement puts the victim on phone with the domestic violence hotline; 90% of those times the victim is accessing services that they previously did not have access to.

**Commissioner James Rovella, Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection**

No updates at this time.

**Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane, Division of Criminal Justice**

Early Screening Intervention Program – this program was at the end of its grant term and OCSA did not receive additional money in the budget to support this program. DMHAS will be using grant funds to support ESI. OCSA is also hoping to hire additional resource counselors and will be working with the Singer Foundation on their interest in supporting this program.

**Natasha Pierre, State Victim Advocate, Office of the Victim Advocate**

No update at this time.

**Tracy Miller, The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence**

The Alliance was contacted by the DOJ SMART Office. The Office is holding a National Sex Offender Management Symposium, and The Alliance will be sitting on the Victim Notification Services Panel. Legislative updates – The Time's Up bill extends current statute of limitations from 5 years to 20 years for adults who experience sexual assault and extends the 30 year statute of limitations for minors to the age of 21. It also eliminates the statute of limitations for those under the age of 18 when assaulted and creates a task force to look at the civil statute of limitations, and increases protections and trainings for harassment in the workplace.

**Chief James Kenny, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association**

Pre-diversion programs – Vernon PD is exploring a program with their local hospital so that persons with substance abuse issues can be diverted at a law enforcement level. Persons with substance abuse issues will have the opportunity to be brought to the local hospital and paired with a substance abuse counselor. The end goal is to get the individual in a program where they can hopefully defeat their substance abuse problem. Vernon is losing about one person per month due to drug related problems. Additionally, the CT HOPE Initiative is underway in Manchester.

**Loel Meckel, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services**

With additional grant funding, DMHAS has made Narcan/Naloxone available throughout the state through various venues. DMHAS approached Chief Tim Shaw to survey members of CPCA to look into the need for Narcan and also approached the CT State Police in regard to their need for Narcan.

**Charlene Russell-Tucker, Department of Education**

The Department of Education released new released report cards; these cards contain education data. The CT DOE would like to bring this data to CJPAC at some point in the future and would also like to provide an update of the school based diversion initiative.

**Director Humayun Beg, Criminal Justice Information System**

Director Beg highlighted the fact that there is an increased emphasis on information sharing that should continue in future CJPAC discussions. CJIS will have a further update in September regarding brining many agencies' data together.

**Carleton Giles, Board of Pardons and Paroles**

SB 831 – Minor revision to special parole discharge. The Board worked with Natasha Pierre on this bill in order to ensure that there would be notification to victims when offenders are reviewed for discharge. SB 880 - The Board is planning to work with Director Rapillo of the Office of the Public Defender in order to further data requirements for violation hearings. The E-pardons system will go live internally in July and for the public in September. There were 40 pardons in May; about half were through the expedited process.

**Judge Carroll, Judicial Branch & Gary Roberge, Court Support Services Division**

The Judicial Branch is continuing efforts to build the network for juveniles that the Judicial Branch is now responsible for. They entered into a contract with a provider that would run a secure facility in Hamden. This facility has 8-10 beds and will hopefully open in 2020; there is still a need for more secure facilities in the community. Additionally, DMHAS helped support recovery coaches for the Treatment Pathways Program (TPP)

**Richard Cho, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness**

Per the one night count of homelessness, homelessness appears to be decreasing by 10% from the prior year (similar trend line to the prison population) and a decrease of 32% since 2007. Richard Cho noted that over two thirds of those counted are single individuals. Of these single individuals, 500 or so were sleeping on streets or places not meant for human habitation. There has not been a focused effort in the past on homeless who are single individuals.

VII. Adjournment

- Chairperson Pelka adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is Thursday, September 26, 2019.