

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

## Draft Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2020

### Members Present:

Marc Pelka – Office of Policy and Management, Angel Quiros – Department of Corrections, Rich Colangelo – Division of Criminal Justice, Christine Rapillo – Division of Public Defender Services, Rich Sparaco – Board of Pardons and Paroles, Richard Cho – CT Coalition to End Homeless, Dr. Michael Norko – Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, John Frasinelli – State Department of Education, Humayun Beg – Criminal Justice Information System, Vincent Russo – Department of Children and Families, Thomas Saadi – Department of Veterans Affairs, James Rovella – Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Laurie Deneen, Member of the Public, Chief Kenny – Chief of Police Association, Karen Jarmoc, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Beth Hamilton – CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence

### I. Opening Remarks

- a. Chairman Marc Pelka gave introductory remarks, introduced members, and memorialized George Floyd's death and current protests in the nation
- b. CJPAC was held virtually and recorded and posted on YouTube
- c. May minutes were approved by Commission members with one amendment from DEMHAS
- d. Chairman Marc Pelka reviewed the April Monthly Indicators Report
- e. Chairman Pelka made remarks regarding the departure of Commissioner Rollin Cook from DOC and the welcoming of Angel Quiros to Acting Commissioner of the CT DOC

### II. Structured Discussion

- a. Kyle Baudoin, *Director of Research for the CJPPD* interviews with Gavin Gallagan, Director of the CT DOC Community Release Unit (CRU). CRU reviews people eligible for transition to community. And Director Baudoin interviewed Eric Elision – Director of Parole and Community Services Division of the DOC, regarding halfway house and community service network in the State.
- b. Elenore Michael, Assistant Division Director of CJPPD interviewed Rich Sparaco, Executive Director at Board of Pardons and Paroles regarding technology- specifically livestreaming of parole and pardons hearings, expedited reviews of pardons, and the COVID-19 response at Board of Pardons and Paroles.
- c. Melissa Conway, Planning Analyst at the CJPPD interviews Beth Hamilton, Executive Director of the Alliance to End Sexual Violence regarding how victims' services has changed during the COVID-19 emergency and a discussion of adaptations the Alliance to End Sexual Violence has had to make during this time.

### III. Agency Updates

Chris Rapillo – Chief Public Defenders Office – Parole revocation hearings have not been impacted by COVID-19. They are moving in-step with judicial branch as they roll out increased court operations, they have adapted to that. Work to have more cases heard on dockets to work with the

prosecutor's office to identify priority cases for incarcerated individuals to get cases resolved and move people back into their lives, specifically cases that were pending prior to the pandemic. Working on how to bring workers back into the office safely.

Karen Jarmoc – DV – tracking data to be responsive to trends and the needs of survivor. CT SAFE Connecticut, central point of contact to text email or chat with a representative in Spanish and English. They found that 52% of the people reaching out had not ever done so prior. Activity for calls for service has continued to drop, which seems to be a consistent circumstance statewide. It is concerning that calls for service decreases but there was a 29% increase in LAP screenings from law enforcement. The Governor executive order allowed for online restraining orders application. CT SAFE Connect helps to file those orders, more than 100 have been filed. DV Sites 23% increase in calls incoming and outgoing, heightening activities within each of the sites. Shelters are at capacity, 118%, they are housing some survivors in hotels. They are creating a lesson learned document. Working with National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges to look at the drop in restraining orders (nearly 40% in CT).

Thomas Saadi – Department of Veterans Affairs – Never closed, but many programs were limited or ceased access to new clients during the pandemic. DVA has a skilled nursing facility, residential facility and family home programs ceased accepting new clients, making sure that in the future DVA will not need to suspend admissions. Happy to work with individuals leaving DOC so they can move seamlessly to DVA programs.

Judge Carroll, and Gary Roberge – Judicial Branch – Proud progress to create an infrastructure to remotely handle many processes in the judicial branch. Yesterday they conducted their first remote plea hearings, on virtual platform and were part of the courts permanent record. Some voice clamoring to do in physical court rooms but need to be responsible and take measures to keep from the spread of the virus and keep employees and public members as safe and protected as possible and comply with public health directions. Remarkable collaboration with partners in the criminal justice field– especially with DCJ, and Public Defenders, and DOC. Good wishes and thanks to Commissioner Cook. CSSD- Focused on virtual court rooms up and running, dedicated virtual courtroom line, processes to id cases that can go to disposition quickly, thanks to DOC to id more physical spaces and IT for these processes. 13 courts that will be open to the public next Monday, probation offices open and work with community providers to provide services in the community.

Acting Commissioner Quiros – DOC – June 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 Commissioner Cook stepped down. He was a great leader, mentor, friend and really cared for his staff. corrections and collaboration. Continue with record low pop counts credit to front and back end of the system, 10,037 today, first time since the late 80s they have been at that mark. DOC just completed mass testing, 12% positive for asymptomatic, DOC is beginning to test staff soon and will continue to test until all staff and inmates have been tested. DOC is beginning the process of demobilization plan.

Richard Cho – Coalition to End Homelessness – Thanks to Commissioner Cook for his service and priority housing options for people leaving prison. DOC Reentry housing assistance program – serving people hitting end of sentenced released without another housing option. Over 80 referrals by DOC to this program. The outcomes for the first 68 people referred, about half were EOS, and

50% were on probation at the time of release. Overrepresented by black and Hispanic people and most were in their late 40s. Most have substance use, medical and mental health needs. Most had a DSS number, and 2/3 had a record with their homelessness system. 71% of those people were provided a housing solution. The other 21% are in the process of securing housing and have temporary housing and 8% declined assistance.

Dr. Norko – DMHAS – They continue to roll out COVID-19 testing. Due to the Governor's recent order, transition to mandatory testing for some facilities. CVH's last new positive patient was confirmed on May 6<sup>th</sup> and April 21<sup>st</sup> for Whiting. DMHAS received SAMPA grant for 2million to purchase telehealth equipment for DMHAS doc, 211, united way, children and families. Collaborating with Judicial – competency restoration hearings, 43 cases resolved. 39 were discharged from the hospital.

Rich Colangelo - Division of Criminal Justice – no update

Laurie Deneen – no update

John Frasinelli – State Department of Education – The Department is in the process of putting out and finalizing a reopening-of-schools guidance document. They have conducted several webinars on mental health and socioemotional health training. And want to give a thank you to the judicial branch victim services and CCADV to issue a joint memo to superintendents to provide details on info on resources for families involved domestic violence. Admiration of Commissioner Cook as a tremendous professional.

Humayun Beg – CJIS – They have had no impact on operations during the pandemic. Working with judicial to ease implementation of court doc exchange, connecting CJ system together beginning with GA 9, DCJ and judicial are testing. Working with CT sentencing commission and IMRP on use of force reporting.

Rich Sparaco – BOPP – Highlight grant rate which jumped to 67% for parole, transfer parole reviews continue, they did another 37 as a result of automatic reviews for non-violent offenders and the result of a memo from the chair to the board members, regarding COVID-19 as a mitigating factor for all releases. They have four pardons hearings coming up, they are on July 1, July 20<sup>th</sup>, July 21st, July 29<sup>th</sup>, you can find more information on their website. Additional 10 approvals for medical and compassionate parole. Best Wishes to Commissioner Cook.

#### IV. Subcommittee Updates

Mental Health Subcommittee – Early June talking about continuing collaborations and expand them, looking to 150 cases of competency restoration evaluations that are in some state of status, expecting that many will be reordered in the coming weeks, hearing dates are set late this month or early next month, so collaborating with Dr. Burns to evaluate pretrial detainees, working with Judicial about how to conduct Jail Diversion and screening defendants. A lot of collaborations to

be accomplished as getting back to larger scale operations, moving forward in parallel to be most efficient.

Victims Issues Subcommittee – Participated in a videoconference with the Judicial Branch and several Executive Branch agencies, including the DOC, BOPP, DESPP, DCJ, and DPDS. Agencies provided updates on the status of their COVID-19 response and indication of further plans.