

Minutes
CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION
Legislative Office Building Room 1B
October 16, 2008

Members of the Commission Present: Brian Austin, Chair, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management; Claudette J. Beaulieu, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services; Floyd R. Blair, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Children and Families; Judge Patrick Carroll, Deputy Chief Court Administrator; Robert Farr, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles; Richard Healey, Public Member; Chief James Kenny, Police Chief; Nancy Kushins, Victim Services; Theresa Lantz, Commissioner, Department of Correction; Reverend Shelley Copeland, Offender Services; Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender; Steve Grant representing William H. Carbone, Executive Director, Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division; Ed Henion representing John Danaher, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety; and Judith Rossi representing Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:09am. The members of the Commission introduced themselves.

Minutes: There were 2 amendments to the minutes of the 9/11/08 CJPAC meeting :

Judicial Branch Update, p3, first bullet: about 8,000 ~~PSIs (Pre-Sentencing Investigation Reports) and juvenile records~~ SENTENCING TRANSCRIPTS have been provided . . .

Behavioral Health Update, top of p6: for example, if a heroin addict has an abscessed tooth pulled, ~~the consolidated care plan will alert medical staff not to prescribe a narcotic-based pain killer~~ THE COLLABORATIVE PLAN WILL ADDRESS BOTH THE PAIN MANAGEMENT AND ADDICTION ISSUES.

Amended minutes approved unanimously.

Commission Correspondence: there was no correspondence.

Public Comment: there was no public comment.

OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Update

- Undersecretary Brian Austin explained to the Commission that the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Governing Board is charged with designing and implementing a comprehensive, state-wide information technology system to facilitate the immediate, seamless and comprehensive sharing of criminal justice information between state agencies, departments, boards and commissions as well as organized state and local law enforcement agencies having cognizance over matters relating to law enforcement and criminal justice. In response to the Criminal Justice Reform Act, (PA- 08-01 of the January 2008 Special Session) an information sharing system is to include a central tracking and information database, a central electronic document repository, and centralized analytical tools, which are to be developed with state-of-the-art technology, and such other components or elements as are determined to be appropriate or necessary for the design and implementation of the system. There is an Offender Based Tracking System (OBTS) currently providing criminal justice agencies with offender and case data involving felonies, misdemeanors, violations, motor vehicle violations, motor vehicle offenses for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed. The 16-member CJIS Governing Board initiated a national search in April 2008 for an Executive Director. The successful applicant, Sean Thakkar, was introduced as the new Executive Director of the CJIS Governing Board. Mr. Thakkar can be reached at Sean.Thakkar@ct.gov, or 860-622-2061 (DOIT), or 860-418-6214 (OPM).
- Public Act 08-01 created the CJPAC and its Behavioral Health Subcommittee. The CJPAC also created 3 'working groups': Prevention; Prison and Jail Overcrowding and Reentry; and Victim

Services. Chair Brian Austin noted that OPM's CJPPD has an ongoing interagency staff working group that produces the monthly indicators report and the annual recidivism report; the group consists of staff of OPM, DOC, BOPP, DMHAS, DPS, CCSU, and the Judicial and Legislative Branches. He suggested that the group be recognized as a 4th working group (the Research Working Group) to the CJPAC; the CJPAC members agreed. The working group meeting dates, locations, and agendas and minutes can be found on the OPM website at www.ct.gov/opm (CTRL+link).

- As Undersecretary of OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Brian Austin also chairs the Siting Incentives Committee which was established pursuant to PA08-01, and has a strategy plan due to the Governor and Legislature on January 1st, 2009. Presentations made to the Committee include the roles of DOC and the Judicial Branch; the 2008 CT Recidivism Report and that community supervision (eg, halfway houses, and transitional and supportive housing) is important because it lowers recidivism; Interfaith Housing Association and its 9 halfway houses for the homeless; and the results of a survey sent to the 140+ members of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) regarding municipal incentives to siting. The next meeting of the Siting Incentives Committee is November 20th, 9:30am-11:30am in LOB 1A.
- In 2007, the legislature moved the 16- and 17-year olds to the juvenile system effective in 2010. The 'Raise the Age' committee will begin analyzing proposals and developing funding estimates.

Department of Correction Update

Commissioner Theresa Lantz reported that:

- total incarcerated population was 19,623
- the accused/unsentenced population was 4,607;
- the sentenced population was 15,016; and
- the transitional supervision population was about 4,216 (includes transitional placement, halfway houses, parole, transfer parole, and special parole)

DOC now has videoconferencing in all 18 facilities.

Board of Pardons and Paroles Update

BOPP Chairman Robert Farr reported that:

- Staff continue to work hard to prepare the case file(s) for review and determination. Currently, the backlog is 688; OPM provided assistance to BOPP in securing a \$175,000 federal grant to hire retirees to assist in the elimination of backlogged cases and, with their knowledge and skills, to help with organization and workflow to build a more efficient system.
- Occasionally, a parole hearing must be cancelled because DOC is in 'lockdown'; with the use of videoconferencing, parole hearings could be held despite DOC being in lockdown. BOPP has videoconferencing at 2 sites.

Judicial Branch and Court Support Services Division Update

Deputy Court Administrator Patrick Carroll reported that:

- Videoconferencing is being used in the habeas docket and the family court support docket.
- Overtime, paperwork will be eliminated, and there will be no data entry at the courts.
- The Branch's first Strategic Plan has been completed, and the implementation plan will include criminal justice initiatives.

Steve Grant, CSSD, reported that:

- effective October 1st, all violation of probation warrants are posted publicly on the Judicial website at www.jud.ct.gov (CTRL+link).
- In the Jail Re-Interview Program, interviews are up 13%, and releases are up 11%
- It is Domestic Violence Awareness month; incidents of domestic violence are down and violations of probation are down; victim safety is better. Connecticut is a National Demonstration Site for

Domestic Violence. The State has created a wholistic model with more intense supervision of the offender, victim advocates participate at the team meetings, and when the offender starts having symptoms, s/he is referred to the probation officer.

Reverend Shelley Copeland commented that domestic violence is a public health issue, and that children raised in domestic violence never learn proper responses and they then perpetuate domestic violence; children need referrals to appropriate interventions. There was some discussion about courts not having authority to refer children, but that the victim advocates can make the needed referrals.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Update

It was reported that the Behavioral Health Services subcommittee will be meeting November 6th.

Prison and Jail Overcrowding and Reentry Working Group Update

DOC Commissioner Lantz, chair of this Working Group, commented that the Working Group is looking at a systemic reentry strategy beginning with day one of incarceration through to end-of-sentence. Keys to a successful reentry strategy include: the collaborating partnerships of service providers, getting the offender to accept responsibility for his own behaviors, how the offender goes through the system, what are the expectations of the offender, and the development of performance/evaluation measures. The Annie Casey Foundation has been providing support. The strategy model should be concise and simple, and should identify challenges for the future. A draft of the strategy will be provided to the CJPAC at its December 11th meeting; the reentry strategy is due to the Governor and the Legislature by February 15, 2009.

Other Business

Chair Brian Austin commented that the CJPAC will have a meeting in January 2009. The 2009 schedule of meeting will be mailed out soon.

The Department of Correction and the Judicial Branch are collaborating on a risk assessment strategy, which will be discussed at the December meeting of the CJPAC.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02am.

Next Meetings:

November 13, 2008	LOB 1C
December 11, 2008	LOB 1B