

AD HOC CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC) MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2021

11:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was held videoconference and by phone, at (860) 840-2075 / 651 145 10#.

1) Attendees:

- **Marc Pelka (Chair)**, Undersecretary of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division;
- **Judge Patrick Carroll III**, Chief Court Administrator, Connecticut Judicial Branch;
- **Gary Roberge**, Director, Court Support Services Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch;
- **Dr. Michael Norko, Danielle Ebrahimi, Martina Kardol, and Mary Kate Mason**, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services;
- **Darren Stewart**, Chief of Police, Stonington Police Department;
- **Natasha Pierre**, State Victim Advocate;
- **Jessie Gleckel and Lucy Nolan**, Alliance to End Sexual Violence;
- **Liza Andrews and Gerrie Wild**, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
- **Christine Rapillo**, Chief Public Defender, Division of Public Defender Services; and
- **Sharonda Carlos**, Deputy Commissioner, and **Eulalia Garcia**, District Administrator; Department of Correction.

2) Welcome

- The meeting was convened at approximately 11:00 am
- Welcome was provided by Pelka and introductions were provided to OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning staff members Maurice Reaves, Nichole Howe, and Chidi Nwuneli.

3) Introductions

- Members and other participants introduced themselves.

4) Update on the change in the Byrne JAG Litigation

- Pelka provided an overview of the Byrne JAG grant program and indicated that due to federal immigration-related special conditions placed on the grant in 2017, Connecticut and approximately six other states were unable to accept FY2017-2020 awards. Nevertheless, Connecticut applied and received the grant each year.
- In May, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a change in policy removing the

immigration-related conditions, clearing the way for plaintiff states to accept the awards. OPM is working diligently with federal partners to accept retroactive awards.

- Dr. Norko asked about the duration of the Byrne JAG grants. Howe responded that grants typically operate over four-year grant award periods. Nwuneli added that, for the retroactive awards, the US DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance has indicated its intention to provide flexibility to the states, including no-cost extensions. This is understandable because states will be receiving four years of awards in rapid succession.

5) JAG FY2021 Application – Goals, Objectives and Priorities

- Pelka provided a brief overview of the requirements of the solicitation, the general areas where JAG funds can be used, how the plan was drafted, and an overview of program priorities.
- Roberge asked whether the program areas are consistent with past years. Nwuneli indicated a desire to diversify the distribution to cover other areas. Pelka agreed, noting OPM had reviewed other states' strategic plans and received assistance from the National Criminal Justice Association to broaden the use of Byrne JAG to serve other public safety needs.
- Chief Stewart noted the importance of police-led diversion, especially for people with mental health needs, and described public outreach efforts regarding needs that can be addressed by calling 211 instead of 911. Pelka noted prior Byrne JAG use for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs and suggested exploring a fit for this within the mental health priority area on the FY2021 strategic plan. Ebrahimi described mobile crisis outreach efforts and offered connections to specialists in DMHAS covering this area of crisis response.
- Howe provided information and detail on the portion of the Byrne JAG grant that is passed through to organized police departments.

6) Discussion

- No objections were offered to the priorities.
- Many stakeholders provided feedback on priorities that were of significance to them.
- Pelka encouraged members to share feedback, in writing or by phone, by July 20 close of business so that OPM could submit the application by close of business July 22.

7) Adjournment

- Pelka provided a final summary of the meeting and thank participants for attending the meeting.