

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC) DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, June 24, 2021  
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Hosted on Microsoft Teams Live Event

A regular meeting of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission was held on June 24th, 2021. Due to public health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission's meeting was conducted on Microsoft Teams. The meeting convened at 9:00am, with the following members present:

- **Chairman Marc Pelka**, Undersecretary of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
- **Judge Patrick Carroll III**, Chief Court Administrator, Connecticut Judicial Branch
- **Gary Roberge**, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch
- **Angel Quiros**, Commissioner, Department of Correction
- **Dr. Michael Norko**, Director of Forensic Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- **Brian Foley**, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
- **Humayun Beg**, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information System
- **Brett Mahoney**, Chief of Police, Waterford Police Department
- **Lucy Nolan**, Director of Policy and Public Relations, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- **Christine Rapillo**, Chief Public Defender, Division of Public Defender Services
- **Thomas Saadi**, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs
- **Sharonda Carlos**, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Correction
- **Carleton Giles**, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles
- **Liza Andrews**, Director of Public Policy and Communications, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Pelka thanked members for dedicating time to today's meeting. A roll call was taken. Chairman Pelka introduced the agenda for the meeting which included a discussion of the May and June Indicators Report. The Chairman also asked for member and subcommittee updates centered on what priorities will be for the next six months, potential areas of collaboration between agencies and members and items members would like to see discussed when CJPAC returns in September.

## **II. Approval of Minutes from the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Gary Roberge, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, motion seconded by Judge Carroll.

## **III. Presentation and Discussion of May and June Monthly Indicators Report**

*Chairman Marc Pelka, Undersecretary, OPM CJPPD*

In February of 2021 OPM's CJPPD Research Team released an annual report with monthly predictions of the inmate population. The prediction for June was 8,914 inmates and the actual average daily count was 8,965, a difference of only 51 inmates. May's 2A chart displayed that dispositions dropped significantly between April and June of 2020 illustrating the impact of the Covid pandemic, but dispositions have since rebounded. As of December of 2020 dispositions were still below 2019 levels. June's 2A chart highlighted that since March of 2020 to June 2021 the percentage of the DOC population whose most serious conviction was an A or B felony has risen from 31% to 39%. Discussion centered on a desire to look back five years to see the percentage changes and to have a breakdown of the composition of types of crimes in the felony and misdemeanor classifications.

Arrests have been level through March to May of 2021. Pre-Trial admissions have increased when comparing May 2020 to May 2021. The arrest levels compared to 2020 and pre-pandemic years will be something to monitor. The question of whether the prison population will rebound after its drop during the pandemic will be one to keep track of. Members discussed how the pandemic influenced dispositions.

## **IV. CJPAC Member and Subcommittee Updates and Planning**

Chairman Pelka opened with a discussion focused on victim services and how the pandemic has impacted services. Discussion was had on how innovative uses of technology has saved victim's time and travel. Members discussed how these changes can be used long term. There was discussion on the importance of face to face interaction and services for disclosure purposes, as well as the importance of in-person schooling.

**Department of Correction-** Staff training required for compliance with the Police Accountability Bill is on schedule. A second facility closing is targeted to be done by 1/1/22. Commissioner Quiros praised the Data team at CSSD and has plans to start a data collection unit at DOC.

**Department of Veterans Affairs-** Commissioner Saadi gave an update on the department's work to comply with Public Act 21-79. A Qualifying Conditions Board consisting of five members will be appointed.

**Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence-** The Coalition is focusing on implementation of Public Act 21-78. They have already begun meetings regarding how the bill affects operations and new training materials.

**DMHAS-** The crisis response center is working on compliance with federal mandates and potentially seeking federal funding to assist with implementing those mandates. A pilot program for a Misdemeanor Competency Evaluation program in Bridgeport could be active around 8/1/21.

**OPM-** Chairman Pelka gave an update on the Bryne-JAG funding and the steps OPM is taking to accept the funds and planning involved on how to distribute the funds.

**CSSD-** Director Roberge praised the jail diversion work done by clinicians in the individual courts. CSSD is working diligently on case processing and the resumption of jury trials. CSSD will be working on how bills passed in the most recent session will affect the agency.

**Board of Pardons and Paroles-** The Board gave updates on individuals released on early termination from parole and transfer parole.

**V. Adjourn**

Chairman Pelka thanked the presenters and members of the commission for their participation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:01am

The next meeting is September 30th, 2021 at 9:00am and it will also be virtual.