

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC) MINUTES

Thursday, October 28, 2021
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Hosted on Microsoft Teams

A regular meeting of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission was held on October 28, 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**, Director, Court Support Services Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch
- **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
- **Beth Hamilton**, Executive Director, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- **Angel Quiros**, Commissioner, Department of Correction
- **Meghan Scanlon**, President & CEO, Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- **Rich Colangelo**, Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice
- **Sharonda Carlos**, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Correction
- **Carleton Giles**, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles
- **Natasha Pierre**, Office of the Victim Advocate

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Pelka thanked members for dedicating time to today's meeting. A roll call was taken.

II. Approval of Minutes from the September 30 meeting minutes.

Rich Colangelo, Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice, made motion to approve the minutes, motion seconded by Director Roberge.

III. Review of Monthly Indicators Report

Marc Pelka, Undersecretary, OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

Kevin Neary, Lead Planning Analyst, OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

The latest monthly report indicated a 467-person difference from the correction population forecast and the actual number. The Spotlight section of the report highlighted that in the lead up to release of the 2021 correction population forecast in February of this year OPM developed forecasts based on three different scenarios. The Covid-19 Pandemic added more uncertainty to the process than in years before. The three scenarios OPM considered were forecasts that followed a late 2020 trend, an early end to the pandemic, and a preliminary forecast that was more of a middle ground and was ultimately the one that was chosen. The actual population is currently higher than even the projection under the early end to the pandemic scenario. The pre-trial population appears to be the driver of these higher numbers. OPM will continue to monitor this and has already engaged stakeholders to try to get a better understanding of the factors causing this.

IV. Review of the 2021 Trends in Connecticut's Criminal Justice System Report *Marc Pelka, Undersecretary, OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division*

Public Act 21-97 created a statutory requirement for a report on criminal justice system trends to be given by OPM annually in October. This year's report will focus on trends in the areas of crime, victimization, arrests, criminal cases, corrections, and community supervision. During the period from 2010 to 2020 Connecticut has seen declines in crime overall, violent crime, and property crime. The overall crime rate, violent crime rate and murder rate are all below the national average. Data from the 2020 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) was presented. Agencies such as CCADV, Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Survivors of Homicide and the Office of the Victim Advocate are collaborating to provide a more detailed picture of victimization and need in the state. The Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services has also contracted with an organization to conduct a victimization survey in Connecticut. The presentation also included descriptive data related to trends in criminal cases added and disposed, correction admissions and the correction population over multiple years.

V. Updates and Planning

Chairman Pelka discussed the possibility of the cancellation of the November meeting. He then opened the floor for updates from the agencies and organizations.

Dr. Norko gave an update on the pilot program established to look at the use of competency resources used on those charged with misdemeanor crimes. The program is being operated out of the Bridgeport court and they are partnering with Recovery Network of Programs. The potential evolution of the program was discussed, and it was noted that they had received their first admission yesterday.

Director Roberge noted that the Department of Veteran Affairs had been helpful in improvements made to the Veterans diversionary program. CCADV had also worked closely with his agency to create an electronic way to share information with victim advocates. DMHAS was noted as well for its work on the Treatment Pathway program and the expectation was that the number of sites would be doubled by next summer.

CCADV informed the commission that training has been underway and will continue in relation to the passing of Public Act 21-78.

VI. Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am

The next meeting is December 16, 2021 at 9:00am on Teams videoconference.