

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC) MINUTES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Hosted on Microsoft Teams Live Event

Meeting was called to order at approximately 9:05am

1. Welcome provided by Chairman Pelka

Pelka thanked members for dedicating time to today's meeting, especially because the commission was unable to meet in December. A roll call was taken along with welcome and introductions to members.

Attendance:

- John Frassinelli, Chief, Bureau of Health, Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, State Department of Education;
- Judge Patrick Carroll III, Chief Court Administrator, and Gary Roberge, Director of Court Support Services Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch;
- Dr. Michael Norko, Director of Forensic Services, and Chris Burke, Assistant Director, Division of Forensic Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services;
- Christine Rapillo, Chief Public Defender, Division of Public Defender Services;
- Humayun Beg, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information System;
- James Kenney, Chief of Police, Vernon Police Department;
- Lucy Nolan, Director of Policy and Public Relations, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence;
- Steven Eppler-Epstein, Acting Executive Director, and Geralyn O'Neil-Wild, Director of Legal Advocacy, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
- Jane Siegal, Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Kevin Lawlor, Deputy Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice;
- Natasha Pierre, State Victim Advocate;
- District Administrators Eulalia Garcia and Nick Rodriguez as well as Deputy Commissioner Sharonda Carlos, Department of Correction; and
- Rich Sparaco, Executive Director, and Carleton Giles, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles.

2. Review of Minutes from the November 19th meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes by Chairman Carleton Giles, motion seconded by Chief James Kenney
Corrections cited by Gary Roberge and Jane Siegal.

3. Announcements:

- Dr. Richard Cho to join President Biden's administration as Sr. Advisor of Housing and Urban Development.
- Stephen Eppler Epstein as Acting Executive Director to CCADV.

- New staff member of Patrick Lakha with OPM JPPD Research Unit.

4. Discussion of January Monthly Indicators Report from Kyle Baudoin, Policy Development Coordinator, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management

Baudoin presented the February Monthly Indicators Report.

The “Prison Population Forecast” section captures the yawning gap between OPM’s forecast and the DOC population beginning in March 2020 with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since August, the decreases have attenuated, suggesting a return to typical patterns. OPM remains eager to see whether this January, as has been the case most years, the population ticks up with a boost of newly sentenced people, a phenomenon that has been referred to as the “January bump” in the *Monthly Indicators Report*.

Chart 2a contains analysis of DOC admissions and exits between 2017 and 2020. For most months, release events mirror admissions, resulting in modest change to the count of incarcerated individuals at any one time. The disruptive force of COVID-19 is evident in March and April 2020, however, when the careful balance was interrupted. Through July 2020, release events outpaced admissions, which shrank, dramatically, resulting in substantial correction population decreases. Beginning in August, the system, as has been the case in the past, restored a degree of stability. Once again admissions and release events began to mirror one another.

Members engaged in discussion about this month’s report.

5. Review and discussion of the Just and Well: Rethinking How States Approach Competence to Stand Trial

Dr. Norko delivered a presentation covering analysis of the October 2020 report from The Council of State Governments Justice Center. The presentation consisted of the definition of competence to stand trial and processes; highlights of the *Just and Well* report; 10 strategies recommended in the report and assessment of their fit for in Connecticut’s context; and overview of a possible pilot.

Members engaged in discussion about the report.

6. Adjourn

Pelka Thanked everyone for their participation. Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

The next meeting is February 25th at 9:00 am and again will be virtual.