

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC)  
Legislative Office Building, Room 1B  
Minutes for June 10, 2010  
9:00 AM

Members and designees present: Brian Austin, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Judge Patrick Carroll, Deputy Chief Court Administrator, Judicial Branch; William Carbone, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch; Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; Robert Farr, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Parole; Nancy Kushins, Victims Services Representative; Brian Murphy, Acting Commissioner, Department of Correction; Patricia Rehmer, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Claudette J. Beaulieu, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services; Major William Podgorski, Connecticut State Police, Department of Public Safety; Brian Carlow, Deputy Chief Public Defender.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:12 am. The Commission members and designees introduced themselves.

The minutes for the May meeting were unanimously accepted.

Public Comment: There was none.

Research Working Group Presentation: Mr. Austin introduced Ivan Kuzyk, Planning Specialist at the Criminal Policy and Planning Division of OPM and the State's Statistical Analysis Center Director and Al Bidorini, Director of Program Analysis and Support, at the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

Director Bidorini presented a proposal to establish a process that streamlines the linking of administrative data including: arrest (DPS), Incarceration and Parole (DOC/BOPP), Adult Probation (JB-CSSD), and Behavioral Health (DMHAS) records. The goal of this effort is to provide better data for the state criminal justice research community. Please see the posted PowerPoint presentation. After a discussion, the Commission approved the pursuit of this proposal through the CJPAC Research Working Group.

Mr. Kuzyk gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the CJPAC Research Workgroup and some particular goals that need to be established. Please see the posted PowerPoint presentation. Commission members discussed a variety of potential research issues including the inherent problems in definitions of nonviolent versus violent offenders and better determining the daily costs of incarceration based upon the offenders needs. Mr. Kuzyk will take the Commission's comments to the Research Work Group and will report back to the Commission at the September meeting.

Agency Updates: Judge Carroll and Director Carbone discussed the domestic violence pilot program with the new GPS technology. This program will begin in October 2010 and is funded by an ARRA grant provided by OPM.

Director Carbone introduced Dr. Steve Cox of Central Connecticut State University for a presentation. Dr. Cox presented an evaluation study he conducted for CSSD regarding a pilot program focusing on offenders with mental illness that are on probation. Dr. Cox discussed how research has shown that people with serious mental illness are over-represented in the criminal justice system. He also stated that offenders with significant mental illness also have other significant needs including poverty, homelessness, unemployment, and stable mental health and/or substance abuse treatment. A few goals from CSSD program were to decrease recidivism with intensive supervision. This program allows for more in-depth assessment, more appropriate service referrals, and more positive contacts with clients and service providers. Some recommendations from the evaluation include: more dual diagnoses and inpatient service options, and the availability of clinical advice for MHPOs to consult with when they had questions or concerns about specific clients. Overall, the program has been very successful at reducing recidivism. For more information please see Dr. Cox's PowerPoint presentation that is posted on the CJPAC website.

Commissioner Patricia Rehmer spoke of the increase of dual diagnoses inpatient service options. With some of the bed reconfigurations that have been done over the past year, DMHAS was able to transition a set of beds in their Bridgeport facility to take in individuals with dual diagnoses.

Dr. Michael Norko of the Behavioral Health and Subcommittee updated the Commission on the ongoing meetings regarding Memorandum of Agreement between certain CJPAC agencies for acceptance of release of information forms. The next step in the MOA process is for each of the agencies to update their forms. There are current forms in certain agencies that do not meet certain criteria. Various agencies will be revising them and then sending it out to the participating agencies for review. The selected forms will have an identification number on them for tracking purposes. This process will be completed as soon as possible in order to be able to execute the MOA.

Commissioner Brian Murphy updated the Commission on the prison population; it has been consistently in the range of 18,250 to 18,400. Currently it is 18,318. The sentenced population is lower 538 lower than last month and the pretrial population has gone up by 100. The number of offenders on Reentry Furlough is holding steady at approximately 35. DOC continues to work with the different agencies on the release of offenders to ICE. Commissioner Murphy assessed the collection of the DNA samples under the ARRA Byrne/JAG grant; to date approximately 2935 samples have been taken and there have been 432 refusals. DOC is working with the State Police and State's Attorneys to address the individuals who are refusing to provide DNA samples.

Major Podgorski informed the Commission that the Department of Public Safety's laboratory had eliminated the DNA sample backlog thanks to the ARRA Byrne/JAG grant provided by OPM and is now addressing the criminal case backlog.

Undersecretary Austin informed the Commission that Kevin Brace has recently resigned as chairperson of the Correctional Staff Health and Safety Subcommittee and he is seeking volunteers to replace him.

The next Connecticut Criminal Justice Cross Training Seminar is scheduled for August 20, 2010, at Southern Connecticut State University. Lisa Secondo is organizing the seminar and is forming the agenda for the training. Mr. Austin has contacted agencies that have conducted workshops in the past and asked them to participate again. He also will be soliciting CJPAC members for a plenary panel during the morning session and the co-chairs and ranking members of the Judiciary Committee for a lunch time panel.

Mr. Austin informed the Commission of an ARRA domestic violence grant opportunity from OPM that is open until July 7<sup>th</sup>. More information may be obtained at the OPM website.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:18 am.

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