

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
December 14, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Members of the Commission Present: Brian Austin, Chair, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management; Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Department of Correction; Commissioner Thomas Kirk, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Commissioner Patricia Wilson-Coker, Department of Social Services; William Carbone, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch; Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender; Gregory Everett, Chairman of the Board of Pardons and Paroles; Commissioner Patricia Mayfield, Department of Labor; Laurie Deneen, Commission Member; Nancy Kushins, Commission Member; LTC Cheryl Malloy, Commission Member; Judge Michael Mack representing the Chief Court Administrator, Judicial Branch; Don DeVore representing Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families; Scott Newgass representing the Commissioner of the Department of Education;

Others Present: Peter Rockholz, Brian Carlow, Carol Salsbury, Karl Lewis, Dan Bannish, Judith Rossi, Deborah Fuller, Loel Meckel, Louise Pyers, Bridgit Reilly, Brian Hill, Stephen Grant, Jerry Stowell, Christine Fortunato, Colette Orszulak, Tom Berendt, Bill Tuthill, John Forbes, Lisa Secondo, Valerie LaMotte, Linda Deconti, and Linda Hothan.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:06am.

Minutes of the November 9, 2006 meeting: approved unanimously.

Correspondence: Brian Austin noted that the USDOJ/BJA Conference *The State of Crime and Justice in America*, would be held in Baltimore, MD, January 25-26, 2007, for the Northeast Region. Copies of the flier will be sent to all CJPAC Members.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Update:

Brian Austin reported that 18 applications were received for the 3 Policy Development Coordinator positions, and 13 people were interviewed. Three qualifying people, already members of the Division, were promoted into the 3 positions as follows:

Juvenile Policy, Planning and Programming	Valerie LaMotte
Adult Policy, Planning and Programming	Lisa Secondo
Policy Research and Evaluation	Linda DeConti

The 3 vacated positions will be back-filled, probably in January, 2007.

The required Recidivism study will springboard from the study the Department of Correction did this past spring.

Many of the statutorily-prescribed products have due dates in January (eg, January 1st, January 15th). OPM has communicated with the Governor's Office and legislative leadership to delay report submissions to about February 15th, so that the report content can be compatible with the Governor's Budget. Legislation will be submitted this session to formally change report due dates.

The monthly Admissions and Releases report is being produced and posted on the OPM website: <http://www.opm.state.ct.us/> then scroll down to *Featured Links*.

Sixty to seventy-five issues have been submitted (by Department of Correction, Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice/Chief State's Attorney, Judicial Branch/CSSD, Board of Pardons and Paroles, Office of the Chief Public Defender, Department of Labor, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Office of the Victim Advocate, Department of Social Services, and CONNSACS) for consideration for the Comprehensive Criminal Justice Plan; these issues will be shared with OPM Budget.

This Biennial Comprehensive Plan will have 7 'pods': prevention services and supports, enforcement programs, adjudication, diversion programs, incarceration and institutional services and supports, community supervision programs, and community re-entry services and supports. It will also have 5 overlying considerations: agency infrastructure, community infrastructure, victim advocacy and notification, special population management (16 + 17 year olds, mental health, substance abuse, and sex offender), and re-entry strategies.

The statutorily-required sentencing task force scheduled its first meeting for Wed, December 13th. Pursuant to Public Act 06-193, the OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division shall assist the task force by providing criminal justice data, analyses and technical assistance necessary for the task force to carry out its duties.

Trends in Federal Funding

- Congress has only cleared two (Defense and Homeland Security) of its 11 spending bills for FY07
- The incoming chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee announced their intention for the new 110th Congress to enact a year-long continuing resolution (CR) to fund programs contained in the 9 unfinished fiscal year (FY) 2007 appropriations bills.
- Will impose a level of uncertainty on resource allocation decisions for OPM grant funded programs going forward

Department of Correction Updates

Commissioner Lantz reported:

The Department of Correction's total incarcerated population is 19,076. This total is 960 more than were incarcerated on December 13, 2005 (5.0% increase). This total incarcerated population is approximately 100 below an all-time, in-state record.

The accused population is 4,505. This total is 338 above the December 13, 2005 total, (an increase of 8.1%). This number includes both federal inmates (approximately 400) and special parole violators (approximately 210).

The sentenced population (incarcerated) is 14,576. This is 628 above the December 7, 2005 total, an increase of 4.5%.

The total number of offenders supervised in the community on Parole, Special Parole, Transitional Supervision, Transfer Parole and Transitional Placement is 3,772. This is an approximate 8% increase in the past year.

The Department contracts for over 1,000 halfway house beds. These are filled virtually at all times. In addition, DOC will add approximately 127 more such beds on January 1, 2007 and another 30 on July 1, 2007.

The number of offenders on re-entry furlough on December 1, 2006 was 250. This is 50% above the 12 month average.

The Department is not experiencing the usual seasonal low in population this year. DOC will be hiring about 400 new Correctional Officers within the next 2 months; DOC concurrently ran 2 cadet academies; further, about 29 new re-entry positions will be available.

Judicials' Court Support Services Division Update

Executive Director William Carbone reported on several endeavors:

- OPM expedited the hiring of 4 new positions for the Jail Reinterview Program; the program is successful: about two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the time the Judges are accepting the recommendations of the counselors.
- At the pre-trial stage, when the Bail Decision Aid assessment tool is used, incidents of failure to appear go down.
- OPM also expedited the hiring of 5 new Probation Officers for the PreTrial Supervision program, which offers intensive outpatient probation with the person living at home. There is a waiting list; caseloads will be 35.
- The legislature funded 3 mental health clinicians for the big cities for the Alternatives to Incarceration program in a collaborative effort between CSSD,

DOC and DMHAS. About 21%-22% of the DOC population has psychiatric problems.

- About 28 Probation Officers are being hired (February) for the Probation Transition/Technical Violations program.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Update

Commissioner Thomas Kirk reported that

Crisis Intervention teams (CITs) in Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury and New London have decreased the number of nuisance offences and also Worker's Comp injuries.

New Britain has a special project focusing on women with trauma histories.

Community Offender Re-Entry Program works with people, with mental health problems, 6 months prior to release. With smooth linkages, readmission rate has dropped.

Twelve states received federal funding to implement Access To Recovery (ATR) Programs which provided housing, employment linkages, and recovery supports to keep people in the community. Connecticut received about \$22M, and has 5 case managers. Connecticut's program is the most successful in the Nation; the feds are planning their second site visit. Some of the states have not been able to use their federal grant; it is hoped that some of those unspent monies may be available to Connecticut. This grant terminates in August 07, but the funds will be spent in April 07. Yale conducted a study on the ATR Program and found that stable housing is a very important component for successful recovery.

DMHAS Deputy Commissioner Peter Rockholz reported that, with monies received from the legislature last year through the PJOC efforts, DMHAS has issued an RFQ for private providers to open two 10-bed recovery houses for persons primarily with stimulant (i.e., crack, cocaine, methamphetamine) abuse problems including those released from, or at-risk of entering, the criminal justice system. He also noted that the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council (ADPC) met yesterday and discussed drugs being used by 15-to-17 year olds including prescription opiates (e.g., oxycontin, oxycodone) and injection heroin. Also, underage drinking was discussed in detail with presentations by Dr. Thomas Babor of UConn Medical Center – an international expert on underage drinking policies, and by the Connecticut Coalition to Stop Underage Drinking (CCSUD); three actions that work best to reduce underage drinking are: price increases (especially increasing taxes on beer), restricting access, and traffic checks. The Department of Public Safety will be increasing enforcement activities. Education programs have been found by researchers to be ineffective toward reducing underage drinking.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee

The Subcommittee met on 12-6-06; most agencies were represented and 17 people attended. The Subcommittee is reviewing services, and identifying areas needed for expansion. The Subcommittee will have 3 subgroups – behavioral health services, housing/employment, and system barriers. The Office of the Chief Public Defender will send a social worker to the meetings.

The State needs to develop creative and flexible system responses (including housing, day reporting and LMHAs) for people to have successful recoveries. For instance, DOC's training for Correctional Officers is being adapted for Parole and Probation Officers, so that similar training is provided across agency lines. DMHAS, DOC, and CSSD are collaborating on training for new Jail Reinterviewers, Probation Officers, and Parole Officers, all of whom will have caseloads of people with serious mental health issues.

Chief Public Defender Susan Storey noted that if a person is released and fails, that is worse than if s/he had not been released. The failure affects the criminal case: suitability versus eligibility.

There was general consensus that Connecticut's programs have been successful because of the collaborating partnerships built by the participating agencies.

Working Groups:

Prison and Jail Overcrowding and Re-Entry Chair Theresa Lantz reported that the work group would hold its organizational meeting at DOC on Wednesday, December 20th at 2pm in room 204 (Fiscal Conference Room). Commissioner Lantz asked that participants come to the meeting with written recommendations and supporting documentation to enable a quick turnaround so that these materials can be forwarded to OPM/CJPPD for potential inclusion in the comprehensive plan for criminal justice, and the re-entry strategy plan, both due in February, 2007.

Prevention Services Chair Patricia Wilson-Coker reported the work group held its first meeting, and developed a broad definition of prevention: *to keep people out of the criminal justice system*. The group decided to have 4 subgroups: 16 and 17 years olds, literacy, gainful employment, and the reinstatement of fathers in families. The work group is developing an inventory of prevention resources for the CJPAC. The next meetings are January 10th and January 23rd. If you are interested in participating, contact Diana Mason at 860-424-5997 or Diana.Mason@po.state.ct.us. Brian Austin noted that the prevention resource inventory would assist in framing baseline discussion at the February 8th meeting of the CJPAC.

Victim Services Chair Brian Austin reported that the work group had its organizational meeting at OPM on December 7th. The work group has decided to look at issues of victimization notification. The next meeting will be mid-January. Please contact Brian Austin at 860-418-6394 or Brian.Austin@po.state.ct.us if you are interested in attending.

Presentation: Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

Valerie LaMotte gave a presentation on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC), highlights of which follow.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee is a Governor-appointed committee of 15-33 members with special experience, a majority of which are not full-time public employees.

The purpose of the JJAC is to improve the juvenile justice system, and to prevent delinquency. The JJAC oversees the use of federal juvenile justice funds in Connecticut, and monitors for compliance with federal mandates on the handling of juvenile offenders. The federal mandates are:

- Deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO).
- Separation of juveniles from adult offenders in secure confinement (Separation).
- Removal of juvenile from adult jails and police lockups (Removal).
- Addressing disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system (DMC).

The current active JJAC Subcommittees are:

- Subcommittee on Delinquency Prevention which focuses on youth development policies and practices, and oversees the Title V Delinquency Prevention Program. The Connecticut for Community Youth Development project plans the annual Youth Funders conference (the 6th conference was held in September 2006) and helped develop an evaluation workbook for program directors and youth funders entitled Assessing Outcomes in Child and Youth Programs: A Practical Handbook.
- Subcommittee on Police Training which focuses on programming for police and youth, particularly supporting police in non-enforcement roles and the Comprehensive Approach to Combating Underage Drinking. This subcommittee has planned 12 annual Children, Youth and the Police Conferences and updates the policy manual, Children, Youth and the Police: Recommended Policies and Procedures.
- Connecticut Consortium on School Attendance which is a group composed of school districts and statewide agency members that addresses school attendance before it becomes truancy through better use of data.

- Subcommittee on Disproportionate Minority Contact which oversees the assessment of DMC data in Connecticut. Two subgroups, Police/Juvenile Task Group (DMC at the earliest police decision point) and Residential Incident Reporting Task Group (DMC in incident reporting in residential facilities) have worked on specific products to address specific problem decision points as identified by the assessment data.

The JJAC also conducts special projects. The latest project was a research study on juveniles transferred to adult court (1997-2002) which covered:

- Connecticut's formal transfer process.
- How transfer was implemented (transfer rates, characteristics of transferred juveniles, informal decision-making).
- Sanctions imposed on transferred juveniles.
- Lengths of sentences received by transferred juveniles.

For further information, including program announcements and lists of grants, please see the JJAC web site www.ctjjac.org.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59am.

Next Meeting
Thursday, February 8th, 2007 9AM