

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
November 9, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Members of the Commission Present: Brian Austin, Chair, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management; Judge William Lavery, Chief Court Administrator; Commissioner Patricia Wilson-Coker, Department of Social Services; William Carbone, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch; Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; Commissioner Darlene Dunbar, Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families; Gregory Everett, Chairman of the Board of Pardons and Paroles; Laurie Deneen, Commission Member; Richard Healey, Commission Member; Nancy Kushins, Commission Member; Interim Commissioner George Dowaliby representing the Commissioner of the Department of Education; Dr. Patrick Hynes representing the Commissioner of the Department of Correction; Peter Rockholz representing the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Debra Keel representing the Commissioner of the Department of Labor; Christine Rapillo representing the Chief Public Defender.

Others Present: Karl Lewis, Randy Braren, John Lahda, Donald DeVore, Dan Bannish, Judith Rossi, Deborah Fuller, Loel Meckel, Michael Aiello, Brian Hill, Stephen Grant, Beth Leslie, Tom Berendt, Diane Struzzi, Terry Schnure, John Forbes, and Linda Hothan.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:10am.

Minutes of the October 12th, 2006 meeting: approved unanimously.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Update:

Chair Brian Austin reported that the OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPPD) received 14 applications for 3 new Policy Development Coordinator positions in the areas of juvenile policy, adult policy, and policy research and evaluation; interviews should be completed next week, for a decision by Thanksgiving, and implementation in December. The Division's web site is in development.

Status of the Division's 6 major tasks: 1) first monthly admission and releases report is completed and was provided to all in attendance; due date is the first of each month, but the data is 60 days 'old'; 2) annual correctional population forecasting study is in progress; straight-line forecasting will be used; 3) annual recidivism study is in progress; 4) biennial comprehensive plan is in progress; 5) annual re-entry strategy will be determined; and 6) sentencing task force will be determined. Commission Members can access the OPM/CJPPD website after the first of each month to download a copy of the admissions and releases report(s). It was further noted that federal funding receipts are significantly declining (e.g., CT's Byrne/JAG grant has been reduced about 67% since 2004).

There was some discussion about the process and its products being evolutionary, the role of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) interfacing with the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC); jurisdictional issues of Families With Service Needs (FWSN);

lack of data on children; and reliability of data on dependents. Some criminal justice agencies report dealing with the same families generation after generation. The majority of offenders come from urban settings.

DOC Population Updates:

DOC reported that:

- The Department of Correction's total incarcerated population is 19,170. This total is 791 more than were incarcerated on November 7, 2005, an increase of 4.3 percent. This total incarcerated population is hovering around an all time, in state record.
- The accused population is 4,699. This is 479 above the November 7, 2005 total (an increase of 10.2%). This number includes both federal inmates (approximately 375) and special parole violators (approximately 210).
- The sentenced population (incarcerated) is 14,471. This is 312 above the November 7, 2005 total (an increase of 2.2%).
- The total number of offenders supervised in the community on Parole, Special Parole, Transitional Supervision, Transfer Parole and Transitional Placement is 3,760.
- The Department contracts for over 1,000 halfway house beds, which are filled virtually at all times. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for up to an additional 150 beds closed on October 10, 2006. Selections are imminent.
- The number of offenders on re-entry furlough on November 1, 2006 was 225. This is 43.3% above the 12-month average.

The institutional population is very high. As has been reported in the media, there have been a number of law enforcement 'sweeps' in our urban areas. Sweeps drive up the accused incarcerated population; the accused population drives up the sentenced incarcerated population.

Judge Lavery noted that the courts have implemented 3 'gun dockets' -- Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford. He stated that the State needs to be futuristic and innovative . . . especially with 16 and 17 year olds who have the single highest crime rate. Drugs are no longer the problem in schools because of the use of drug sniffing dogs and locker searches.

The DOC facilities are using non-traditional beds due to the high population. 'Boats' with mattresses are placed on the floors in the day areas and the gymnasiums; in addition, some closed housing areas have been re-opened.

Judicial's Court Support Services Division Updates:

CSSD Executive Director William Carbone reported that the Office of Policy and Management had given CSSD permission to expedite some program efforts in an effort to reduce the DOC institutional population:

The Jail Re-Interview Program (JRIP) is being expanded in Garner, Manson Youth, York and Osborn prisons. The JRIP assesses and refers defendants being held on bond for community supervision who would otherwise remain incarcerated. These defendants

have mental health problems (moderate impairment from psychiatric condition, mental illness of sub-acute or chronic nature), are stable, and do not require hospitalization. The specialized Jail Re-Interviewers, with experience and knowledge in behavioral health services, greatly enhance the coordination with local DMHAS services in developing a comprehensive community supervision and treatment plan for the defendant. These JRIP staff will also serve as a liaison with local community programs and courts. There are 258 people awaiting residential treatment. More alternatives to inpatient treatment are needed.

Pre-Trial Probation Supervision: Five (5) additional people are being assigned to this program, which provides Probation Officer (PO) supervision and monitoring for pretrial defendants referred by the Jail Re-Interview Program and coordinate outpatient services for defendants who would otherwise remain incarcerated on bond. The Judge has to authorize the person's release to adult probation with intensive outpatient services under a Probation Officer's supervision.

Probation Transition and Technical Violations Program: CSSD received funding to implement the program statewide; it is expected that an additional 28 people will be hired. This program targets inmates 90 days prior to release who have a term of probation following their discharge from correction custody, including those discharging at the end of a sentence from a correctional facility, halfway house, parole, transitional supervision, or a furlough. The purpose of the project is to identify a probationer's specific needs prior to release, in order to plan for transition into the community, reducing the likelihood of a violation of probation. The goal is to stabilize probationers during the first few weeks following release and transition them to traditional probation caseloads.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Updates:

Deputy Commissioner Rockholz reported that the federal funding received over the past three years for the Access To Recovery (ATR) program terminates in August, 2007. This program provided for the expansion of basic clinical services and, more importantly, recovery-supportive services such as temporary sober housing, childcare, transportation and the like -- in order to assist individuals in maintaining their recovery in the community. Clients from DOC, Judicial (CSSD) and DMHAS benefited. Although federal funding will end, DMHAS has requested funds to continue the most effective and widely utilized support services, and will reallocate a portion of its existing funds as needed.

DMHAS, on behalf of the Office of the Governor, is administering a \$4M Strategic Prevention Framework grant from the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention to develop a statewide coordinated effort focusing on reducing underage drinking. Several State agencies are involved in the initiative, and over \$2 million was recently awarded through competitive bidding to local community programs.

Deputy Commissioner Rockholz mentioned early discussions with DOC staff concerning how to coordinate services for offenders needing residential substance abuse treatment. DOC has been providing in-prison treatment in part through federal funding under the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners formula grant. This grant is expected to be virtually eliminated in the next Federal budget. Some states had great successes while most did not. According to Deputy Commissioner Rockholz, who consulted on RSAT in several states, academic evaluations found reductions in recidivism as much as 40-65% -- all in states

where private, non-profit providers ran the programs in the prisons and continued residential treatment in dedicated community-based aftercare. Connecticut has effectively used well-established private, non-profits to provide services for those offenders at 'end of sentence' with community-based services. The opportunity exists to better coordinate services to offenders returning to the community, many of whom end up in DMHAS-funded programs.

Behavioral Health Services Subcommittee:

A multi-agency system of services offers several opportunities to prevent incarceration or reduce bed days within the facilities for inmates with serious psychiatric disabilities:

- 1) There has been Crisis Intervention Training (CRT) for police officers in several cities and towns. This provides skills and clinical support for officers to reduce the likelihood of arrest for minor offenses.
- 2) Once incarcerated on bond, Jail Re-interview (CSSD) staff contact the individual at his/her correctional facility. In concert with DOC health service staff, a supervision/treatment plan is developed that can be presented to the court for review.
- 3) The DOC has consolidated mental health services to more effectively deliver services and coordinate with community agencies. A multi-agency meeting (DOC, CSSD, DMHAS, BOP, etc) is held monthly to review and plan for all inmates with psychiatric disorders who are leaving at end of sentence or eligible for early release. The DOC has contracted with DSS for two entitlement eligibility workers to insure entitlements are in place for disabled inmates prior to release.
- 4) The MHAIC project was designed to provide short-term housing and intervention for inmates along the above continuum of care. Two attempts to site the program were met with community opposition; alternatives to this are being explored again.
- 5) DMHAS-funded Jail Diversion clinicians are present in all 20 GA courts in the state every day to evaluate defendants in the court lock-up who have psychiatric disorders and, when appropriate, offer to the court an option of treatment in lieu of incarceration on a bond. DMHAS is improving the ability to track the number of defendants evaluated by jail diversion staff and, of these, the number diverted by the court. CSSD will start sending to DMHAS every month the number of defendants in the court lock-up for each court. These data will allow DMHAS to identify effectiveness of jail diversion in each court, inform allocation of resources, and identify barriers to diversion in specific courts.
- 6) DMHAS, CSSD, and DOC are meeting regularly to plan for cross-training of staff in each agency regarding positions that are newly-funded as a result of the 2006 PJOC recommendations. These new positions, and the ensuing collaborations, are expected to increase the number of pretrial defendants diverted from jail and reduce the number of probationers and parolees who are incarcerated on a violation of community conditions.

Comprehensive Criminal Justice Plan

Brian Austin mentioned that the immediate goal is to identify short term issues for the 2007 Plan (due in January), and then identify long term issues for development into the 2009 Plan. Commission Members are to forward their issues to Brian.Austin@po.state.ct.us or fax him at 860-418-6496. There was some discussion about the inclusion of social factors in the Plan (eg, poverty, racial/ethnicity disparities, family supports, children, 16 and 17 year olds, etc.)

Interagency Work Group Collaboratives

Brian Austin asked Commission Members to volunteer to work on at least one working group:

Prison and Jail Overcrowding and Re-entry

Theresa Lantz, Chair

William Carbone

Susan Storey

Kevin Kane

Thomas Kirk

Greg Everett

Brian Austin

Victim Services

Brian Austin, Chair

Nancy Kushins

Greg Everett

Susan Storey

Kevin Kane

DOC/Patrick Hynes

Prevention Policies

Patricia Wilson-Coker, Chair

Judge Lavery

William Carbone

Susan Storey

Thomas Kirk

Patricia Mayfield

Darlene Dunbar

George Coleman

There was some discussion about not duplicating the work of other ongoing working groups, such as the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. The JJAC staff will be invited to the next CJPAC meeting (December 14th) to summarize its activities.

Commission Member Rick Healey mentioned that the Commission has grown, with good communication skills and the ability to work together; he thought it was excellent that the Commission was broadened to include special representation.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am

Next Meeting

Thursday, December 14th, 2006 9AM