

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
Minutes for September 10, 2009**

**Legislative Office Building (LOB), Hearing Room 1B  
Hartford, CT  
Thursday September 10, 2009  
9AM-11AM**

**Members of the Commission:** Brian Austin, Chair, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management; William H. Carbone, Executive Director, Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division; Brian R. Murphy, Interim Commissioner, Department of Correction; Judge Patrick Carroll, Deputy Chief Court Administrator; Laurie Deneen, Public Member, Robert Farr, Chairman, Board of Pardon and Paroles; Thomas Kirk, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Nancy Kushins, Victims Services; Susan O. Story, Chief Public Defender; Claudette J. Beaulieu, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services..

In addition, Judith Rossi attended for Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; Leo C. Arnone attended for Susan Hamilton, Department of Children and Families; Ed Henion attended for John Danaher, Department of Public Safety;

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:16 am. The Commission members introduced themselves.

**Minutes:** Minutes of June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

**Public Comment:** There was no comment

**Discussion of Agency Updates:**

Brian Austin Undersecretary of OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPPD) and Lisa Secondo CJPPD Policy and Planning Manager prepared a PowerPoint presentation (attached) on the criminal justice formula grants authorized by American Recovery and Reinvestment Recovery Act 2009. The goals of the Recovery Act are to preserve and create jobs; promote economic recovery; provide long-term economic benefits and avoid reductions in essential services.

Office of Policy and Management Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division serves as the State Administrative Agency for two major formula grants funded by the Recovery Act- the Bryne Justice Assistance (JAG) Formula Grant (\$12.4 Million) and Stop Violence Against Women (STOP VAW) (\$1.8 Million) Formula Grant . The JAG program is a flexible, multi-purpose grant that may be used for prevention, intervention,

law enforcement, sanctions, courts and other functions of the criminal justice system. In compliance with federal program rules, approximately 40% of the formula grant funds are “passed-through” to local governments; approximately 60% of the funds are committed to state agency projects and 10% of the local and state agency funds are allocated for OPM administrative costs. The STOP VAW grant is restricted to addressing the criminal justice system response to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Federal program rules require a categorical distribution of funds: 30% for nongovernmental victim services, 25% for law enforcement, 25% for prosecution, 15% discretionary and 5% for courts.

The Governor’s Office proposed an allocation plan for the distribution of funds; the allocation plans were posted on the Connecticut RECOVERY web site for public comment. In an effort to expedite the flow of RECOVERY funds to local governments, CJPPD implemented a “fast-track” grant-making process which enabled the municipalities to receive training and complete the application and award process in less than three months.

Undersecretary Austin noted the loss of three Division employees through the RIP whose positions have not been refilled and the extensive staffing demands of managing the Recovery Act grants. He thanked his staff for their tireless efforts during this challenging period.

Brian Murphy Interim Commissioner of Department of Corrections reported that in July 2009 the community releases were 7% higher than the previous year and the inmate population was stable at 18,816. This estimation was less than the prior year by 279. There are over 200 inmates that have been assigned to helping Department of Corrections highway maintenance staff; it gives some of the prison population a chance to work in society again. DOC is implementing several cost-cutting measures such as energy conservation improvements and reductions in fleet operations. Due to the impact of Early Retirement Incentive Program, DOC lost 450 employees. DOC has reduced “overtime” expenditures by 4 million dollars during the last fiscal year. Deputy Warden and Supervisory positions have been reduced to streamline administration of facilities. With the support of JAG Recovery Act funds, DOC will expand its Video Conferencing capabilities which will generate significant savings in terms of transportation costs, personnel and fleet operations. Also, DOC anticipates that Tele-Learning will reduce future travel and training costs.

Commissioner Bob Farr, Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP) expects that the new web-based “Case Notes System”, will provide more comprehensive information on offenders and enable the Board members to more accurately assess risk. With the support of the JAG Recovery funds, the existing offender data system will be expanded and integrated into a more robust on-line offender information system that will allow greater sharing of data among DOC, BOPP, CSSD and local police departments. BOPP experienced a slight decrease in the number of hearings during the past 3 months due to ERIP, summer vacations and loss of experienced personnel.

The Judicial Branch reported that six courts previously scheduled for closure will remain open. The Branch lost 230 staff members due to the RIP. The Branch anticipates that the implementation of “electronic signatures” will generate cost savings as well as streamline processes for attorneys, court staff, police and the public.

The Judicial Branch will also install video conferencing technology with the support of Recovery Act JAG funds. Court Support Services Division commented that video-conferencing technology will reduce travel costs for probation officers and the “Jail Re-Interview” staff and make more efficient use of probation officers’ time as well as streamline program staff time. CSSD commented that the expansion and upgrade of the offender case information system will help create a seamless flow of information across the criminal justice system to help ensure offender accountability and public safety.

CSSD provided a Power Point presentation on their “Results Base Accountability Initiative (RBA)” to support staff performance as well as improve community safety through a reduction in recidivism. CSSD provided data indicating that RBA can identify service contractors that generate better outcomes with regard to recidivism. CSSD also plans to use RBA to increase productivity and produce a leaner more efficient agency. CSSD anticipates that they will no longer need to hire consultants to collect and analyze recidivism data given that CSSD now has access to the DPS criminal history records.

Thomas Kirk, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services reported that they are exploring alternatives to inpatient residential facilities. Research shows that community-based housing can help reduce service expenditures by as much as 65%. DMHAS is using \$1.1million in funds re-allocated from another program to develop temporary housing for offenders’ with substance abuse and mental health issues. DMHAS has an application pending for a \$1.5 million competitive grant with USDOJ to develop a collaborative community re-entry project with Hill Health Center in New Haven.

Dr. Michael Norko reported that Behavioral Health Subcommittee is focusing on three issue areas. The sub-committee is developing a pilot study of offenders with very serious criminal history and experiencing serious mental health issues. The study is limited by the small number of cases and needs to be revised to capture a larger study pool.

Connecticut existing sex offender registry is not consistent with the models being discussed at the federal level which require that registry be stratified based on type of crime versus risk level. The subcommittee is developing inter-agency sharing of forms that will enable agencies to release client information to another state agency in a more efficient and timely way.

Public Act 09-149 requires DMHAS to develop a statewide substance abuse plan in collaboration with other state agencies. The Plan must address issues such as coordination between DMHAS and DOC with regard to appropriate service levels and collaborative contracting between state agencies.

Leo Arnone, Department of Children and Families, reported that the Connecticut Juvenile Training School received national accreditation; and the Judicial Branch juvenile detention centers also received accreditation. Connecticut is possibly the only state to have all facilities accreditation by an independent national body. In addition, there was a 30% reduction in juvenile detention center admissions.

**Other Business:** Brian Austin announced that the second series of criminal justice cross-training conferences will take place at the Southern Connecticut State University Conference Center the week of March 22, 2010. The previous cross-training conferences which were held in New Haven and Hartford in 2008, and were very successful with maximum capacity attendance. CJPPD staff will coordinate with the criminal justice agencies to develop the conference topics and format.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:02am.

Remaining 2009 CJPAC Meetings

Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>      Legislative Office Building Room 1B  
Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>      Legislative Office Building Room 1B