

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)
DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, September 24, 2020
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Hosted on Microsoft Teams Live Event

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at approximately 9:10am

Welcome provided by Chairman Pelka

Attendance:

- Beth Hamilton, Executive Director of CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- Charlene Russell-Tucker, State Department of Education
- Chief Judge Patrick Carroll III and Director Gary Roberge — Judicial Branch
- Chris Burke, LCSW, LADC, Assistant Director DMHAS
- Christine Rapillo, Chief Public Defender
- Humayun Beg, CJIS
- James Kenney, Chief of Police Vernon Police Department
- Jane Siegal — Department of Veteran's Affairs
- Karen Jarmoc, Executive Director of CCADV
- Kevin Lawlor, Deputy Chief State's Attorney
- Nick Rodrigues District Administrator and DA Sharonda Carlos DOC
- Rich Sparaco, Executive Director, and Chairman Carleton Giles — BOPP
- Richard Cho, Executive Director of Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
- Vincent Russo, Department of Children and Families

Pelka acknowledged of the unrest in Louisville regarding Breonna Taylor case.

Discussion of adjustments made by agencies in responding to COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Review of Minutes from the June 25 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes by Chris Rapillo

Motion seconded by Commissioner Rovella

Announcement of Staff changes within CJPPD Research Unit by Kyle Baudoin

- Kendall Bobula, Associate Research Analyst has taken a position at the Department of Public Health
- We are currently recruiting to fill that position as a CCT Research Analyst track
- Filled Lead Planning Analyst vacancy with Kevin Neary

- Kevin Neary introduces himself.

3. Review of the September 2020 Monthly Indicators Report

Pelka walked through PowerPoint comparison of 2019 and 2020 criminal justice data.

4. Discussion of presentation options at future CJPAC meetings

Karen Jarmoc suggested two topics:

- (1) Dan Cargill could present data on dominant aggressor / dual arrest law change in follow-up to legislation on that topic from last year. Have seen a decrease in dual arrests.
- (2) Cargill just completed an intimate partner violence homicide toolkit and could be share information about that. She said that these topics could be combined into one presentation.

Richard Cho would be happy to provide an update on the DOC Rapid Rehousing program that CCEH has put together using CES. In addition, CCEH would love to talk about conversations CCEH has been having with Commissioner Rovella and local PDS to address the needs of people who are homeless. Have seen increases in the number of people who are panhandling and so on.

Pelka shared that there is a new Reentry Coordinator in DOC named Nicole Thibeault who has been working on this program.

Chris Rapillo suggested giving an update on changes to representation for parole revocation hearings. She would like to work with the Board and the DOC folks on this. It is a good example of how an increase in information sharing can make a huge impact.

Pelka shared a couple of ideas:

- (1) share a summary of the prosecutor data presentation that was given to the Criminal Justice Commission in July.
- (2) highlight the work of the CJPAC Victim's Issues Subcommittee regarding the victimization survey.
- (3) presentation on expansion of MOUD program at DOC.

5. CJPAC member and subcommittee updates

Pelka shared that Commissioner Quiros was nominated by Lamont to be Commissioner

DOC provided an update on their current inmate count. 25% reduction since COVID started. Agency priorities include safely managing COVID. The department is at a 3% positivity rate, with the majority being asymptomatic. Have removed COVID positives from Northern to MacDougall Walker to other facilities. Department doesn't currently have any symptomatic inmates. Have 4 offenders who are asymptomatic positive. Are working to introduce a plan to restart in person visiting. Have been doing virtual visits for youth but want to expand those to other facilities. Target date is October 15th. Have continued to work on reentry and are working with Dr Cho at CCEH. Are expanding MOUD. Are moving toward a distance learning model. Have received a federal ARES grant to provide job assistance to reintegrating offenders.

Pelka added that DOC has a new Victims Services Director, Ebonie Suggs.

ED Rich Sparaco provided update for BOPP. They brought pardon hearings back online this summer. They had been interrupted for 3 months. They granted about 126 pardons in July, which was “catch up” month. Hearings are being broadcasted on their website. Have seen parole grant rates increase dramatically to about 72%, and it has averaged about 60% over the last 6 months. Have also seen increase in transfer parole, i.e. can move people to parole 18 months in advance of their voted to parole date. BOPP is recipient of a grant from OPM and federal government to expand their video capacity and purchase improved equipment and hold all hearings virtually all the time. This should come about in approximately the next 6 months. 2018 law has had an effect on special parole rates. Also, sentencing trends have changed. In order to receive a sentence of special parole, you have to be serving a sentence of 2+ years, so we started talking about this in 2015, and if sentences were changed starting in 2016, we would be starting to see those changes now. BOPP did not kick off the special parole changes until the beginning of this year. Look forward to that continued collaboration.

Pelka – Perhaps at a future meeting we can introduce the new board members.

Charlene Russell Tucker from SDE – Schools are open. We have been working since June to help them safely re-open. Now we are working on supporting systems stay open and answering questions of districts.

Commissioner Rovella from DESPP – CT State Police are going to graduate 84 new trainees in October. Emergency Management is still working through getting bills paid from storms. Homeland Security – working on issues relating to elections and ransom-wear. They hit Hartford Public Schools hard, preventing them from opening schools. Are watching violent crime rates in bigger cities. Auto theft is still a big problem even those numbers are reported down.

Pelka – We will keep an eye on data relating to the trends you mentioned.

Attorney Rapillo from Public Defender’s Office – We continue to work with partners at Judicial as they open court operations. They received CARES Act funding to beef up technology and to focus on better communication with clients. Have reached out to DOC and are exploring whether they can provide tablets that would allow attorneys to do calls with clients. Have also used dollars to hire clerical staff and attorneys, who are conducting community based public defender events that would typically happen at court. Are very excited about that – have had some nice press coverage of the events and have been able to better help people understand what they do.

Deputy Chief State’s Attorney Lawlor from DCJ – Division is back at full staff in open court locations. They are attempting to work with Judicial and with Public Defenders to handle the cases as Judicial works through its backlog. They are also purchasing tablet technology and are rolling that out. They are also continuing training in rollout of case management system. Have been implementing trainings online through Teams. They continue to download case data through the Judicial Branch in coordination with CJIS and PDs. Also, today the CJC is meeting in order to appoint a replacement for Attorney Hardy and to appoint a new Inspector General. That appointment will then go to the legislature for the confirmation process there.

Chris Burke from DMHAS – At the inpatient units and CVH and Whiting there have been 0 positive COVID-19 cases since the end of July. No staff positive cases for 3 weeks. DMHAS was granted FEMA

/ SAMSA funding that provides crisis counseling relating to COVID. This was a phase 1 grant. The behavioral health subcommittee met on 9/3. They are focusing on resuming CJ functions. Emphasis on sustaining operations and ongoing and inevitable changes. Technology rules the day. Moving forward with competency to stand trial evaluations. 50 patients have been discharged from Whiting since July. Are discussing forensic outpatient system of care and how to best keep that system going. Everyone is collaborating well to meet the demand.

Director Humayun Beg, CJIS – CJIS has been working with Judicial and DCJ to bring the arrest workflow to all agencies. Also working with police departments and RMS providers. Are working to bring new DCJ system online and are hoping it will be online for GA-9 by end of October or later this fall. They have brought in a new Project Manager who is working with police departments. Are helping a lot of different agencies. Now state marshals can look up driver's license info to serve their summons, for example. Are working with CCSU regarding Use of Force data and are working with Sentencing Commission.

Vin Russo, DCF – We have been very busy. Put a hold on parent visitation to kids in foster care due to COVID. DCF never closed. Solnit North and South have not closed at all, and no children there contracted COVID. Out of 3,200 staff, only had about 40 people diagnosed with COVID. Foster parents bore the brunt of the illness. Have now begun face to face visitation again, in consultation with medical team. Have provided PPE and visitations are mostly occurring outdoors. Have been working with Judicial Branch about getting cases heard regarding permanency, adoption, termination of parental rights, etc. have been working over the summer with JJPOC and IOYouth on 2 major initiatives that the Department will be taking on strengthening the prevention work of YSBs and JRBs to do a pilot program with some of the larger programs to beef up the services they can provide to divert youth from criminal justice path. Recently received community mental health block grant which will help with diversion efforts. Also, the department is planning to look at education of children across the JJ spectrum, particularly those detained by both corrections and CSSD to make sure education is being properly administered and helping where they can. DCF has a racial justice work group and they are taking a hard look at how communities of color are affected by their system and are working hard to be an anti-racist organization.

Gary Roberge, Judicial Branch – Thanks to everyone in this meeting in trying to make progress in reopening the courts. Judge Gold took over for Judge Alexander as Chief Judge of Criminal Matters. Judge Alexander was elevated to the Appellate Court. Focus on PPE, plexiglass, social distancing, and making sure everyone is safe in courts. Have over 100 virtual courtrooms now across the Branch, but know we need to get people back into the courts as well. Are working to get email addresses for people who can participate in remote virtual hearings. Have done excellent work with Dave Maiga at DOC to get virtual set-ups in their facilities – it is working out very well, and DOC can outfit the remainder of their facilities now, as well as a line into pretrial facilities. They were able to dismiss about 5500 cases over the past few months. In CSSD, they have implemented operational protocols to increase field and office work. Are focusing on ones that are in non-compliance / in crisis. Most of CSSD folks have ability to work remotely now, if need be. Continue to look at ways to increase business as safely as possible.

Jane Siegal from Veteran's Affairs – DVA is holding its Stand Down event today and tomorrow – a one stop venue to provide services to Veterans. Have a mix of virtual and in person events. Visitors are restricted from campus, but visits have been taking place at skilled nursing facilities. Regular

admissions to facilities have resumed. DVA is happy to work with any veterans returning from Corrections.

Beth Hamilton from the Alliance to End Sexual Violence – Continue to see an uptick in survivors reaching out. Have had success supporting survivors virtually. Are looking forward to getting back to doing in person work. Attorneys continue to support victims and survivors in person and through Teams. Might be worthwhile to have that team do a presentation on some of the challenges of supporting victims and some of the collaborations that they use. Advocates have resumed doing hospital and police accompaniments for survivors.

Richard Cho from CCEH – Update regarding their upcoming housing conference. Please register for this free event.

Karen Jarmoc from CCADV –Hoteling costs are high to hotel victims of DV, given that programs cannot exceed shelter limits. We are meeting with funders to discuss this. CCADV released a report regarding online restraining order option – unfortunately, the legislature did not take this up during the special session. Working with Judicial regarding remote hearings.

6. Adjourn

Pelka thanked everyone for their participation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:11am.