

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Draft Minutes

Thursday, October 29, 2020

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Hosted on Microsoft Teams

Meeting was called to order at approximately 9:05am

I. Attendance

- Lucy Nolan, Director of Policy and Public Relations, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence;
- Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner, State Department of Education;
- Judge Patrick Carroll III, Chief Court Administrator, Connecticut Judicial Branch;
- Gary Roberge, Director of Court Support Services Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch;
- Dr. Michael Norko, Director of Forensic Services, and Chris Burke, Assistant Director, Division of Forensic Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services;
- Christine Rapillo, Chief Public Defender, Division of Public Defender Services;
- Humayun Beg, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information System;
- James Kenney, Chief of Police, Vernon Police Department;
- Thomas Saadi, Commissioner, and Jane Siegel, Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Geralyn O'Neil-Wild, Director of Legal Advocacy, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
- Richard Colangelo, Chief State's Attorney, and Kevin Lawlor, Deputy Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice;
- Angel Quiros, Commissioner, Cheryl Cepelak, Deputy Commissioner, Nick Rodriguez and Sharonda Carlos, District Administrators, Department of Correction;
- Carleton Giles, Chairman, and Richard Sparaco, Executive Director, Board of Pardons and Paroles; and
- Vincent Russo, Legislative Program Director, Department of Children and Families.

II. Opening Remarks

Chairman Marc Pelka gave introductory remarks and noted that he would have to depart early because of a request from the Governor's office. The CJPAC meeting was held virtually and recorded by CTN.

Pelka acknowledged our virtual reality and thanked the agencies and organizations administrators for making time to join today under different formats for convening as a commission.

He announced that Eleanor Michael, Assistant Division Director has taken a position with the Department of Administrative Services.

October minutes were approved: A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Judge Carroll and the motion was seconded by BOPP Chairman Giles

III. Presentation and Discussion

A presentation, "Recap of the First Analysis of Prosecutor Data (PA 19-59)," was delivered by Pelka and Kyle Baudoin, Policy Development Coordinator, Office and Policy and Management.

Baudoin also presented highlights from the November *Monthly Indicators Report*

IV. Agency Updates

The Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Karen Jarmoc and Dan Cargill will present at the November CJPAC meeting on dual arrest data analysis that the coalition conducted as well as information regarding homicide and intimate partner violence.

Department of Correction

Provided an update on the Department of Correction's response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights of the update included non-contact social visitation in a manner following CDC and DPH guidelines. Every visit, since visitation started in October 15, is prescheduled, and so far, 886 visits have been logged.

The pandemic has heightened demand on technology and video capabilities, such as for in-person court proceedings. The department has deployed staff to into every correctional facility to do wiring to upgrade technology. This is a challenge, as the newest correctional facility is 27 years old, but the department is thinking creatively and adapting to technology needs.

CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence

A text-to-talk feature is going to be rolling out, with statewide deployment sometime at the beginning of next year, for victims of sexual violence to help survivors communicate with counselors. The Alliance is working with its member centers on this initiative.

Last week, Representative Jillian Gilchrest and Professor Erin Murphy from the American Law Institute presented at an event on model penal codes for sexual assault, which were last updated in 1962, to codify codification of consent in the criminal statute.

The Alliance has also provided testimony and input to the Police Accountability and Transparency Task Force on the needs of sexual assault and domestic violence victims and survivors.

Department of Veterans Affairs

DVA is currently accepting applications for admissions to its residential facility as well as its five family homes and skilled nursing facility. DVA does not have restrictions, either under state law or under federal law, related to individuals with criminal records or currently awaiting prosecution.

A veteran re-entering the community who remains in need of a referral for housing, health, and mental health care services is encouraged to contact the DVA or even Commissioner Saadi directly.

Division of Criminal Justice

The division is working intensively on rollout of the electronic case management system. The division is working on an intensive process to receive 10 years of court data from the Judicial Branch.

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Noted the entry in the *Monthly Indicators Report* that between March and September 316 people were granted transfer parole and 151 have received early parole discharges.

Parole hearings are up, both compared to last year and from the prior month, and the grant rate is approximately 68%.

The BOPP is still conducting pardons for petitioners.

Division of Public Defender Services

The division is adjusting to changes in the case flow at court under the court mitigation plan.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

The department's Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program, funded by the a CCP grant from FEMA and SAMSHA, entered its second phase on September 25th. This phase will run until June 24, 2021 and supports direct community outreach in congregate care settings to assist vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19.

Due to COVID-19 impacts, a backlog in DUI case processing has resulted in challenges for the DUI Pretrial Intervention Program. Program providers have not been able to retain clinicians to conduct assessments during the slow-down in referral fees. DMHAS is monitoring that, as the DUI case backlog begins processing, PTIP providers are equally able to ramp up and rebuild its clinician network.

COVID-19 continues to pose challenges for conducting evaluations of competency to stand trial. Spaces often used for these evaluations do not typically meet COVID-19 guidelines for accommodating multiple people, while video conferencing capabilities are also limited. DMHAS is meeting with Judicial Branch CSSD and Court Operations to develop additional options for increasing video capacity with COVID-19 cases rising.

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

CCADV recently released its dominant aggressor policy brief, citing positive results from Public Act 18-5. Since legislative enactment, there was a decline in dual arrests. This represents an impressive outcome so far and gratitude is owed to law enforcement across the state for its efforts to achieve that outcome. A meeting with stakeholders will be held next month regarding next steps, including the potential impact of COVID-19. Another step includes engaging the Division of Criminal Justice regarding training and assisting prosecutors.

The Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division

More people are entering the courts. The Judicial Branch is being thoughtful regarding public-health guidance with respect to the positivity rate. As part of this effort, the Branch is using technology and other adaptation to maintain operations while attending to public-health consideration.

The Branch is working hard on implementation of section of *An Act Concerning Police Accountability*, specifically with respect to juvenile probation.

In 2018, juvenile delinquency cases were transferred from DCF to the Branch, which has worked to create a secure community-based model, as intended by the legislature. In November, the Branch will have a new secure community program up and running.

V. Closing

Following Pelka's departure at approximately 10:15 am, Baudoin chaired the remainder of the meeting.

He shared that the next CJPAC meeting would be November 19, one week prior than normal, due to Thanksgiving.

Chairman Giles and moved to close the meeting, a motion seconded by Attorney Rapiello.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 am.