

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

MINUTES DRAFT

Thursday, July 21, 2022
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Hosted on Microsoft Teams

A special meeting of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission was held on July 21, 2022. Due to public health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission's meeting was conducted on Microsoft Teams. The meeting convened at 9:00 am, with the following members present:

- **Chairman Marc Pelka**, Undersecretary of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
- **Judge Patrick Carroll III**, Chief Court Administrator, Connecticut Judicial Branch
- **Gary Roberge**, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch
- **Dr. Michael Norko**, Director, Division of Forensic Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- **James Rovella**, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
- **Jane Siegel**, Attorney, Department of Veterans Affairs
- **Beth Hamilton**, Executive Director, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- **Sharonda Carlos**, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Correction
- **Meghan Scanlon**, President & CEO, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- **Patrick J. Griffin**, Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice
- **Carleton Giles**, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles
- **Patrick Ridenhour**, Chief of Police, Danbury Police Department
- **James McGennis**, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information System

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Pelka opened the meeting by welcoming the members and introducing each member that was present. Chairman Pelka introduced a new Commission Member, Executive Director McGennis, and congratulated him on his new role at CJIS and thanked him for joining the Commission. Executive Director McGennis shared his excitement for being a part of the work being done by CJIS and within CJPAC.

II. Review of draft minutes from the March 31, 2022, meeting

Gary Roberge, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, made a motion to approve the minutes, motion seconded by Chief State's Attorney Griffin.

III. 2022 Correctional Population Update and June Monthly Indicators Spotlight

Marc Pelka, Undersecretary, OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

Kevin Neary, Policy Development Coordinator, OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

The opening slide of the correctional population update showed that between 2016-2019 each year demonstrated a definite linear downward trend. The analysis showed that most years, there were two seasonal peaks, one in February and another between July and November. That is contrasted with data from 2020-2022, which illustrates that each year had its own unique shape. These years have not followed previous trends or seasonal peak patterns. The presenters provided a mid-year update of the correctional population forecast. The Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division's (CJPPD) forecast estimated the actual population within a variance of about 2% in the early months of 2022. The actual correctional population falls well within the range of estimates that CJPPD presented earlier this year.

The June Spotlight highlighted data showing that the DOC sentenced population has decreased notably following the pandemic's onset. A significant portion of that decrease is attributed to the immediate reductions in the population with sentences two years or less after March 2020. The growth in the correctional population during 2022 can be traced to the increase in the pretrial population and the population sentenced to two years or less. The population of individuals with sentences of two years or more has yet to show signs of significant growth.

IV. Overview and discussion of the Byrne JAG Strategic Plan

Marc Pelka, Undersecretary, OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

Valina Carpenter, Policy Development Coordinator, OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

The presenters began with an overview of the Byrne JAG program. The program is flexible and allows jurisdictions to use the funding to address needs, fill gaps, establish evidence-based practices, and spur innovation. As the State Administering Agency for Connecticut, OPM has to create a strategic plan to describe how it intends to use the funds when submitting its application. OPM CJPPD's staff began developing the strategic plan early in 2022 by seeking criminal justice system stakeholder input, engaging national experts, public comment, and data analysis. There are five U.S. Department of Justice purpose areas for the 2022 strategic plan:

1. Law Enforcement
2. Prevention and Education
3. Corrections, Community Corrections and Re-Entry
4. Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement
5. Prosecution and Court Programs, Including Indigent Defense

Program objectives for each purpose area were presented and discussed. The presenters explained the next steps in the FY2022 Byrne JAG application process. In addition, the 2022-2024 Byrne JAG state discretionary grant cycle will have a grant program announcement posted in the coming months. Finally, the recently enacted Safer Communities Act and the \$750 million it includes for State Crisis Intervention Programs were addressed. Federal partners and national organizations have been providing updates, and a State Crisis Intervention Programs grant opportunity is anticipated.

V. Other updates and planning

Chairman Pelka and Dr. Norko updated the Commission on the national soft launch of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, which occurred on July 16, 2022. Chairman Pelka shared a 988 Toolkit with the Commission members. Dr. Norko indicated that early data suggested that Connecticut's launch had successfully created an awareness of the change to the new number. In addition, he provided information regarding the text and online chat services that are now available.

VI. Adjourn

Chairman Pelka thanked the members of the commission for their participation.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am

The next meeting is September 29, 2022, at 9:00 am on Teams videoconference and YouTube.

