

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)
DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, March 31, 2022
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Hosted on Microsoft Teams

A regular meeting of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission was held on March 31, 2022. Due to public health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission's meeting was conducted on Microsoft Teams. The meeting convened at 9:00am, 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**, Director, Court Support Services Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch
- **Chris Burke**, Assistant 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
- **Kathleen Brennan**, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services
- **Beth Hamilton**, Executive Director, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- **Angel Quiros**, Commissioner, Department of Correction
- **Meghan Scanlon**, President & CEO, Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- **Christine Perra Rapillo**, Chief Public Defender, Division of Public Defender Services
- **Kevin Lawlor**, Deputy Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice
- **John Frassinelli**, Division Director, Connecticut State Department of Education
- **Carleton Giles**, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles
- **Patrick Ridenhour**, Chief of Police, Danbury Police Department
- **Laurie Deneen**, Public Member

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Pelka thanked members for dedicating time to today's meeting. Chairman Pelka announced this would be Deputy Commissioner Brennan's last CJPAC meeting as she was retiring on April 1, 2022. He thanked her for her service to the State of Connecticut at the Department of Social Services and CJPAC. Chairman Pelka introduced a new Commission Member, Chief Ridenhour, and thanked him for his willingness to be a part of the Commission.

Lastly, Chairman Pelka acknowledged that Governor Lamont had nominated Chief Public Defender Rapillo to be a Superior Court Judge. He thanked her for all that she has done for CJPAC and her work at the Division of Public Defender Services..

II. Review of draft minutes from the December 16, 2021 meeting

Carleton Giles, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles, made motion to approve the minutes, motion seconded by Director Roberge.

III. Presentation of the Recidivism Study and the Annual Forecast of the Correctional Population Reports

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

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

The presenters began with the definition of recidivism used for this report. OPM studied sentenced individuals released or discharged into the community from a correctional facility in 2015, 2017, and 2018. The data showed that cumulative recidivism rates for the 2015 and 2017 cohorts were consistent, but rates for the 2018 cohort fell below the others over three years. The recidivism rate was similar across all three cohorts at six and twelve months but began to vary notably at two- and three-years following release. The Covid-19 pandemic was highlighted as a significant contributing factor. The presenters provided data showing how the pandemic had impacted arrest trends. They believe these sustained shifts in arrest volume influenced the two- and three-year recidivism rates of the 2018 cohort. In addition, data on recidivism among women and the effect having prior sentences have on recidivism was presented. The presentation of the Recidivism Study concluded with priorities for future studies, including expanding the study to include alternative recidivism measures.

The presentation shifted to the Annual Forecast of the Correctional Population Report. Before 2021 and 2022, OPM's annual correctional population forecast has tracked the actual population within 5%. As of February 1, 2022, the correction facility population was 9,719, which is 8% higher than what OPM estimated in last year's forecast. The growth of the pretrial population was identified as the main factor in the rise in the correction population. The Covid-19 pandemic caused a significant disruption in the long-term population trends. OPM provided insight into how the uncertainty of the last two years factored into its approach to this year's forecast. The methodology used to create the 2022 forecast was provided by the presenters.

IV. Updates and Planning

No new updates were provided.

V. Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 am

The next meeting is May 26, 2022, at 9:00 am on Teams videoconference and YouTube.