

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC) DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, May 26, 2022
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Hosted on Microsoft Teams

A regular meeting of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission was held on May 26, 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
- **Julie Revaz**, Director of Administration, 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, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- **Angel Quiros**, Commissioner, Department of Correction
- **Geri Wild**, Director of Legal Advocacy, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- **Patrick J. Griffin**, Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice
- **John Frassinelli**, Division Director, Connecticut State Department of Education
- **Richard Sparaco**, Executive Director, Board of Pardons and Paroles
- **Patrick Ridenhour**, Chief of Police, Danbury Police Department
- **Laurie Deneen**, Public Member

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, Chief State's Attorney Griffin, and congratulated him on his recent appointment. Chairman Pelka and Commissioner Rovella offered thoughts and reflection on recent tragic national events related to gun violence.

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

Patrick Ridenhour, Chief of Police, Danbury Police Department, made motion to approve the minutes, motion seconded by Chief State's Attorney Griffin.

III. Review of recent editions of the Monthly Indicators Report

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

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

The March Spotlight provided a chart that showed the composition of the correctional population from January 2010-January 2020 remained relatively consistent, with the sentenced population accounting for 75% of the facility population and those held on pretrial accounting for between 20-25% of that population. However, at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the pretrial population increased its share of the DOC facility population, even as the correctional population dropped well below pre-pandemic counts. The Commission Members discussed the impact this change has had on DOC and the effects of the pandemic on the Criminal Justice System.

The April Spotlight highlighted data showing correctional population changes over the past decade for the first five months of the calendar year. In addition, the presenters shared information regarding DOC Community Supervision and Adult Probation. The Special Parole population went down 24% from April 1, 2021, to April 1, 2022. Conversely, Adult Probation has seen a slight increase of 2.3% from January to April 2022.

IV. Overview and update of the Byrne JAG Program

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

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

The presenters provided details on the life of Officer Byrne and the reasons why the United States Department of Justice (US DOJ) chose to name this program after him. The Byrne JAG Program is designed to be flexible and allow jurisdictions to use the funding to address needs, test and replicate evidence-based practices and spur innovation. Connecticut was one of eight states that had Byrne JAG funds withheld once the US DOJ placed immigration-related special conditions on the grant program in June of 2017. The Biden-Harris administration rescinded those conditions in 2021. That decision freed up funds withheld in FY2017, FY2018, FY2019, and FY2020. Byrne JAG funds are divided into local-level and state-level funds. Local-level funds are allocated using a formula based on crime rate and population. OPM is preparing a process to allocate state-level funds, and a grant program announcement will be posted online when it is ready. In addition, OPM has begun preparing for the strategic planning process in anticipation of the release of the 2022 Byrne JAG Solicitation.

V. Other updates and planning

Dr. Norko provided an update on the Enhanced Forensic Respite Bed Pilot Program located in Bridgeport. He shared some early positive data and indicated the team was eager to learn more as it continued thinking about ways to enhance the program and possibly expand to other sites.

VI. Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am

The next meeting is July 28, 2022, at 9:00 am on Teams videoconference and YouTube.