

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
State Capitol – Room 410
Minutes for April 08, 2010 Meeting
9:00 AM

Members present: Brian Austin, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management, *Chairperson*; William H. Carbone, Executive Director, Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division; Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender; Robert Farr, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Parole; Brian K. Murphy, Acting Commissioner, Department of Correction; Lt. Ed Henion, Department of Public Safety; Nancy Kushins; Patricia Rehmer, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Attorney Richard Healey.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:10am. The Commission members introduced themselves.

The minutes for the February meeting were unanimously accepted.

Public Comment: There was no comment.

Agency Updates: Undersecretary Austin updated the Commission on the success of the Connecticut Criminal Justice Cross-Training Conference held on March 25th at Southern Connecticut State University. As with the past cross—training conferences, there was a very positive response to the format and content of the conference. Evaluation surveys were distributed at the conference and CSSD is preparing an analysis of the response. CTN was present at the conference and taped several of the sessions which are available on the CTN website. Mr. Austin encouraged those who did not attend the cross training to visit the CJPPD website and review the PowerPoint slides from each of the break-out sessions. Several agencies and attendees requested a future conference to allow additional staff access to the training. Mr. Austin intends on considering another conference this year.

Ivan Kuzyk from the Research Unit in Office of Policy and Management's (OPM) Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division was introduced by Undersecretary Austin to update the Commission members on a study of parolees that he is conducting. He discussed how using the 2010 Prisoner Recidivism Study as a departure point, OPM has begun an analysis of recidivism among specific offender groups. Approximately 2,522 offenders were released to parole during 2005 study period. Using the same datasets that were used from the offender study, now OPM can track parolees, exclusively. Mr. Kuzyk spoke of how there is a need to better understand how parolees perform while they are on supervised parole. This study will allow us to track more parolees. Please see Mr. Kuzyk's attached PowerPoint Presentation for more information.

Commissioner Brian Murphy updated members on the prison population. It has been steady at 18,320. The incarcerated population has gone down from the previous year by approximately 740 while the unsentenced population is approximately 64 higher than last year. The

Commissioner also noted that population being supervised in the community is higher by an average of 228.

Commissioner Murphy update the Commission on the collection of the DNA samples: to date approximately 2500 have been taken and there have been 413 refusals. DOC is working with the DCJ and DPS to appropriately handle the refusals. DOC has converted its process to have all offenders swabbed at the time of intake.

Director Cheryl Cepelek of the DOC presented a handout on the CJPAC- Reentry Strategy Update. Ms. Cepelek discussed the goals of the strategy: Public Safety/Reduce Recidivism; Organizational/Cultural Changes; Risk Reduction Case Management. Some other goals include Integrated Treatment- Medical; Mental Health & Substance Abuse; Employment; and building Capacity of Local Communities; Community Corrections; Data and Evaluation. Ms. Cepelek informed the committee that a draft report is being prepared by the Prison/Jail Overcrowding – Reentry Working Group and would be sent out to the members for review and comment.

Executive Director William Carbone introduced Dr. Steve Cox of Central Connecticut State University to present a PowerPoint presentation on the evaluations of the Probation Transition Program (PTP) and Technical Violations Unit (TVU) programs administered by the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch.

Dr. Cox summarized the Probation Transition Program (PTP) and its goals. Dr. Cox also discussed the Technical Violations Unit (TVU) and its goals. Statewide expansion of both programs occurred in February of 2007. Please see Dr. Cox's attached PowerPoint presentation for more details.

Members discussed the need to address employment issues for offenders whom are re-entering the community. All agreed that finding a job and keeping a job is a significant challenge to many offenders especially given the depressed job market.

A brief updated on the activities of the Behavioral Health Subcommittee was provided by Dr. Michael Norko.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:20 am.