

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
July 13, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Members of the Commission Present: Brian Austin, incoming Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management; Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Department of Correction, Chair; Judge William Lavery, Chief Court Administrator; Commissioner Thomas Kirk, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Commissioner Patricia Wilson-Coker, Department of Social Services; Commissioner Darlene Dunbar, Department of Children and Families; Commissioner Patricia Mayfield, Department of Labor; Associate Commissioner George Coleman, Department of Education; William Carbone, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch; Gerard Smyth, Chief Public Defender; Gregory Everett, Chairman of the Board of Pardons and Paroles; Laurie Deneen, Commission Member; Rick Healey, Commission Member; Nancy Kushins, Commission Member; and Judith Rossi representing the Chief State's Attorney.

Others Present: Michael Murphy, Patrick Hynes, Michael Aiello, Jerry Stowell, Peter Rockholz, Dan Bannish, Deborah DelPrete Sullivan, Carol Salsbury, Lisa Secondo, Deborah Fuller, Gail Sturges, Susan Hamilton, Kate Robinson, Tom Berendt, Loel Meckel, Melissa McCaw, Karl Lewis, John Forbes and Linda Hothan.

The meeting convened at 9:04 AM.

New Commission members were introduced:

Brian Austin, Undersecretary, Office of Policy and Management - Chair (eff. 7/24/06)
Darlene Dunbar, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families
Patricia H. Mayfield, Commissioner, Department of Labor
George A. Coleman, Associate Commissioner, Department of Education

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Correspondence: Welcoming correspondence including copies of the *Commission on Prison and Jail Overcrowding Report, 2006*, had been sent to the new statutory members.

Minutes of the May 4, 2006 PJOC meeting: Judge Lavery asked for his name to be added to those Commission members in attendance. Amended minutes approved unanimously.

Overview of OPM's new Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPPD)

OPM presented an overview of its Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division pursuant to PA 06-193 (effective 7/1/06). Activities will be collaborative, based on consensus, and will be clear and understandable. Some outputs, in the short-term, include but are not limited to:

A Comprehensive Reentry Strategy (due 1/1/07)

A Plan to Promote a More Effective and Cohesive State Criminal Justice System (due 1/15/07)

*A Reporting System that is Able to Track Trends and Outcomes:
Admissions and Releases (due 11/1/06)
Recidivism of Offenders (due 1/1/07)*

*A Reporting System to Define Outcomes for Major Programs and
Delineate Strategies to Measure Outcomes (due 1/1/07)*

Develop Population Projections for the Correctional System (due 11/1/06)

Make Computations of Daily Costs and Compare Interagency Costs of Services

Commissioner Dunbar noted that there are several definitions of recidivism, and that a common, agreed-upon definition should be developed.

Commissioner Wilson-Coker noted that 'prevention' should be emphasized in the future; Commissioner Coleman noted that he believed that 'prevention' was contained within PA06-193 §2(b)(5): the CJPPD *shall recommend means to improve the deterrent and rehabilitative capabilities of the criminal justice system*. Brian Austin stated that the prevention of people entering the criminal justice system would indeed be an element in the new OPM responsibilities.

Behavioral Health Collaboratives

DOC reported that there were 277 DOC inmates with serious mental health issues released back to the community (this is 60% more than last year). Of these 277 people, 167 have had previous DMHAS contact, and 110 have serious/persistent mental health problems. One-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the people with serious mental illness are released to shelters. A big problem is homelessness - many communities will not accept these individuals.

DMHAS summarized the status of programs:

Connecticut Offender Reentry Program (CORP) received federal funding through December 2006, after which pickup will be with state funds appropriated for this PJOC initiative.

Women's Jail Diversion programs: The Community Mental Health Affiliates (CMHA) covers the New Britain and Bristol courts, and the Capitol Region Mental Health Center (CRMHC) covers 2 courts in Hartford. The CMHA program has been supported with federal funds which are ending and pickup will be with state funds appropriated for this PJOC initiative. The CRMHC

program received \$1.2M in federal funds for the next 3 years to expand the program in the 2 Hartford courts to serve men and women in trauma-informed manner.

Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) are partnerships between the local police and the community provider network, which provide for a joint response to crisis in the community involving persons with behavioral health disorders, reducing the need for arrest and resulting in safer and more effective outcomes. These programs assist their communities as a whole with a broader, more effective response to people in crisis.

The Mental Health Alternative to Incarceration Program (MHAIC), a pretrial alternative to jail for those needing a high level of psychiatric services, has been re-bid due to siting problems of the residential component;

The Day Reporting Centers Program is operational for those with specific clinical, legal and/or social issues which preclude eligibility in traditional jail diversion services. The Day Reporting program has been very successful in keeping people out of jail, especially the Hartford model. It is intended that the model be expanded to other major urban areas.

Commissioner Kirk reported that Connecticut, through the Governor's Office, had received a Mental Health Transformation Grant for infrastructure activities. By September 2006, Connecticut must report to the federal government for continued transformation projects for the future. Town meetings have been held throughout the State for policy and planning strategy. Commissioner Kirk noted that Connecticut was one of 7 mental health transformation states, and that the challenge is to produce a report to transform the state's mental health system for submission to feds in September. The feds will target states that move to a voucher system to receive Access To Recovery (ATR) grants to purchase recovery support services. Also, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) will fund jail diversion initiatives for people with trauma histories.

Offender Services Collaboration:

DOC, in conjunction with the Community Renewal Team (CRT) in Hartford, has established a supportive housing program designed to serve inmates with mental health and addiction problems who have been cycling between shelters and prisons/jails. CRT operates about 15 scattered apartment sites. Supportive housing is critical to break the cycle of the homeless going to jail. Connecticut has received the Ashlands Supporting Housing Award to establish 659 housing units.

Old Business: there was no Old Business.

New Business:

Judge Lavery reported that a legislative committee, the Juvenile Jurisdiction Planning and Implementation Committee, is mandated by PA 06-187 (§16) to plan for the implementation of any changes in the juvenile justice system that would be required in order to extend jurisdiction in delinquency matters and proceedings to include 16 and 17 year olds within the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters. On or before February 1, 2007, the committee shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the committee's findings, together with any recommendations for appropriate legislation, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and human services. Judge Lavery noted that, if implemented, this change would have a huge impact on the State's budget (personnel and services).

Commissioner Coleman reported on the escalation of young people, especially minority females, into the court system. There was some general discussion about disparity (racial, ethnic, gender and age) in the criminal justice system.

Commissioner Dunbar noted that there has been a significant amount of work between DOC and DCF concerning the Manson Youth and York facilities; she offered to make a presentation at a future Commission meeting.

Gerard Smyth, Chief Public Defender, announced his retirement September 1st, and expressed his appreciation to the Commission for its support and assistance to the Office of the Chief Public Defender. There was a round of applause.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:16 a.m.