

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
February 8, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Members of the Commission Present: Brian Austin, Chair, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management; Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Department of Correction; Commissioner Thomas Kirk, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Judge William Lavery, Chief Court Administrator; William Carbone, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch; Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender; Robert Farr, Interim Chair, Board of Pardons and Paroles; Nancy Kushins, Commission Member; Richard Healey, Commission Member; Chief Francisco Ortiz, Commission Member; Don DeVore representing the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families; Scott Newgass representing the Commissioner of the Department of Education; Diana Mason representing the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services; and Debra Keel representing the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

Others Present: Peter Rockholz, Brian Carlow, Carol Salsbury, John Lahda, Erin Leavitt-Smith, Patrick Hynes, Randy Braren, Karl Lewis, Dan Bannish, Judith Rossi, Loel Meckel, Louise Pyers, Brian Hill, Christine Fortunato, Tom Berendt, John Forbes, Lisa Secondo, Linda Deconti, and Linda Hothan.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:04am. He introduced Robert Farr (present) as the Interim Chair of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, and Michael Starkowski (absent) as the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Social Services.

Minutes of the December 14, 2006 meeting; approved unanimously.

Correspondence: The two new members of the Commission, Mr. Starkowski and Mr. Farr, both received welcome packages.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Presentation: Erin Leavitt-Smith, *DMHAS' Forensic Services Re-Entry Programs*

Many of the inmates in the facilities of the Department of Correction have psychiatric disorders or disabilities. DMHAS has a 10-year history of working to identify these inmates in an attempt to make sure that they receive needed services, to divert them from the judicial system, and to bridge the gap between the institution and the community. Initiated in 1996, the Interagency Committee is comprised of DMHAS, DOC, Parole, Probation, and community providers. Sentenced males are referred to Local Mental Health Authorities 3-6 months prior to release; a representative from the LMHA visits the inmate prior to

release; an appropriate discharge plan is developed, and the case is followed by DOC/DMHAS Liaison to ensure services are secured.

The goal of the Connecticut Offender Reentry Program (CORP) is to increase engagement in treatment while reducing recidivism through early identification, intervention and sustained outreach strategies. CORP is a collaboration between DMHAS, DOC, CSSD, Parole, Labor, Workforce Investment Board, Families in Crisis, Community Partners in Action, and Faith Based Organizations. The purpose of CORP is to enhance reentry services for offenders with psychiatric disabilities returning to the community after an extended period of incarceration; the goal is to increase engagement in treatment while reducing recidivism through early identification, intervention and sustained outreach services. The target population is men and women at Garner or York with significant psychiatric disabilities who are 6-12 months away from release back to Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport. They are referred to the Local Mental Health Agency (Capitol Region MH Center in Hartford, Connecticut MH Center in New Haven, and the Greater Bridgeport MH Center in Bridgeport) which begins (pre-release) discharge planning including life skills development, culturally appropriate intensive case management, integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment services, and the transitional support network of getting entitlements, housing, religious support and peer mentoring. Post-release services include integrated substance abuse and mental health services, housing, case management, entitlement assistance, and liaison with parole and probation.

The Transitional Case Management (TCM) partners DMHAS and DOC, and targets men 18 years and older with a substance abuse history. Pre-release case management planning is begun 3 months prior to release; post-release services include outpatient substance abuse treatment, intensive case management, and housing support with links to the Access To Recovery (ATR) Grant.

Chief Public Defender Storey noted that the Public Defender offices have social worker staff to identify people with mental health issues for diversion from the court system. Commissioner Kirk noted that the TCM program was specifically geared to higher functioning people who therefore need a carefully crafted plan. There was general discussion that Connecticut's interagency collaborations have affected re-arrest rates, and despite the repetitive nature of the problem, the State has been successful in freeing up beds.

OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Update:

With respect to the forecasting activities:

- The monthly admissions and release report is done; it can be located on the OPM website at www.opm.state.ct.us
- Annual correctional population forecasting study is drafted

- Annual recidivism study is drafted

The status of the policy and planning activities:

- Biennial Comprehensive Plan is in progress
- Annual Reentry Strategy is in progress
- Sentencing Task Force has begun

The Criminal Justice Forecast process flowchart:

- Define goals and policy objectives
- Establish policy work group
- Collect and analyze historical data
- Identify future policy assumptions
- Select projection technique
- Complete, interpret, and present projections
- Monitor and update projections

The System Assessment Model:

System Mapping: System mapping documents the processing of cases or offender flow through the criminal justice system. System maps visually represent how the system operates; they are often enhanced with additional information such as key decision makers and decision points, the duration between system “steps,” and the volume of cases or offenders flowing through the system in a given period.

Population Analysis: An offender population analysis involves a detailed examination of the number and type of offenders in the system, their “profiles,” and the outcomes of their cases.

Resource Inventory: A resource inventory provides a detailed examination of the service resources in a given community to address a particular problem.

Policy Analysis: Policy analyses involve a careful review of the formal policies that dictate specific decisions, and the mandated procedures that operationalize those policies.

Practice Analysis: Practice analyses involve a careful review of the ways in which decisions, actions, and procedures are carried out on a day-to-day basis, and whether these are formally sanctioned by policy or informally practiced without a policy mandate.

System mapping

Federal Funds Issues:

Houses FY07 Appropriations Bill

- JAG formula program is increased by almost \$109 million to \$520 million in FY07.
- Not known if the full \$520 million will be available for distribution by formula.

President FY08 Budget

- Most of the state and local law enforcement formula and categorical grant programs would be eliminated and reconstituted into three new competitive discretionary grant programs.
- New competitive discretionary \$200 million Violent Crime Reduction Partnership Initiative.
- Byrne/JAG formula program would be reconstituted into a \$350 million competitive discretionary grant program called the Byrne Public Safety and Protection Program.
- Various programs under juvenile justice would also be consolidated under a single, flexible grant program called the Child Safety and Juvenile Justice Program.

With respect to its grants funded programs, OPM will sponsor a statewide training symposium on federal and state grant administration requirements, and the CJPPD will significantly increase its onsite monitoring activities of its sub-grantees.

Department of Correction Updates

Commissioner Lantz reported that:

DOC's total incarcerated population was 19,061, which is 712 over that of one year ago (3.9% increase). The accused population was 4,191, which is 34 people below that of one year ago (decrease of about 1%). The sentenced population was 14,870, which is 746 above that of the previous year (an increase of 5.3%). The number of males confined in the State has increased 434 since January, 2006.

The total number offenders supervised in the community on parole, special parole, transitional supervision, transfer parole and transitional placement is approximately 3,710, which is approximately a 5% increase over that of a year ago.

DOC contracts for over 1,100 halfway house beds; these beds are virtually filled at all times. The number of offenders on re-entry furlough on January 1st, 2007, was 220; this is well above the 12 month average.

Judicial's Court Support Services Division Update

Executive Director William Carbone reported that:

The pretrial population was down due to the support of the Bail Commissioners. The Bail Commissioners are using information on the person (e.g., history of family violence, education, etc) to aid in decisions; this has brought the *failure to appear* rate down, and the *conditional release* rate up.

The Pre-Trial Supervision program has people approved for release, but no beds are available. Five (5) new probation Officers have been hired to begin February 15th; there are about 300 on the waiting list.

There are three (3) new Jail Re-Interview staff at Gardner, Osborn and York.

The Probation Transition Program (PTP), which involves those out on 'split sentences' has shown that after 18 months, there is a 40% decrease on probation violations. It is anticipated that the PTP will be expanded statewide.

The US Department of Justice has selected the Judicial Branch to test a program for female offenders in 3 locations: Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport. The program will be gender specific, and will have capped caseloads; it will look at re-arrest, re-incarceration and re-employment.

Department of Mental Health Update

DMHAS had identified a program in New Haven for a Mental Health Day Reporting program to serve about 90 pretrial people per year.

DMHAS is proposing to establish 2 ten-bed recovery houses (sober houses) for persons primarily with stimulant abuse problems including those released from, or at risk of entering, the criminal justice system.

The Alcohol and Drug Policy Council (ADPC) has drafted its report on opiate dependency. The number of deaths due to impure substances was on the increase.

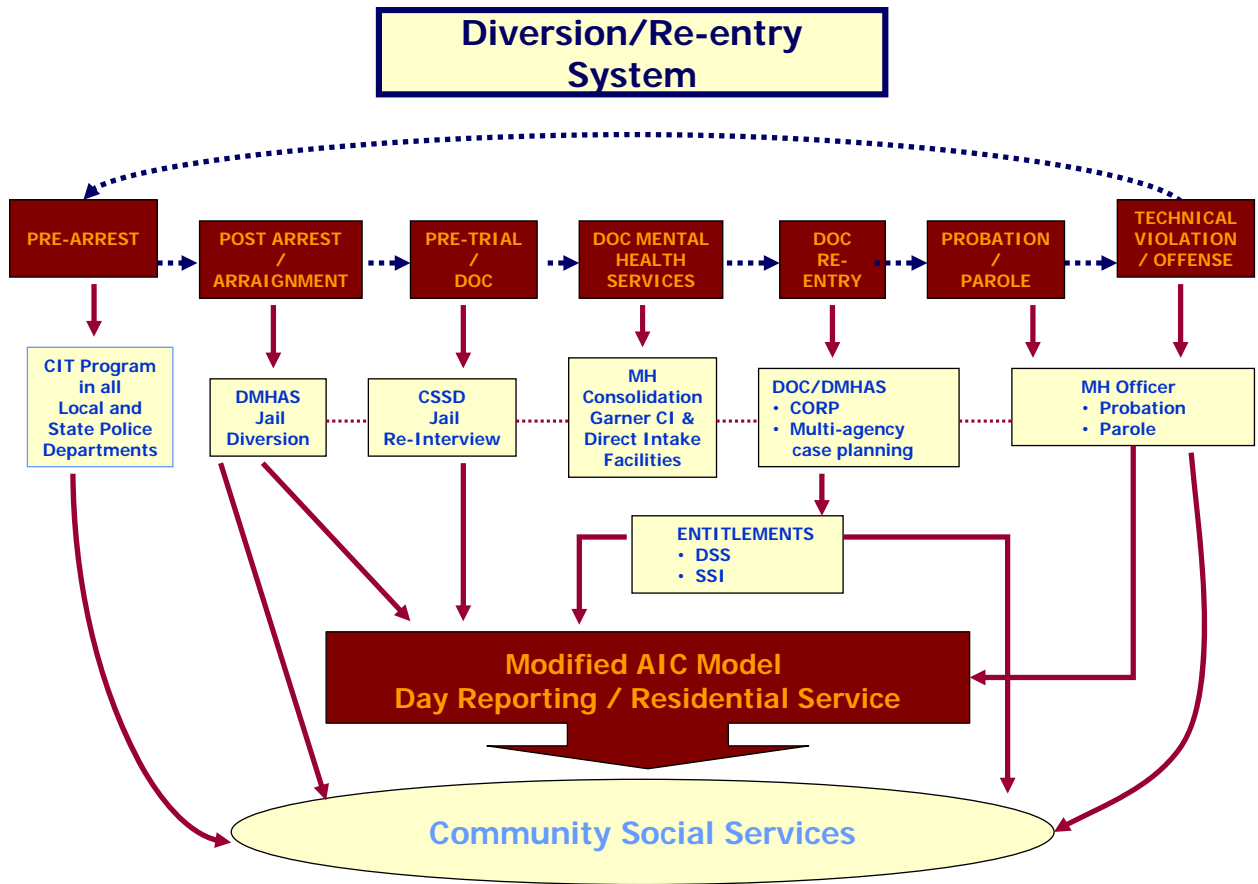
Behavioral Health Subcommittee

The Subcommittee met December 6th and discussed behavioral health system barriers.

Statistics for the Jail Re-Interview Program indicate that there were 46 people with bonds less than \$50,000, and 18 with bonds below \$10,000.

The MHAIC (mental Health Alternatives to Incarceration) has created new interventions with a goal of serving 300 persons with serious and persistent mental health issues.

A schematic of the Diversion/Reentry system is:



Working Groups

Prison and Jail Overcrowding and Reentry: Commissioner Lantz reported that the work group met December 20th; agencies had submitted issues in writing, and the group was awaiting feedback from OPM. Brian Austin had explained that the issues would be reviewed with OPM Secretary Robert Genuario prior to the Governor’s Budget being finalized. William Carbone noted that the CSSD recommendations were based on proven track records, especially programs that work in concert to reduce violation rates. Thomas Kirk noted that stable housing and transportation provide successful recovery supports for releasees. DOC has established reentry programs throughout the DOC system, including one at Manson Youth, and one at York (Charlene Perkins) for women.

Victim Services: The work group reported that the members will be reviewing the Chief State’s Attorney’s study of the automated victim notification system.

Prevention: The work group presented it’s suggestions for a family-centered, strengths-based focus for CJPAC consideration. The group agrees a family-centered two-pronged focus to criminal justice prevention should be taken:

- True Prevention, defined as efforts that prevent involvement in the criminal justice system
- Early Diversion, defined as efforts that prevent future involvement with the criminal justice system

Early diversion is currently being examined by DMHAS' Mental Health Transformation interagency workgroup (MHT). MHT's purpose is to "prevent or minimize further criminal justice involvement by creating systemic and policy changes to identify and divert children and youth involved with the criminal justice systems into evidence-based prevention and intervention programs." The DMHAS subcommittee representative believes agencies represented on MHT overlap with the CJPAC membership.

Therefore, the Group will examine national research on general prevention programming to determine what efforts have been successful in preventing involvement in the criminal justice system. The group agreed programming should have a strengths-based approach and identify clear, pro-social outcomes. More specifically, the group identified several critical indicators for involvement with the system, namely:

- family support (children of prisoners; children raised by people other than their parents; father absence)
- behavioral health (mental health, alcohol/substance use/abuse)
- vocational/educational issues (literacy; underemployment/unemployment; poverty; learning disabilities; truancy)
- trauma (exposure to/victims of violence)
- associations/companions (gang involvement)
- age of onset/criminal history*

*note of caution: the issue of racial bias/disparities needs to be brought forth and examined in any discussion around this critical indicator

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Governor/OPM should allocate money in this year's budget to fund both employment and recreational programming for youth in this year's summer months
- This funding should be allocated in the spring, to ensure programs can start "on time". In the past state funds weren't allocated until mid- to late July, causing hardship on the local agencies to find a way to fund programs until state funds were released and doing a disservice to the children who couldn't participate in programming for several weeks after school ended.
- Youth employment and recreational programming should be a permanent line item in future budgets, as an ongoing prevention initiative.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Focus on employable youth, 14-18 years old
- Tie funding into year-round employment programming, similar to Fed youth employment funding
- Target urban areas & other high-risk locales (look at population, poverty data to identify target service areas)

YOUTH RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Focus on children, 11 and older
- Support neighborhood activism/grass roots collaboration - let neighborhood leaders decide what the kids need
- Consider continuing summer programming into the school year as after-school options for kids, provide funding year-round

Of the 6 critical indicators (above), the consensus of the CJPAC was that the Prevention work group should concentrate on the following 3 areas:

- family support (children of prisoners; children raised by people other than their parents; father absence)
- vocational/educational issues (literacy; underemployment/unemployment; poverty; learning disabilities; truancy)
- associations/companions (gang involvement)

Other Business: there was no other business.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:56am.