

**Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission**  
**June 14, 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 John Danaher III, Department of Public Safety; Commissioner Thomas Kirk, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Commissioner Patricia Mayfield, Department of Labor; William Carbone, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch; Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; Robert Farr, Chair, Board of Pardons and Paroles; Acting Commissioner Susan Hamilton, Department of Children and Families; Deputy Commissioner Claudette Beaulieu, Department of Social Services; Nancy Kushins, Commission Member; Laurie Deneen, Commission Member; Richard Healey, Commission Member; Chief Francisco Ortiz, Commission Member; Judge Barbara Quinn representing the Chief Court Administrator; and Brian Carlow representing the Chief Public Defender.

**Others Present:** Leo Arnone, Diana Mason, John Lahda, Dan Bannish, Donna Cupka, Ed Henion, Michael Peloso, Michael Aiello, Andrew Clark, Joseph O'Keefe, Jerry Stowell, Erin Leavitt-Smith, Lyndsay Ruffolo, Lena Ferguson, Deborah Fuller, Tom Berendt, Katie Melone, John Forbes, Terry Schnure, and Linda Hothan.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:06am. He introduced:  
Susan Hamilton, Acting Commissioner, Department of Children and Families  
Claudette Beaulieu, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services.

**Minutes** of April 12, 2007: approved unanimously.

**Correspondence:** John Danaher, Department of Public Safety; Mark McQuillan, Department of Education; and Susan Hamilton, Department of Children and Families received 'welcome packets' providing information about the CJPAC.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Presentation:** ***2007 Comprehensive Offender Re-Entry Plan***  
The Plan was created pursuant to Public Act 06-193: *An Act Concerning Criminal Justice Policy and Planning and the Establishment of a Sentencing Task Force*. The overarching goal guiding the development of the re-entry plan is to:

- to improve public safety
- support the rights of victims
- maximize existing resources by creating interdisciplinary approaches that support prisoners' successful re-integration into the community with a reduction in recidivism.

The collaborative partners are: the Department of Correction, the Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Department Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Judicial Branch/CSSD.

Preparation and transition programs for inmates:

- Connecticut Department of Correction Unified School District #1
- Mental Health Services
- Transition to Community Mental Health Treatment
- Addiction Treatment
- Addiction Recovery
- Specialized Re-entry Services for Women
- Transition Services Program
- Job Skills Development
- Transition Counseling
- Transitioning From Prison to the Community
- Supportive Housing

Inventory of community-based supervision, transition, and re-integration programs:

- Residential Programs
  - Halfway House Beds
  - Supportive Housing
- Non-Residential Programs

Collaborative Programs For Diversion, Alternative Sanctions and Probation Violations:

DOC and DMHAS Collaborative Programs: Substance Abuse and/or Mental Illness	Connecticut Offender Re-entry Program (CORP)
	Transitional Case Management (TCM)
	Interagency DOC/DHMAS program
CSSD and DMHAS Collaborative Programs: Substance Abuse and/or Mental Illness	Pretrial Alcohol Education System (PAES)
	Pretrial Drug Education Program (PDEP)
	Specialize Diversion Program for Trauma Survivors (JDT)
	Women's Jail Diversion program (JDW)
	Alternative Drug Intervention (ADI)
DOC, CSSD, and DMHAS Collaborative Programs: Substance Abuse and/or Mental Illness	Mental Health Alternative to Incarceration Center (MHAIC)
	Mental Health Day Reporting Center (MHDRC)
	Jail Diversion (JD)

CSSD and DMHAS Collaborative Programs: Probation Violations	Probation Transition Program (PTP)
	Technical Violation Unit (TVU)
	Access to Recovery/Recovery Support Services
CSSD Programs: Pre-Trial Release	Pre-Trial Decision Aid Tool
	Jail Re-Interview Program
DMHAS and Law Enforcement: Pre-booking	Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

System challenges and barriers:

1. Data and Information Sharing
2. Effective Policies and Programs
3. Mental Health Training for Criminal Justice System Staff and Providers
4. Difficulty Obtaining State-Issued Identification
5. Barriers to Public Assistance and Medical Care
6. Victim Safety and Family Re-unification
7. Barriers to Employment
8. Housing Access

Next Steps:

1. The rates of recidivism and community re-victimization
2. the number of inmates eligible for release on parole, transitional supervision, probation or any other release program
3. the number of inmates who make the transition from incarceration to the community in compliance with a discharge plan
4. prison bed capacity ratios
5. the adequacy of the network of community-based treatment, vocational, educational, supervision and other services and programs
6. the reinvestment of any savings achieved through a reduction in prison population into reentry and community-based services and programs

**OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Update:**

Chair Brian Austin reported that the OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division was created on July 1, 2006, to promote a more effective and cohesive criminal justice system by:

- ensuring the efficient use of resources through research and policy development
- building and improving upon communication, collaboration and cooperation within the criminal justice system and it's constituent shareholders

CJPPD has hired 3 new professional staff and one Executive Secretary; the Division is divided into 3 units or pods: Adult Programs; Juvenile Programs; and Research and Evaluation working in conjunction with the Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice at Central Connecticut State University.

The Division's enabling legislation (Public Acts 05-249 and 06-193) required the Division to meet statutory deadlines some of which created difficulties to meet (e.g, some were competing, some preceded the Governor's Budget submission). Undersecretary Austin received permission from legislative leadership to postpone certain deadlines; this legislative session a bill was approved that required the reports to be submitted February 15<sup>th</sup> (after the Governor's Budget would be submitted to the General Assembly). All of the reports can be found on the OPM website.

The Sentencing Task Force, chaired by Robert Farr, met in an all-day retreat June 11<sup>th</sup>; Barbara Toombs from the Vera Institute was the keynote speaker and moderator. After much discussion, attendees were in agreement with current sentence lengths. The report is due December 1, 2008.

OPM will be sponsoring grant management training for its sub-grantees in the fall in order to increase efficiencies in the process.

Chair Brian Austin will be meeting with:

- Tony Fabelo and Dr. Austin at the Council of State Governments on June 29<sup>th</sup>. If a CJAC members wishes to meet with Dr. Austin, please contact Brian Austin at 860-418-6394 or [Brian.Austin@ct.gov](mailto:Brian.Austin@ct.gov).
- The Deputy Director of the USDOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance on Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

A 2-page chart on National Recidivism Data was provided to the CJAC Members. The chart was prepared by CCSU's Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice and compared statistics for 9 states (including Connecticut). Connecticut, with it's unified system of prisons and jails, was in line with other states.

Please contact Brian Austin at 860-418-6394 or [Brian.Austin@ct.gov](mailto:Brian.Austin@ct.gov) if you should have any questions.

### **Department of Correction Updates**

Commissioner Theresa Lantz reported that:

The institutionalized population grows in the spring and summer. DOC's total incarcerated population on June 1, 2007 was 18,939, which was 430 more than the incarcerated population of June 1, 2006 (a 2.3% increase).

The accused/unsentenced population was 4,188 on June 1, 2007, which is 59 below the June 1, 2006 total (-1.38%).

The sentenced population was 14,751 in June 1, 2007 which was 489 above the June 1, 2006 total (+3.4%).

The total number of offenders supervised in the community on parole, special parole, transitional supervision, transfer parole, and transitional placement approximated 3,818, which is an approximate 10.8% increase over the past year.

DOC contracts for over 1,200 halfway house beds, which are virtually filled at all times. This is a 75% increase in capacity since 2003.

The number of offenders on re-entry furlough on June 1, 2007 was 243 which is 42 above the June 1, 2006 total of 201 (20.8% increase).

Commissioner Lantz further reported that Carl Robinson Correctional Institution will be reverting some buildings back to housing to assist with the re-entry phase.

There was some discussion about what to do about the sexual offenders at discharge. The State has had major difficulties in siting halfway houses for them, so the sexual offenders used to go into shelters. But now the shelters do not want them. The shelters also will not take arsonists. DOC is planning to dedicate a full day to strategizing about what to do with these populations.

### **Judicial's Court Support Services Division Update**

Executive Director William Carbone reported that:

For those pretrial defendants who have no residential treatment program to go to, CSSD now has 5 probation officers in the 5 large cities (New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, and New London) providing intensive supervision for defendants held on bond in lieu of a community residential treatment program. CSSD has an ongoing contract with Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) to measure recidivism outcomes: violations, re-arrests, re-convictions, and re-incarcerations.

CSSD has a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), Department of Correction (DOC), and Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP) for dedicated mental health parole and probation officers to provide case management services in 8 locations: New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New London, Norwich, Middletown, and New Britain/Bristol.

### **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Update**

Commissioner Thomas Kirk reported that:

DMHAS awarded a contract for a mental health day reporting center for New Haven to The Connection (with Fellowship Place). This program, the Community Reporting Engagement Support and Treatment (CREST) Center, will provide

supervision to adults with psychiatric disabilities as required by court, parole, or probation. The program is designed to maximize the chance for success in the community and will provide case management and skill-building services. The DMHAS-operated Connecticut Mental Health Center will provide clinical services and will collaborate with the CREST program. Funding for CREST is provided from the recommendations of the Prison and jail Overcrowding Commission (PJOC).

During a 3-year period, Connecticut received a total of about \$22M to operate the Access To Recovery (ATR) Program which provided housing, employment linkages, and recovery supports to keep people in the community. Yale conducted a study on the ATR Program and found that stable housing is a very important component for successful recovery. Connecticut's program was one of the most successful in the Nation. The grant has terminated, and DMHAS is looking for other funding sources.

### **Behavioral Health Services Subcommittee Update**

Previously, the State had tried to implement a 'Mental Health Alternative to Incarceration Program' but met with zoning problems and community resistance. An alternative program (the ASIST Program) is to augment services of 8 existing CSSD-funded AICs with DMHAS mental health clinicians. These clinicians will provide supervision and management of cases and be a resource for consultation with AIC staff. The program will increase treatment capacity by funding positions for the Local Mental Health Authorities in Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport, and by funding services in the CSSD network of mental health providers. Funds are also included for recovery supports and limited housing. The Oversight Committee for ASIST meets every other week to make program adjustments as needed.

The National Governor's Association has recommended that some of the Mental Health Transformation Grant funds be used to develop a website to be used by people (aged 14–30 years) with mental disabilities to assist them to become employable or employed.

There are some issues of medical management for mentally disabled people who are released. At time of discharge from DOC, a mentally disabled person is released with a 2-week supply of medications; it may be several weeks before a person can get an appointment to see a doctor. Those people released by the courts or 'bonded out' receive no medications; there is no way to track these people. Re-hospitalization is very expensive. A committee chaired by Dr. Ken Marcus, DMHAS, has been convened to resolve the medications issue for those released from DOC.

Connecticut has developed an infrastructure to coordinate resources upon which to identify system gaps, develop responses, and build success. No other state has such an integrated infrastructure.

## **Working Groups**

### Prevention:

Deputy Commissioner Beaulieu reported that the Work Group had met the previous week, and that members want resources targeted for the high-risk youth, such as targeting the summer youth employment program for the urban areas. The Work Group will be looking at resources overlap and gaps.

### Prison and Jail Overcrowding and Reentry:

Commissioner Lantz reported that the Work Group met May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Work Group will be looking to validate risk assessment instruments with CCSU.

Commissioner Lantz wants to convene roundtables with urban legislators to discuss how communities prepare for the re-entry of offenders back into the communities.

Brian Austin will discuss the 'Second Chance Act' with OPM Secretary Robert Genuario after the legislative session ends.

### Victim Services:

Brian Austin reported that the Work Group members are reviewing the federal offender-based tracking model, SAVIN (Statewide Automated Victim Notification System) for implementation here in Connecticut.

Nancy Kushins noted that CONNSACS, with grant money from CSSD, has hired victim advocates in all 14 sexual offender supervision units in the State. Connecticut is the first state in the Nation to have this program statewide.

**Other Business:** There was some discussion about the requirements for States to be in compliance with the federal 'Adam Walsh Act'. Chair Brian Austin asked the Behavioral Health services Subcommittee to review the Adam Walsh Act requirements for States.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:04am.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007** (re-scheduled)  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 410  
9AM