

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)  
DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, December 15, 2022  
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Hosted on Microsoft Teams

A special meeting of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission was held on December 15, 2022. Due to public health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission’s meeting was conducted on Microsoft Teams. The meeting convened at 9:00 am, 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
- **Gary Roberge**, Executive Director, 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
- **Tashun Bowden-Lewis**, Chief Public Defender, Division of Public Defender Services
- **Beth Hamilton**, Executive Director, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- **Carleton Giles**, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles
- **Gerrie Wild**, Director of Legal Advocacy, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- **John Frassinelli**, Division Director, Connecticut State Department of Education
- **William Mulligan**, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Correction
- **Vincent Russo**, Director of Government Affairs, Department of Children and Families
- **Stephen Tavares**, Chief of Police, Eastern Connecticut State University
- **Robert Bongiolatti**, Operations Coordinator, Department of Labor
- **James McGennis**, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information System
- **Laurie Deneen**, Public Member

**I. Review of draft minutes from the July 21, 2022, meeting**

Judge Carroll, Chief Court Administrator, Connecticut Judicial Branch, made a motion to approve the minutes, motion seconded by Executive Director Roberge.

**II. Welcome and introduction of new CJPAC members**

Chairman Pelka welcomed the members and introduced three recently appointed members to the Commission. Eastern Connecticut State University Chief of Police, Stephen Tavares, was the first new member to be introduced. Chief Tavares and Chairman Pelka discussed his over 30 years of experience in public safety, including rising through the ranks at the Bristol Police Department.

Robert Bongiolatti, Operations Coordinator at the Department of Labor, was next to be introduced. Mr. Bongiolatti has been with the department for over 35 years and has prior experience working in the criminal justice system. He shared information about the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative, which supports employees in recovery from substance use disorders keeping them on the job during their recovery.

Lastly, Chairman Pelka introduced new member William Halsey, Deputy Medicaid Director at the Department of Social Services.

### **III. Criminal justice system trends presentation**

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

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

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-68p, the Office of Policy and Management Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (OPM CJPPD) produces an annual report containing data analysis of Connecticut's criminal justice trends. This report, the second such edition, contained data analysis involving crime, victimization, arrests, criminal cases, corrections, and community supervision.

### **IV. Byrne JAG & Byrne SCIP overview and update**

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

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

The presenters began with an overview of the federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (Byrne JAG) grant program. It supports diverse criminal justice system improvements that can be tailored to jurisdictional needs. Connecticut was one of eight states that had Byrne JAG funds withheld after an immigration-related special condition was made part of the program. The Biden-Harris Administration lifted the condition in 2021, which has allowed OPM CJPPD to make 2017-2020 withheld funds available. As a result, OPM CJPPD will allocate \$2.3 million in state-level Byrne JAG funding over the 2022-2024 grant period. The presenters shared details about application eligibility and timeline, as well as where additional information can be located online.

*The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*, signed into law in 2022, established the Byrne SCIP program to fund the creation and/or implementation of emergency risk protection order programs, state crisis intervention court proceedings, and related gun violence reduction programs and initiatives. CJPAC will serve as the advisory board overseeing the Byrne SCIP grant program. The presenters provided an overview of the allowable uses of the funding, noting that Connecticut is expected to receive \$2.5 million, which may be used for state- and local-level programs, for the

FY2022-2023 award period. Further information will be provided at the March 30 CJPAC meeting.

**V. Other updates and planning**

Chairman Pelka shared the CJPAC meeting schedule for 2023.

**VI. Adjourn**

Chairman Pelka thanked the members of the commission for their participation. Executive Director Roberge made a motion to adjourn, motion seconded by Judge Carroll.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 am

The next meeting is March 30, 2023, at 9:00 am on Teams videoconference and YouTube.