

Minutes
CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION
State Capitol - Room 410
January 15, 2009

Members of the Commission Present: Brian Austin, Chair, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management; Floyd R. Blair, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Children and Families; William H. Carbone, Executive Director, Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division; George Coleman, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education; Laurie Deneen, Public Member; Robert Farr, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles; Richard Healey, Public Member; Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; James Kenny, Police Chief; Thomas Kirk, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Nancy Kushins, Victim Services; Theresa Lantz, Commissioner, Department of Correction; Patricia Mayfield, Commissioner, Department of Labor; and Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:15am. The members of the Commission introduced themselves.

Commission Correspondence:

Governor M. Jodi Rell sent Brian Austin, as Chairman of the CJPAC, a letter January 9th, requesting an update on the implementation of the reforms included in Public Act 08-01, *AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM*; this correspondence was forwarded via email to all CJPAC members, and was contained in the meeting materials packet provided to all Commission members. One Commission member, John Danaher, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, submitted a written response.

Minutes of the December 11, 2008 Meeting: The review of the minutes was tabled to the next meeting - February 19th.

OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Update

OPM Undersecretary Brian Austin reported that:

- The Siting Incentives Committee Report, *A STUDY OF INCENTIVES TO SITE CRIMINAL JUSTICE FACILITIES*, was submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by January 1st, pursuant to PA 08-01, and was also distributed to all Commission members. The report recommended the establishment of a working group, under the purview of the CJPAC, to oversee the development and implementation of the incentive programs; any evaluations or analysis of the CJPAC workgroup shall respect the autonomy of the municipalities and the voluntary nature of incentives and existing state statutes.
- Reports in progress, due to the Governor and Legislature February 15th:
 - Annual Connecticut Prison Population Projection Study
 - Annual Connecticut Recidivism Study
- Per to the Governor's January 9th letter, Chair Brian Austin asked Commission Members to provide their agencies' updates/accomplishments pursuant to PA 08-01. Responsibilities/accomplishments under PA 08-51 (*AN ACT CONCERNING PERSISTENT DANGEROUS FELONY OFFENDERS AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL RESOURXCES TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM*) can be addressed separately. Please also identify any changes needed in statute or policy, including local law enforcement. Please submit all

comments to him at Brian.Austin@ct.gov, with copies to Linda Hothan at Linda.Hothan@ct.gov by next Friday (1/23/09). OPM will collect the comments and circulate them back to the Commission Membership. If consensus is not possible on the entire document, issues will be parsed out for independent submission by the primary agency. Significant cost issues will be separated out.

- The CJIS Governing Board (Criminal Justice Information System) has hired MTG management consultant (January 12, 2009) to work with the CJIS community to develop a blueprint for a Request For Proposal (RFP) to design and develop the information sharing system specified under Public Act 08-01 §40.

Board of Pardons and Paroles Updates

BOPP Chairman Robert Farr reported with the federal JAG monies provided by OPM, BOPP had hired retirees who continue to assist in the elimination of backlogged cases; these are not permanent positions.

Public Act 08-01 required the BOPP to hire a staff psychologist. David Rentler, PhD, a clinical psychologist, was introduced. Dr. Rentler has worked at the federal prison in Danbury; a federal medical center in Fort Worth, Texas; and a criminal hospital in Minnesota. He is conducting clinical risk assessments to assist/facilitate the BOPP decisions for seamless handling of high-risk, medically compromised offenders including referrals to a sex offender special management unit.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Update

Commissioner Thomas Kirk reported on Crisis Intervention Teams (CITs) which work with police departments to defuse situations involving people with psychiatric problems, to avoid 'suicide by cop'. CIT provides 7 DMHAS-employed CIT clinicians to assist the following police departments: Hartford, New Haven, West Haven, Stamford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New London, Norwich, Waterford, and Groton. During SFY08, CIT clinicians assisted police with over 2,500 persons. CIT provides a 5-day, 40-hour training, with a one-day refresher, for police officers and others dealing with persons with psychiatric disorders. As of December, 2008: 643 individuals, including 517 police officers, 32 police department civilians, and 94 correctional officers, parole officers, probation officers, and mental health staff attended the 40-hour training; 27 police departments (state, college, municipal, hospital) have a CIT policy and a sufficient number of CIT-trained officers to provide a CIT response when appropriate, and another 20 police departments have at least one officer who has attended CIT training and many of these intend to have more officers trained. In SFY09, DMHAS will fund 5 training sessions for over 175 individuals.

The Community Reporting Engagement Support and Treatment Center (CREST) is a day reporting center for seriously mentally ill adults offering vocational, educational, social and psychiatric rehabilitation services, intensive case management and supervision, criminogenic assessment and treatment, and skill development 7 days per week, and 3 evenings per week. Capacity is 30 individuals, and length of stay is 3-6 months. People are referred by probation, parole, court and DOC. In the last 12 months, 83% of the participants completed the program and avoided incarceration.

Behavioral Health Services Subcommittee Update

The next Subcommittee meeting will be February 5th.

Department of Correction Update

Commissioner Theresa Lantz reported that the total population was 19,171 - 4,226 accused/unsentenced and 14,945 sentenced, and the halfway house system remains full.

There was some discussion about risk assessment strategy and the matching of intervention protocols to criminogenic needs. DOC is using the LSIR (Level of Service Inventory, Revised) to determine the best candidates for release; parole (BOPP) and probation (CSSD) also use the LSIR. The violent, persistent offender is high-risk and therefore stays in the program longer. If low-risk offenders are housed with high-risk offenders, the low-risk offender becomes high-risk while the high-risk offender has no change. Ninety-five percent (95%) of the incarcerated population will be released to the community. Inside interventions carry over to outside interventions.

Connecticut has an unprecedented approach to criminal justice with its myriad of partnerships: state agencies, local law enforcement, private providers, etc.

Forty-four (44) states give inmates credit for 'good time'; good time was eliminated in Connecticut in 10/1/1994, and was replaced with 'truth in sentencing'. PA 08-01 eliminated the 90-day re-entry furlough program which was important for aftercare supervision and had a very high success rate. Connecticut has the highest amount of time served compared to other states. The more money that goes into facilities, the less money is available for community programs that lower recidivism and risk, and increase public safety. The State should reconsider the furlough program and earned credit for non-violent offenders.

DOC is hosting a Bureau of Justice Assistance conference February 24-26, 2009 on re-entry strategies. Over 200 criminal justice professionals (CJPAC members, correctional staff, community leaders, elected officials, police chiefs, etc) have been invited.

Discussion on the Criminal Justice ReEntry Strategy

Comments received at the December 11th, 2008, public hearing were reviewed. CJPAC unanimously approved the ReEntry Strategy as finalized by the Prison and Jail Overcrowding Work. OPM will submit the document to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Other Business:

Deputy Commissioner Floyd Blair, Department of Children and Families (DCF) attended the Siting Incentive Committee meetings as an observer. He reported the following 'success story':

DCF is in the design phase of developing a new 18-bed secure treatment facility for girls committed delinquent to the department. The program will be operated by DCF and located at 115 Virginian Avenue in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The program will be short-term (30 to 90-days) with a focus on education, clinical and family treatment, vocational assessment, life skills, medical and dental services as well as opportunities for recreation. Girls will step down to the most appropriate next step in the continuum of services for Parole Girls which include residential services, transitional group home, educational re-entry programs, intensive family services and specialized foster care.

The treatment program will be developed and operated using the most current research on female-responsive programming. The Program Guidelines for Girls Services will be utilized in all aspects of the program milieu. The Ansell Casey Life Skills assessments and curriculum will be utilized at the program as well as every step throughout the continuum; providing a portable life skills portfolio that can be further developed at every stage of the girl's development. The provider network for the Continuum meet monthly to further refine program services throughout the Continuum with current focus on credit retrieval and non-traditional/ living wage vocational training.

Current Time Frame:

- The Design Build Criteria Architect was selected in July 2008. The contract with the Design Build Team (JCJ Architecture/Bobby Huskey & Associates) was signed November 28, 2008 and the process of designing the facility started on January 9, 2009. Design is schedule to be completed at the end of March 2009.
- Asbestos abatement is complete at the site.
- Demolition of the site began on January 12, 2009 with an estimated completion in 6- 8 weeks.
- Department of Public Works (DPW) is working with the Design Build Architect Team to issue an RFQ for Design Build teams in early April 2009.
- Bridgeport public relations initiatives ("Visioning Sessions") continue. Visioning Sessions are being held with advocates, providers, elected officials, experts, internal specialists, parents and most importantly with actual clients currently in the system. An Advisory Committee will be developed to support the full development of the program as well as operations after the program officially opens.
- The Design Build Criteria Architect is responsible for preparing and maintaining the overall project scheduling program providing an updated timeline, identifying deadlines, construction duration and phasing. DPW remains the lead state agency overseeing these contracts with close coordination with DCF.
- Current (conservative) estimate for completion of project and full operations of facility is mid-fall/ winter 2010.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:05am.