

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)
MINUTES
FOR
THURSDAY, November 17, 2011 MEETING**

Members Present: Chairman Michael Lawlor, *Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM*; Leo Arnone, *Commissioner, Department of Corrections*; Kevin Kane, *Chief State's Attorney*; Dan Bannish, *Department of Corrections*; Theresa DeFrancis, *Attorney, Department of Education*; Susan O. Storey, *Chief Public Defender*; Laura Cordes, *Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Center(CONNSACS)*; Elizabeth (Libby) Graham, *Department of Children and Families*; Judge Patrick Carroll, *Deputy Chief Court Administrator Judicial Branch*, Dennis Murphy, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor*; Steven Spellman, *Department of Public Safety*; Richard P. Healey, *Public Member*. Laurie Deneen, *Public Member*.

I. Welcome Mike Lawlor, Under Secretary, OPM CJPPD

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. Chairman Lawlor discussed and highlighted the trends noted in the Criminal Justice Division Monthly Indicator Report on the onset of the meeting.

Chairman Lawlor stated that the administration is interested in taking a look at all the boards, commissions and task forces that may be dormant or redundant. Chairman Lawlor requested the members to identify the criminal justice boards and commissions worth eliminating and for others to better coordinate their activities.

II. Introductions

Members introduced themselves and stated what agency they represented

III. Acceptance of Minutes

Motions was moved and seconded. Minutes were accepted unanimously

IV. Commission of Correspondence

There was no commission correspondence

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment

VI. Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection presentation regarding the Public Safety Data Network

Steve Spellman began by discussing the genesis and the status of the Public Safety Data Network (PSDN) and the unanswered questions. The PSDN started in 2005 with the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications 911 system.

In 2005, the PSDN was recognized to be an antiquated system with standalone copper wire networks that needed to be updated and replaced. Public Safety then went to the legislature seeking authority to update and replace the networking system. It was granted and signed into P.A. 05-181 to use the 911 system for a couple of different purposes, including capital costs and hiring a consultant to provide recommendations.

One of the recommendations provided to the state was a vast improved network that would improve an information sharing system for public safety. This would enable public safety to move from a copper wire system to a fiber optic system. It also provided Connecticut an opportunity to save money. More specifically, over a 10 year period, it would save approximately \$70 million and over a 20 year period it would save approximately \$100 million.

The proposal completion date was October 2011. It was completed on time and is now in the testing phase.

Bill Youell gave a PowerPoint presentation discussing the use of the project and the progress. Mr. Youell spent time talking about Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project and their differences.

Phase 1 is focused on the deployment of the project and is meant to connect all the 106 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). Mr. Youell highlighted the advantages of Phase 1. Phase 1 is very fast, reliable, flexible and widely available. Mr. Youell went on to further discuss the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). It is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). BTOP's mission is to develop broadband technology to underserved populations. The purpose of the BTOP grant is to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure and opportunity across the state. Connecticut won the grant on the third attempt because they had missed the first two windows of opportunity.

Mr. Youell displayed a graphical representation and described both phases while also explaining the application process. Public Safety, Department of Information Technology and the Connecticut Education Network consolidated efforts and submitted a joint application and secured the grant. The project has to be completed by 2013 and Connecticut is ahead of schedule. The network is scheduled to be 67% complete by September 2012 and fully completed by September 2013. The baseline work plan and budget projections were submitted to NTIA, as well as quarterly federal financial and program progress reports. In addition, an Environment Impact Assessment was successfully conducted and a communication plan is also currently under development.

Phase II is based on the construction underway, which consists of open access, progress and the role of other agencies. Thus far, fiber and equipment designs have been finalized, site surveys are in progress, equipment is being ordered and shipped, and fiber is being deployed.

Mr. Youell explained the challenge of the governance need to identify structure, role and responsibilities to have a governance model. He stated that the governing board is in progress and outlining the Board's responsibilities.

Steve Verbill discussed and clarified many of the technicalities and answered questions members had regarding the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications.

Reentry Website Update – Linda DeConti updated committee members on the progress made to the reentry website initiative based on the CJPAC’s directive. Linda described the project plan that has been developed, which involves brainstorming in order to better understand the resource needs and gaps of the target groups and working with United Way of Connecticut to build on their existing 2-1-1 resources. Linda went on to further discuss the collaborative effort with the United Way and the resources that have to offer through their current 2-1-1 system. There is a group that is meeting which consists of members of the criminal justice community to discuss the role and function of the website and database.

VII. Agency Updates

Dr. Michael Norko, Director of Forensic Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services – received approval for positions within DMHAS to hire two clinicians that would work directly with the Jail Diversionary Program and the criminal justice community. These two positions would allow the expansion of the program in the southeastern part of the state which includes the Norwich, New London and Danielson courts.

The second position is a statewide coordinator that would be able to assist veterans and connect them with services that may be available to them and collaborate with organizations that are working with veterans through the jail diversion process.

Two positions for the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven have been approved. These positions will allow for clients to more easily connect with services available to them in the New Haven community. Also, there was a clinician position approved for the Crisis Intervention Team in New Haven. There hasn’t been a clinician working with the Crisis Intervention Team in New Haven since 2009. In addition, a part-time case manager in Middletown has been approved.

Bill Carbone, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division (CSSD) – discussed the measurement and update of the Accelerated Rehabilitation (AR) program that has had an impact on the mental health population. The state Sentencing Commission received an update on a report and the expansion of the program. Mr. Carbone emphasized the two phases of the program. He further discussed the success of the program and CSSD is still following individuals coming out of the program in order to evaluate services, coordination and the success of the program. Mr. Carbone is hoping they can have more of a definitive and long term assessment of the program.

Kevin Kane, Chief State’s Attorney – further discussed the progress and improvement that programs focused on working with veterans have had and their overall success. Attorney Kane also discussed other initiatives that are taking place to assist the homeless and the homeless shelters in New London. Unfortunately, however, the Office of the Chief State’s Attorney’s does not have the means to measure the success of programs working with the homeless

population. All they can really do is gage the traffic and case load in the court system. There is a hope that this program will eventually be able to be expanded to a statewide level.

Dennis Murphy, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor – Mr. Murphy encouraged members to watch for the advisory on the results of the Jobs session. The Step-Up program is getting the unemployed back to work. There is a sum of money of \$10 million divided between two years for manufacturing and wages. The Department is filling in some of the pieces that the legislation did not include.

Dr. Dan Bannish, Director of Health Services, Department of Correction- Spoke about collaboration with the state of Colorado, the “gold standard” state, intended to investigate potential policy options for the state of Connecticut in order to better attend to the sex offender population.

Judge Patrick Carroll, Deputy Chief Court Administrator- Mentioned that the Judicial Branch would be working very closely with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) in regard to their Public Safety Data Network (PSDN) in order to ensure that the courts are heavily integrated into the system.

Judge Carroll also discussed an upcoming meeting with DESPP regarding the issue of electronic signatures. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the legislation that has been proposed regarding the acceptance of electronic signatures in court and to consider the limitations that would still remain, even with their implementation, as a result of the fairly outdated computer software used by the courts.

Judge Carroll gave an update on the cost-saving measures that were discussed at the last CJPAC meeting, particularly the decision to cut down on the amount of time that temporary assistant clerks and temporary court monitors were allowed to work by 15%. That change had a significant impact on the flow of business in the courts, and Judge Carroll explained that he would be attending a meeting in order to consider the cost savings of the change and contemplate whether or not the restriction is worth it.

Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender- discussed a meeting between public defenders and DOC, which involved discussions about mental health diversion programs as well as serious, terminal illnesses which some of their clients have.

She also discussed her role as a chair on a subcommittee on Criminal and Child Protection Issues. The group recently had their first meeting during which they began to consider new ways to reduce the disparities in access to information and services for the incarcerated population in comparison to people who are in the criminal justice system but are not currently incarcerated.

Leo Arnone, Commissioner, Department of Correction- stated that the number of inmates, as compared to the year before, has continued to drop from the number that he reported last month, increasing from 449 fewer inmates to 626 fewer inmates. The sentence population has also decreased by over 200 since just last month, which, he believes, acts as a testament to the success of the earned credit program that has been implemented.

Erika Tindill, Chairman, Connecticut Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP) - reported that the board is moving forward with its Comprehensive Risk Assessment System, and that the success of the system will be largely the responsibility of the Planning Research and Development unit.

The collaboration between the BOPP and DOC is also still continuing. The two groups will be beginning quarterly meetings at the start of next year, and the collaborative work between them has been going very well thus far.

Steve Spellman, Chief of Staff to the Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection- The division of state police is at a ten year low in terms of staffing, with only about 1080 troopers. There has also been trouble with bringing this number up because, even with a class of about 65 graduates, about 40 retirees are expected, producing a net gain of only about 25 troopers as of December 2012.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, December 29, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 2B of the Legislative Office Building.

Drafted: Morgan Collings

Approved: Sarah Kolb