

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission  
Minutes for February 25, 2010 Meeting

Office of the Chief State's Attorney  
300 Corporate Place, Rocky Hill, CT  
Thursday, February 25, 2010  
9:00 AM

Members present: Brian Austin, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management; Susan Hamilton, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families; William H. Carbone, Executive Director, Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division; Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender; Robert Farr, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Parole; Brian K. Murphy, Acting Commissioner, Department of Correction; Judge Patrick Carroll, Deputy Chief Court Administrator; Attorney Richard Healey.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:18am. The Commission members introduced themselves.

The minutes for the December meeting were unanimously accepted.

Public Comment: There was no comment.

Agency Update: Commissioner Murphy announced that the prison population stands at 18,295; down from the previous year by 834 inmates. The accused population count was 110 higher than last year. Commissioner Murphy discussed the closing of Webster and estimated that it would generate approximately \$1.1 million in savings. DOC has been working with federal agencies on procedures and protocol for transferring inmates to ICE. The DOC is implementing the re-entry furloughs in a carefully planned approach; approximately 200 inmates have been released to date. DOC re-released the RFP for the sex offender treatment beds with responses due in March.

The back log of offender DNA collection is down 1000 samples from 3075 through the use of DOC's ARRA Byrne/JAG grant. It is still a work in progress to collect the DNA samples; 300 offenders have refused to provide a sample. Attorney Kane discussed the needed for a strategy to deal with individuals that refuse. DOC, DPS and DCJ intend on meeting to discuss the consequences for refusal.

OPM Presentation: Chairman Austin introduced John Forbes and Ivan Kuzyk who presented the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division's presentation on the State's annual Prison Population Forecast and Recidivism Study.

Mr. Kuzyk discussed the Prison Population Forecast and the methodology behind this research. The projections are based on historical performance, on-going input from State's criminal justice agencies, and OPM's input-output model of the criminal justice system.

Mr. Kuzyk stated the prison population has fluctuated and the operation of the criminal justice system is somewhat self-stabilizing. Analysis of population fluctuations at monthly, quarterly and annual rates allowed OPM to produce population growths for a variety of different scenarios. OPM predicts that during 2010 the prison population will continue to decline although at a reduced rate.

Mr. Kuzyk also spoke of the Recidivism Study findings. He indicated the rates have not changed since last year. Within 3 years: 67.5% were rearrested; 53.7% were convicted on new charges; 56.5% were reincarcerated and 36.6% returned with a new sentence. These rates are consistent with most states.

Agency Updates: Judge Carroll indicated that the video conferencing equipment is being installed in the courts and is well received. The Judicial Branch is conducting a "law school" for journalists to provide information on the sentencing process. More information about this presentation is available on the Branch's website. In addition, the Judicial Branch will launch an evaluation program to assess judges in high volume courts.

CSSD discussed family violence intervention programs administered by the Judicial Branch and presented a power point presentation with data on completion rates and case volume. Director Steve Grant addressed CSSD's 9 week program, 26 week Explore Program and 52 week Evolve Program. The results of these programs appear very promising. CSSD will provide a copy of the presentation for the CJPAC website.

Lisa Secondo from OPM discussed the Connecticut Criminal Justice Cross-Training Conference which will be held at Southern Connecticut State University on March 25, 2010. A draft of the cross training session was handed out to the Commission and discussed by the members. Ms. Secondo informed the members of the conference topics, the registration process and deadlines.

Commissioner Danaher spoke about the ARRA JAG funded project to eliminate the back-log of DNA tests at the DPS Forensic Lab. At the start of the project, there was a back log of 35,000 samples from convicted felons. To date, approximately 8,000 DNA samples have been processed. The goal is to complete 1,000 a month to stay current. Commissioner Danaher stated that by the end of the year, if this pace continues, there should be no backlog.

Attorney Storey reported that her agency is collaborating with the other criminal justice agencies to expand the Innocence Project. She recently attended the USDOJ national symposium on "Indigent Defense". Both she and Chairman Austin participated in presentations at the symposium. Connecticut is noted for being a model state for its resources dedicated to indigent defense as well as being unique with regard to the role of CJPAC as a forum for a discussion of system-wide issues.

Chairman Farr reported that the new electronic transcript system created by the Judicial Branch has enabled the BOPP to increase the volume and timeliness of parole hearings.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:30 am.

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