

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, March 31, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: *Chairman Mike Lawlor*, Under Secretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM; *Judge Patrick L. Carroll*, Chief Court Administrator, *Steve Grant*, Executive Director, CSSD; *Josh Howroyd*, Legislative Program Manager, Department of Children and Families, *Dora Schriro*, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; *Brian Carlow*, Division of Public Defender Services, *Scott Semple*, Commissioner, Department of Corrections, *Rich Sparaco*, Board of Pardons and Paroles, *James Kenny*, Chiefs of Police Association, *Miriam Deplhin-Rittmon and Loel Meckel*, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, *Karen Jarmoc*, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; *Mark Shok*, Department of Social Services

I. Introductions

Introductions were made later with agency updates regarding FY 2017 budget.

This meeting was broadcast on CT-N. <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12919>

The Monthly Indicators Report can be found on the OPM website:

http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjresearch/monthlyindicators/monthlyindicatorsreport_may_2016.pdf

II. Welcome and Policy Update

Chairman Lawlor spoke briefly about victim service legislation, regarding temporary restraining orders and firearms. The Second Chance Society 2.0 is pending in legislation; Bail and Raise the Age.

For more explanation of how the estimated number of people who would benefit from suggested bail reform is 350, watch CTN at 12:19 <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12919>. The dollar figure is from the legislature's OFA (Office of Fiscal Analysis) is \$168/day/inmate on average statewide.

Watch at 18:00 <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12919> for more discussion on Raise the Age. Currently, most 18, 19, and 20 year olds have their charges dropped, get a diversity program or probation. The main difference between now and if they are moved to juvenile court, would be public information. Many legitimate concerns have been raise and incorporated into the bill. Watch at 20:00 for these concerns and how they have been addressed. <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12919>.

III. Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2016

Minutes were approved.

IV. Commission Correspondence

There was no commission correspondence.

V. Presentations

In lieu of a presentation, a discussion was had on the impacts from the budget cuts.

VI. Agency Updates

Members provided updates on their agencies and latest initiatives and the impacts of the budget cuts.

Chiefs of Police – Dr. Gill in the OCME will no longer provide toxicology reports, the towns will now have to pay for those. The state may be in danger of losing federal funding if they don't collect this information. OCME lab is up for reaccreditation in July and is worried about the staff cuts impacting this. If Medical Examiner's Office lost its accreditation, a court could disallow the opinion of the medical examiner. It is a core function of government to determine death. Also its important for civil cases and public health.

State Attorney Office – They have 539 positions (full and contract), now their budget is 10% less than in 2010, have had to hire per Diem. As of May 31 they will have to let go 53 people, additionally they will be unable to fill 20 full time position that are either vacant now or will become vacant. They will also have to modify further based on what judicial decides.

Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP) – One IT person bumped out by budget cuts, partnerships with judicial will be affected, CJIS projects might be affected. Services will take the biggest hit, some services will be cut in facilities and in the community and that affects how the board makes decisions, if they know that the parolees might not be able to get programs in the community.

DESPP – DESPP has taken 10% Budget cuts, they have made efforts made not to fill vacancies, less overtime, prioritize responsibilities, but are continuing to look for new grant money, utilizing the LEAN process to assist in this time. The crime lab lost accreditation in the past, but is now accredited and doing well.

Department of Correction (DOC) – 680 million last year budget, 67 million cut for this year, 187 layoffs total have forced DOC to wrap their resources around their potential vulnerabilities. Right now they could use 200 residential beds, and within the next 3 years they will need 500 residential beds, based on the forecasts. Reduction in overtime, reassess posting within facilities and how overtime is applied. Also impacted by judicial branch decisions. The population is declining allows the agency to drive resources to specialized areas, repurposing facility for 18-25 population. Moving forward on reintegration centers, implemented without the need for additional resources.

Judicial Branch- Massive cuts to the judicial branch, 13% budget cut, 1/3 of layoffs in CT, have come from judicial branch, majority of those employees were not temporary workers. Dangerous loss of security personnel in the branch, cease operation of the lock up facilities in New Haven and Hartford. July 1 will cease operation of those lock ups. There have been and will continue to be discussions around the New Haven and Hartford lock ups, but no agreement has been made yet. Longer lines at metal detectors at court houses and clerk offices, delay in processing cases, jurors may no longer be able to go to their local court to do their jury service, due to layoffs. Layoffs haven't been targeted at bail commissioners and probation officers, but have been truly across the board. They will continue to monitor the spike retirements, this coming fiscal year, the judicial branch will reduce in at least 600 employees. Program cuts will also have to occur, these will affect other agencies, and specifically DOC. Analyzing what programs should be cut.

Court Support Services Division (CSSD) – There is a wait list of over 500 people for a residential bed and these people are waiting in the DOC. CSSD can further inform bail data.

Department of Children and Families (DCF) – DCF next fiscal year is 38 million less, 127 employees have been laid off, mostly associated with juvenile training school. CJTS has 43 youth today, two years ago, averaging closer to 150 kids. Changes in staffing models and closed 6 units at CJTS. Going forward with the planned closure of CJTS, a target date of no later than 2018. They are writing the plan by September.

Connecticut Coalition to End Domestic Violence – 1% reduction this fiscal year, impact this fiscal year and annualized into next year. Also note, that philanthropy is declining as well, so Domestic Violence providers are grappling with this; possible solutions, where to make cuts?

Division of Public Defender Services – Tied with judicial budgeting. Breaks into two issues, the number, getting to this budget number, no programs to cut, they are focusing on what is constitutionally mandated, so social workers are possible cuts, because they are not constitutionally mandated. The other part is a resource allocation issue, the question being for them, where will their employee be housed? Waiting to see how judicial resources will be allocated.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services – DMHAS budget had an 8% reduction, 53 million, 17 million of that was annualized from 2016, left about 31 million working with now. 76 workers laid off, closed some transitional residential beds, working with treatment teams to place those individuals, they also closed the Valley View Café, (some of the clients were able to get other opportunities), and some levels of care are funded by Medicaid so they had some reductions there, and in programs that would have been new programs, didn't get started up at all. Loel attended a conference in Chicago for the MacArthur grant.

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence – represent non community based programs, 4.5% rescission during this fiscal year, with an additional 9.6% cut. In the last five years, there have been many changes made to help victims and survivors, and there is worry about cuts to these services. The sexual assault forensic examiner program and court based victim advocates are also at risk. Sex offender supervision program is also a good model and hopefully will not be in harm, to help keep sex offender recidivism low.

DSS – Primarily office support and IT staff have been laid off, which shouldn't impact their assistance in the criminal justice realm too much.

VII. Subcommittee Updates

PJOR – no updates

Behavioral health – no updates

Victim issues – no updates

VIII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IX. Adjournment

Mike Lawlor adjourned the meeting at 10:55. Note: No CJPAC meetings in July nor August.