

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: January 25, 2023

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Bridgette Nugent, Dan Cornell, Scott Miller, Matt VanHouten, Sherron Brown, Karla Brackett, Deana Bodnar, David Sanders, Jerry Wright, Rich John, Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Keegan Young, Emily Ashby, Ray Bunce, Taili Mugambee, Lance Salisbury, Judy Griffin, Louise Miller, Suzi Cook, Benay Rubenstein, Kate Shanks-Booth, Mike James.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Bridgette welcomed everyone, and each person introduced themselves.
- II. **Changes to Agenda:** No changes.
- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from the November 30th meeting were approved; after some review of a potential issue with an incomplete sentence in the long-term inmate report.
- IV. **Updates:** Rich John announced that the Public Safety Committee passed a resolution that will go to the Legislature that asks that the Facility and Infrastructure Committee look at the cost of renovations at the jail. The plan would involve reconfiguring the jail to create a pod system. The pod system would make it a more efficient set up, allowing for a better opportunity for supervision. They also want to have a better medical office as well as more classroom spaces for different programming. **Judy** said that she wanted to look at best practices for management of substance use disorder and other forms of treatment. She suggested that having the plans for treatment be supported by research and science. Community based care that doesn't focus only on crisis intervention. She said that she is willing to present to CJATI some of the research and science involved in treatment in the jail. Taili asked where in the process of being approved is the resolution? Rich responded that the money is in the 2023 budget and there are existing plans so after the next legislature meeting it will go to the F&I committee where it may take several months for their process. **John** said that he can share the resolution and the report with the group. **Ray** thanked everyone that has come to the jail to get a better understanding of the restrictions at the jail. He pointed out that the jail is used 3 times as much as a regular office building and it is time for updates. **Taili** asked if the plans call for a new building or just updates to the current building. **Rich** said it is some of both. Bridgette said that she is going to share links of the recordings of the committee meetings for anyone that is interested in more information. Rich was asked to do a more thorough report in the future.

a. Chair's Update: Bridgette Nugent

1. 2023 CJATI Goal Development & Measurements of Progress-

Review of Survey Results & Discussion on Goals

Bridgette thanked the folks that responded to the survey that she sent. She shared slides that outlined the responses. She reiterated that the plan is to have a manageable number of goals. All of the goals are important but having 3-4 actionable items for each goal will help make sure there is real work towards completion. The goals were listed by the most votes.

1. Study the Criminal Justice System and ATIs in TC. Examine reoffenders, and what causes them to re-offend? How to gather this data.
Questions: What does success look like? What will be studied?
2. Acknowledge and address disproportionate impacts on racial and ethnic minorities.
Questions: What does success look like? What do we mean by address?
3. Assess current victim advocacy services available and identify gaps and advocate to fill gaps.
Questions: What will the parameters of the assessment be?
4. Gather information and updates on issues of housing as they impact the population CJATI focuses on.
Reviewing data to understand how housing impacts recidivism as one component.

Bridgette shared a graph showing the other goals and the support for those goals based on the survey. She also shared the other goals that were suggested. **Judy** said that her take on the goals is that there are 2 pieces of the goals. The system and the people in the system. Housing for instance not only for the homeless population but for others that have a relationship with the criminal justice system. Dave said that there is a committee to look into human services and a committee to look at public safety but there needs to be more collaboration between the different committees. Housing seems to be the most important resource. Harmony added that MH also has a community housing board that also looks at housing as a necessary resource. She said that once the work towards the housing issues is complete she is willing to share that information with the group. Ray shared that there was a person released from jail this morning but he didn't want to leave because he had no place to go. Suzi suggested looking at the statistics of people that had housing and how that has helped them succeed and not re-enter the criminal justice system. Bridgette said that she will refer to the data that Marie Boyer has collected. Harmony shared the most recent statistics from Marie. Currently Marie is working with people for 6-8 months including time that they are still incarcerated. Of the 50 people she served 22% recidivism rate. One of the biggest challenges that the people she worked with was housing. Bridgette said that she added housing and examining re-offenders and what causes them to re-offend to the goal areas.

The survey answers for interest in what data should be looked at are

1. RoR's from the DA.
2. Number of clients in day reporting, electronic monitoring, service alternative to work program from probation.
3. Number of clients served in drug treatment, community treatment, and recovery courts.
4. Number of served in OAR programming, sunflower houses (OAR)

5. Number of clients that receive counsel at first appearance (assigned council)
6. Number of clients served through jail reentry program, recidivism, connection to supportive services. (reentry caseworker)

Bridgette said that she will report more on the data related to re-entry case management. As far as the other data is concerned Bridgette asked if there were any important data points that are missing. **Matt** said that the RoR data is not something that is kept track of. The things that are tracked are usually related to bail. He said tracking bail numbers is more relevant. **Dan** said that probation already provides a report to the criminal justice advisory board for all their services. He said that counting the people that are on probation and what they are there for to track the trends. **Lance** said that Assigned Counsel can provide the first appearance information but that the information could be misleading because attorneys aren't assigned if someone is released and asked to follow-up. He said that providing the number of arraignments and then follow that up with number of assignments which happens very quickly once they apply. **Matt** asked how many people are assigned an attorney in the time that they need one? That is the data that should be collected. **Lance** said that information is measured. **Benay** said there are a number of students at Arthaus and she wonders what can be done in a particular housing community that has a lot of issues that need to be addressed. Would collecting data in reference to that help change the atmosphere. **Judy** said that her experience is that the high response to crime at the Arthaus has improved. She encouraged Benay to reach out to her if she knows of someone that can benefit from REACH Medical support. **Dan** said that knowing that housing is important to this group; he is going to ask his officers to provide housing status for their clients. **Rich** said that the new data analyst at the CJC can help keep track of data as it is needed. Bridgette will update the list based on everyone's contributions and share it with the group.

- a. **Committee for Development and Release of NYS 13A Funding RFP-**
 - i. In the last five years CJATI has supported College Initiatives Upstate with NYS 13A funding. Bridgette notified the group that an open RFP process would be implemented this year to allow other agencies to apply. She will create the proposal and wants to work with others in CJATI to finalize that proposal and share it in the community. She will send a follow-up email with that information.
- b. **Updates from the Group- 2023 Initiatives**
 - i. Dave said that he has a report that was created that shows that 816 unduplicated individuals from the community came to OAR last year.
 - ii. Judy said that there was a federal law change regarding the regulations around prescribing suboxone. The regulations were barriers. One of the barriers that has been removed was the cap on how many patients can be treated by a provider.
 - iii. Suzi said that as of December 29th the state law changed the juvenile delinquency age changed from 7 to 12.
 - iv. Dan said that Probation is going to partner with College Initiative Upstate to provide space for a green energy training certification program that

will start in March. The program will prepare 8-12 people for good paying green energy jobs.

- v. Ray said that the jail is having a staffing issue. They are down 30% on staff. The staff that is there has been working a lot. Taili asked what the staffing issue can be attributed to. Ray said that law enforcement jobs are no longer desirable. He said that the contract negotiations are also an effect.

Long Term Inmate Report

A brief overview of the report was provided by Matt. Ray asked if the courts are still backed up due to COVID, Matt said that currently the issue is due to an increase in unrelated violent crimes and gun crimes.

Adjournment- Bridgette adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm. The next meeting is on February 22nd @ 12:00 via Zoom.