

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: February 22, 2023

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Bridgette Nugent, Scott Miller, Benay Rubenstein, Matt Van Houten, Lance Salisbury, Marier Boyer, Sherron Brown, Dan Cornell, David Sanders, Ray Bunce, Deana Bodnar, Taili Mugambee, Keegan Young, Rich John, Kate Shanks-Booth, Louise Miller, Emily Ashby, Judy Griffin, Keyanna Vann, Peter Salton, Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Cynthia Brock, Mary Osario.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Bridgette welcomed everyone, and each person introduced themselves. Benay asked that if anyone knows of prospective students for the Upstate College Initiative Program, please refer them. Taili said that there will be a community book read of “My Grandmothers’ Hands” by Resmaa Menakem. The goal is to have a readership of 1200, the plan is to focus on the school system, as well as practitioners in the justice system.

2. Changes to Agenda: No changes to the agenda.

3. Minutes Approval: January minutes approved.

4. Updates:

a. Chair’s Update: Bridgette Nugent

i. 2023 CJATI Goal Development & Measurements of Progress-

Bridgette shared a document that lists proposed goals. She asked if there is any feedback regarding the current goals. Dan said that the two priorities that he sees consistently harming people in the community aren’t listed. Opioid and fentanyl sales as well as the response to violent (gun, knife) crimes. Bridgette asked where he thinks those goals would fit or if they would stand on their own.

Taili said that as he reviewed the goals he asked what the objectives for each goal are and how the group will input for each one no matter the goals they commit to working on. Judy said that the goal regarding opioids and the additives could be listed as a public safety goal.

Lance said that the goal of examining reoffenders and what causes them to reoffend can be complex. Sherron said that in the conversation regarding reoffenders the people that do not reoffend should be looked at to learn about their success and how that can help others.

Rich said that there is a task force being formed for the work at the jail and he said that when the task force is convened he would like input from CJATI. Peter asked that the jail task force consider a plan that allows program spaces in the jail as a response to the data that shows that access to services is important. Rich said that the Public Safety Committee is looking at spaces for programming and a better medical facility.

Bridgette said that at the next meeting there will be more discussion to fine tune the goals and she will reach out to group members to assign goals. Scott said that he would like to see where Tompkins County is in harm reduction as part of the goals. Judy thanked Scott for specifying the need for that. Peter said that harm reduction is part of a bill in the Legislature that is supposed to merge OMH and OASAS. He said that the bill can help harm reduction down the road and he wants to know if there is anything that can be done locally to help move that along. Taili asked what the name of the bill is so he can get more information. Peter is sending it to him. Judy said that the Opioid settlement funds should be used towards harm reduction, Bridgette asked Harmony to please keep the group updated on that.

1. **Confirm Goals and Workgroups** -This will be done via email and at the next meeting.

b. Reentry Case Manager 2022 Annual Report- Marie Boyer

- i. Marie said that she spends a lot of time on housing, and it is one of the biggest barriers for her clients. 64% of the people in the program are unhoused before going to jail. Average enrollment is supposed to be 90 days, it is usually 6 months. Seven people that were enrolled went back to jail, 6 of them were unhoused. Some of them have Section 8 sanctions and that is a barrier to stable housing. She said the Sunflower house has been a huge asset. Allowing people access to housing with low barriers. She has helped 18 people secure stable housing. She also works with Mid Lakes ACT team which can help people that can't access many services in many places. All the services are together and mobile. There is often a waitlist for this program. Marie reiterated Dan's concern about people being poisoned with fentanyl and Xylazine. Taili asked if the death from laced drugs is self-inflicted? Marie said that the people do not know that the drugs are laced, and they are using it unknowingly. Judy said that a lot of people are unknowingly exposed to fentanyl and do not know that Narcan can save them. Dan said there is an increase in people using Meth as a "safer" option. He said that of the 377 people they are serving 41 of

the people are unhoused or do not have stable housing. Harmony reiterated the demand for supportive housing. Taili said that as all of the groups are collecting data it is important that everyone is collecting the same information so there can be a comprehensive picture of the community needs and the impacts the different groups are having. Bridgette asked Marie to let CJATI know what ways they can support the work that Marie does.

c. Highlights from the 2022 Probation Annual Report- Dan Cornell

- i. Dan will present at the next meeting.

d. Long Term Inmate Report

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