

## **Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting**

Date: November 29, 2023

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

**Attendees:** Bridgette Nugent, Ray Bunce, Monalita Smiley, Matt Van Houten, Lance Salisbury, Peter Salton, Daniel Cornell, David Sanders, Dean Bodnar, Sue Robinson, Sherron Brown, Stacy Cangelosi, Jerry Wright, Jeremy Cranmer, Dominick Recckio, Taili Mugambée, Rich John, Louise Miller, Erica Cotraccia, Mike James.

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Bridgette asked everyone to introduce themselves and save updates for later in the meeting to allow time for Mona to give her updates.
2. **Changes to Agenda:**
3. **Minutes Approval:** The minutes from October were approved.
4. **Updates:**
  - a. **Chair's Update- Bridgette Nugent** – Bridgette announced that Tammy Baker, the Homeless Services Coordinator has left her employment with the county. She was in the process of outlining the services provided by local outreach worker programs. Bridgette is still receiving the feedback from that, and she will share it with the group. Taili asked if it was a planned exit and if there is a plan to fill the position. Bridgette said that it is not posted but after a review of what worked and didn't work in the position the job will be reposted.
5. **Update on Community Justice Center Initiatives- Monalita Smiley:** Mona shared the current active plans and projects that the CJC has been working on.
  - Community Resource Hubs. There are 2 locations, one in Enfield and one in Groton. Services range from medical transportation, education, Section 8 paperwork, housing entitlements, and home energy and repair assistance services. Over 25 community members have received information and referrals to services in the community. Lansing is interested in having a resource hub in their community. The hubs are bringing access to services to people that can't travel to Ithaca.
  - Community Healing is still progressing. In March there was a training session with an expert on community healing. Mona is working to develop a working group of community members and law enforcement representatives to continue that work. There is a mural being created in "baby bank alley", it represents what healing looks like from the view of youth in the community and was designed by the Black Girl Alchemy group from South Side Community Center.
  - The officer wellness plan is being developed based on a survey that was done earlier this year. The Department of Emergency Response and LEAP (the NY State Law Enforcement Assistance Program) as well

as the Employee Assistance Programs in the unions to develop trainings and bring other resources to officers and first responders.

- A working group has been established for the Innovative recruitment and retention plan. It consists of representatives from law enforcement in the city and the county, educators from the local colleges and human resource experts. They are working with consultants from HCH Enterprises, a company that specializes in recruitment and retention planning for municipal governments. They are working on a long-term strategic plan; the final plan will be complete by the end of the year.
- The Culturally responsive training working group consists of someone from communications, law enforcement, administration, and a community member. They are reviewing training that are offered to and required for LE in Tompkins County. The group will develop some curriculum and training that can be added to what already exists, using the expertise that is available in the county.
- The community dashboard is being developed to add to the information in the dashboard that the DA's office and IPD have released. The CJC dashboard will publish data related to policing and public safety with data provided by the Sheriff's Department and the Department of Emergency Response. They are open to feedback from the community about what other data people would like to see. The CJC dashboard and the DA's dashboards will each have links to the others. The CHC dashboard will also show data from the Co-response team.
- The Data Disclosure plan is being developed from information provided by the DA's Office, Assigned Counsel and the Department of Probation and Community Justice. The aim of the collaboration is to provide the public with the most comprehensive view of the criminal justice system to help foster an informed and engaged community.
- Up next the CJC will be working on the traffic safety plan.

Taili asked what demographic the Community service hubs target. Mona said the hubs are open to anyone that needs access to services in the county. There is a computer available, and Mona helps access the services or refers them to the agency that can help. Mona gave many examples of the connections she has made and the services that she has provided at the hubs. Bridgette asked if other agencies could join Mona at the resource hubs to connect their services to the people in those communities. Mona said she has been in contact with agencies that can join her, and they are welcome to use the space to meet with people when she is not there as well.

#### **6. Mapping ATI's in Tompkins County- Rich John:**

- a. Rich started at question four which is where the group left off previously.  
**"Beyond recidivism, how can we measure the effectiveness of the ATIs?"**

i. “Taili said that a survey of folks that are utilizing ATI services would be a good place to start. The survey can be conducted at the point of or soon after accessing services and then a follow-up survey about six months later. Or even one month, three months and then six months after services. Dave said that he has used surveys in the past, but it can be difficult to get people to respond to them. Sue asked if it is possible to do short interview instead of surveys. Dan said that they use “exit interviews” in a form for people that have completed their probation sentence, and he has also had trouble getting responses. It can be hard to maintain contact with people. Taili asked if there is a way to incentivize participation. He also asked if it could be part of the participation process. Pete suggested sharing stories of success with ATI’s or stories from people that serve clients can help gauge effectiveness. Dan agrees that community forums and other opportunities to share stories would be an incentive to others and can speak to the success of ATI’s. Sue said that it can be important to protect the identity of the people in the stories being shared unless the person wants to be identified. Dave said that on Friday December 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-8:00 pm, there was an event at the Hangar Theater for OAR participants to share their experiences in the program.

**b. Question five, “Are ATIs coordinated?”**

i. Rich said that one idea that was discussed previously was better coordination of outreach workers. Dave said that this is an open-ended question because there are programs that don’t have clearly defined services. Understanding how to make appropriate referrals would be helpful. Rich said that having a “front door to ATIs could be helpful. Or having each ATI explain how they make referrals may be better. Deana said that the referral process is based on where in relation to criminal justice a person is which needs to be considered. Rich asked if a flow chart with links would be helpful. Ray said that he thinks that the coordination discussion keeps coming up and one issue that needs to be considered is what information can be shared between the programs. He said that if there was one person that could maintain a file on each person that may be the best way to coordinate services.

**c. Question three: “Do ATI’s help the whole person?”**

i. Taili said that the group should reconsider a role, one person that can bring all the information together to present to the group, to make sure that folks are receiving all the services available to them. Taili and Rich agree that Bridgette is doing that now. Havin one person who more time for this work may be more effective. Dave said that issues with confidentiality and sharing data have been a barrier. Dan said that probation is not a referral program as it is court ordered. He said the

issue he has is not knowing which programs people on probation can be referred to. Taili suggested a training for outreach worker to understand HIPAA and confidentiality can aid in coordination between programs. Peter said that the client can always waive their right to privacy and sign releases if they choose to, though there is not currently a process for this. Dan offered to help develop a release that can be used.

Rich will work with Bridgette on a report to the Public Safety Committee. Has said that if anyone has anything else to add before December 14<sup>th</sup> to please reach out to himself or Bridgette.

- 7. Long Term Inmate Report- Matt Van Houten** – There are 5 people listed that have been in jail for 5 months or longer without being sentenced. Two people are scheduled for trials; two have pled guilty and are waiting for sentencing; one individual is on a psychiatric hold and there is a psychiatric resolution to that case pending. Dave asked what the average length of stay for a person in the jail is, Ray answered that the average is 22 days. Ray said that one of the hardest things that his officers deal with is people with mental health needs in the jail, and the back up while those folks wait for the proper placement in treatment centers adds to the numbers in the jail.

Dan has asked if the “Clean Slate” legislation that is being passed in the New Year can be added to the agenda. Dan said that any of the meetings from January to March. There was some discussion about the act. There will be more information in a future meeting.

- 8. Adjournment- Bridgette** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:30. The next meeting is scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00.