

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: April 23, 2025

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Beverly Livesay Room – Human Services Building

Attendees: Bridgette Nugent, Matthew Van Houten, Dan Cornell, Dave Sanders, Dominick Recckio, Lance Salisbury, Kate Shanks-Booth, Deana Bodnar, Michael Rhines, Taili Mugambee, Sadie Crusade, Tom Kelly, Sherron Brown.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Bridgette welcomed everyone and asked for updates.
 - a. **Kate-** The Youth Services department has been tracking countywide indicators through their “Achieving Youth Results” work. Kate said they have a goal of tracking justice involved youth including gun-related and violent crimes. If anyone in the group has this data, please reach out.
 - b. **Mike-** shared that the Civic Ensemble has is hosting an upcoming movie screening at Cinemapolis. “Human Again” will be showing on April 27th at 2:30 pm.
 - c. **Dominick-** The city of Ithaca has created a plan and policy for homeless encampments. The plan and policy will be presented to the Common Council for approval on May 7th. Dominick will continue to update the group.
 - d. **Dan-** The probation department is still investigating the causal factors for the disproportionate negative probation outcomes for people of color. He has reached out to Dave Sanders, Taili Mugambee, Monalita Smiley and Sadie Crusade for feedback. He is trying to create a working group of people that can identify and combat the negative factors. He will send an email to CJATI to gauge interest from others.
 - i. **Dave** said that when policies and processes are changed people with lived experience need to be involved. He said that other data from socioeconomic factors as well as housing data, education level, substance abuse and mental health treatment data.
- 2. Changes to Agenda:** No changes.
- 3. Minutes Approval:** The minutes of the March meeting were unanimously approved.
- 4. Updates:**
 - a. **Chair’s Update** – Bridgette asked the group if they would be willing to meet in the Scott Heyman room for in-person meetings moving forward. The group agreed. Beginning in June the group will meet at the Old Jail in the 1st floor conference room.
 - b. **2024 Annual Report: TC Jail: Bridgette Nugent on behalf of Lauran Harrison-**
 - i. Bridgette shared information from the TC Jail annual report. Lauran is working on recreating the Physicians Assistant program to offer health screenings and services to inmates.

- ii. Sadie has created a gardening program at the jail.
- iii. Parenting classes are being offered to inmates and Captain Harrison is working with TST BOCES to begin GED classes again.
- iv. The average length of stay for a person housed in jail is 50 days.
- v. In 2024 there were 490 people booked into jail and 498 people released.

Dave asked how many positions there are for forensic counselors and nurses in the jail, are the positions being approved? He is hoping to see annual data related to personal support services.

c. Discussion Item: Review of Felony Level Offenses and Trends: Matt Van Houten, Lance Salisbury- Bridgette shared the DA's Data dashboard.

- i. There are 10 inmates ready to move to state prisons, but transport dates have been pushed to May to accommodate the staffing constraints in the state prison system.
- ii. There are 8 people scheduled for trial from now until October.
- iii. There are other factors that contribute to higher numbers of people being housed in the jail; the changes to bail reform that allows more discretion for judges to incarcerate people when they have demonstrated willful and persistent disregard for their court appearances.
- iv. There is an increase in violent crimes which are bail eligible.
- v. There is an increase in staff in the police departments which leads to increased patrols and arrests.
- vi. The DA's office is part of a data tracking project focused on plea agreement data through Duke University. Once the results are published, they will be shared with the group.

Dave wants to compare data from the past to the current data to better understand the trends. Dan asked if there are trends in offense types. The group will analyze the data further in an upcoming meeting. Lance pointed out that the data from the Assigned Council office is different than the data from the DA's office or the law enforcement departments because the status of a person's charges can change throughout the criminal justice process. If charges are reduced or dropped that data is not going to be carried to the next data collection point.

d. Long Term Inmate report: Lance Salisbury- Ten of the people on the list are state ready, they will be moved to state prisons in May. Eight people are waiting for trials that are scheduled between May and October. Trial schedules are set by the NYS Court Administration Office in Binghamton.

e. Meeting Adjourned; at 1:15 pm. The next meeting is May 28th at 12:00 pm via Zoom.