

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: January 28, 2026

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Bridgette Nugent, Holly Mosher, Marie Boyer, Samantha Stevenson, Deana Bodnar, Dave Sanders, Mona Smiley, Liddy Bargar, Dominick Recckio, Matt Van Houten, Sadie Crusade, Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Taili Mugambee, Dan Cornell, Joanna Stergion, Peter Salton, Jennifer Brownell, Laura Kennedy-Smith, Ali Hubbell-Howell, Lance Salisbury, Tara Morgan, Tom Kelly, Emily Ashby, Mike James, Sherron Brown,

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Bridgette welcomed the group.
- 2. Changes to Agenda:** No changes.
- 3. Minutes' Approval:** The minutes of the November 19th meeting were unanimously approved.
- 4. Updates:**
 - a. Group Updates:**
 - i. The Open Doors program has been moved from Family & Children's Services to the Learning Web.
 - ii. Chief Kelly announced that IPD contracts with Second Wind Cottages- using money from the GIVE grant to fund an outreach worker for residents there. The CARE Team is working well.
 - iii. IPD has been referring people to OAR and CARS. The Chief said that he is hoping to partner with more agencies to follow-up with people they have contact with that can benefit from outreach. He said that there needs to be more information about the parameters that determine "success" and how that can be tracked.
 - iv. Harmony said there is a new drug Methionine that has been added to opiates. This is a veterinary drug. Testing strips are available and WH is trying to get them.
 - b. Chair's Update-**
 - i. Two new Legislature Seats, we now have sixteen with 8 new Legislators.
 - ii. New Chair of Public Safety Committee, Travis Brooks- will attend CJATI meetings in the future.
 - iii. Bridgette has asked the group to think about design considerations for a newly built year-round emergency shelter on Cherry Street. The county is applying for NYS grant funding and will know more in the fall.

- iv. Open Share: Focus areas for 2026 CJATI – Bridgette asked for feedback from the group in planning speakers and discussion topics in 2026.
 - 1. Kate asked that the 18-24 population in the shelter may have specific needs. Please reach out to Youth Services with any support needs. Dan said the Village at Ithaca is a good resource for homeless youth.
 - 2. Social determinants for health- Dave wants to identify social gaps that affect health and identify what resources are available to address the gaps. Taili asked for more information on the data that Dave needs to track this. Dave will follow up when he is ready to collect data. Bridgette referred to Dave as the WH information that was collected in their recent Community Health Assessment (CHA) surveys. He said any information that is available publicly has been reviewed.
 - 3. Harmony asked for more services related to juvenile justice related services and services for their families.
 - 4. Peter asked for the group to consider what response local service agencies will have regarding ICE activities.

c. Updates from the Continuum of Care & Criminal Justice Engagement: Liddy Bargar, Dir. of Housing Initiatives at Human Services Coalition-

- i. Continuum of Care (CoC) can be statewide, county only, several counties etc. The Tompkins CoC is a one county CoC.
- ii. Work to reduce homelessness and prevention. CoC is the funding source for local housing projects. They use rank and review to choose who receives funding from HUD.
- iii. CoC funds \$1.6 million in projects annually.
- iv. CoC works to enhance services in the community.
- v. 2009 “Housing First” was established to help people find permanent, supportive housing. Policy has changed to add harm reduction and wrap around services.
- vi. Federal Funding notice changed the types of projects that CoC can fund and reduced permanent housing options among other changes. Projects funded last year will be funded for one more year.
- vii. HUD and other agencies have sued to change the parameters back to the original.
- viii. Liddy asked how the CoC can support CJATI work. CoC wants to know how other ATI and support programs work to collaborate.
- ix. CoC is looking at identifying the most common barriers so they can address them and help fill gaps.
- x. Liddy said there needs to be clear, shared language for housing terms so there are collaboration and communication using the same language.
- xi. She said that the more housing status at intake and exits in community agencies the easier it will be to determine where the housing gaps are.

- xii. Liddy said there is value in looking back at housing issues to see what worked well and where gaps still exist.
- xiii. Liddy will share her presentation with the group.
- xiv. Liddy invites anyone from the group to CoC meetings; anyone that wants to invite her to their groups and meetings can reach out to her.

Bridgette asked what elements of the “safety in our streets” is connected to housing and HUD. “COCs should work with LE, EMS and state and local governments to reduce encampments, public camping and public drug use.”

Taili said that TC needs to maintain the course we are on. He said that housing, MH and employment services need to be maintained. He wants to convene a group of service providers representing these factions. The plan is to have a 1–2-day conference to identify needs and discuss how best to support each sector. Liddy said the CoC is looking to make the same connection.

Marie said there is a lot of concern in the courts to release people that don’t have housing which is a barrier and is in effect criminalizing homelessness. She said that further education in the court system is needed, so they understand the lack of options. Judge Kennedy-Smith asked which courts Marie had had this experience with; Marie said all municipalities. Judge Kennedy-Smith asked if people are being remanded at arraignment due to lack of housing or is it related to treatment courts. Lance said that it is during arraignment, when stable housing is not available. Judge Kennedy-Smith said there is a council of representatives from town and village courts; she will share this feedback with them. Dan said if there are people being incarcerated due to homelessness that needs to be tracked to know what courts do this, how often and if there are any co-occurring considerations with mental health or substance use disorders. Marie said she will track it. Bridgette asked if Assigned Counsel can track housing status of their clients. He said he will investigate it.

Dan said that the 1115 Medicaid Waiver has been very helpful. Liddy said that the initial connection to housing is important, it has many strengths. She said that there needs to be longer-term support for true success. Dave said OAR determines if people applying can maintain housing after the 6-month funding period.

- d. Long Term Inmate report Matt VanHouten-** Ten people listed. Four are waiting for sentencing. Two people awaiting suppression hearing – precursor to trial. One person that does not understand his case and the process- working to resolve. One person has a trial scheduled for May.

Meeting Adjourned; at 1:30 pm. The next meeting will be on February 25, 2026, in-person.