

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: May 27, 2026

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: S. Heyman Room, 125 E. Court Street

Attendees: Bridgette Nugent, Nicole Cashman, Holly Mosher, Rebecca Rathmell, Dave Sanders, Mona Smiley, Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Alison Hubbell-Howell, Dan Cornell, Marie Boyer, Matt VanHouten, Travis Brooks, Lance Salisbury.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Bridgette welcomed the group.

a. Group Updates:

- OAR may be receiving funding through Anna Kelles to provide EMDR services to their clients. Dave stated they are looking at options for treatment providers that can support this work.
- CJC is still working on the ROOTS unarmed responder plan, the job descriptions have been sent to stakeholders for feedback. Mona is also working on identifying equipment and operational needs for the program. CJC worked with an Ithaca College student and IPD to produce a recruitment video.

2. Changes to Agenda: No changes.

3. Minutes' Approval: The minutes of the April 22nd meeting were unanimously approved.

4. Updates:

- #### **a. Chair's Update:**
- Bridgette has organized a small working group to re-envision how data related to ATI programs is being presented. She spoke to Matthew Davids, the Data Analyst for the CJC to discuss the focus of attention on ATI's in that data. The current members of the working group are Matthew Davids, Dave Sanders and Marie Boyer. Bridgette shared the new concept for the dashboard with the group. The dashboard shows broader, community level indicators. Some key changes will be to added include the continuum graphic, expanding the current ATIs section to include information from the probation program and jail programs. There will also be improvement to the narrative flow. The new data analysis will help highlight any gaps in current programs and services.
- #### **b. Probation and Community Justice 2025 Annual report, Director of Probation, Dan Cornell-**
- Dan shared the data dashboard for his department. The department is currently supervising 519 adults, 74% are male and 26% are female. 72.83% are Caucasian, 21% are African American and 4% are other. There is a broad range of offenses that includes 19% for DWI, 19% for property crimes and 16% for assault. Of the participants 39% are unemployed and 38% are unemployed and 13% is unknown. Enhanced supervision is utilized in cases where online activity needs to be

monitored, there are 3 people on electronic monitoring 52 people in drug court. 21 are participating in wellness court and there are 4 people that are wearing alcohol monitoring devices. Dan is currently trying to get a contract with intoxalock to get a breathalyzer device that can connect to a person's phone, then they can be prompted to breathe into the device to measure their blood alcohol level. 33% of the people in presentencing investigation are in the 30-39 age range, with 20–29-year-olds accounting for 27%. 43% of people are recommended for probation, with 17% recommended for jail and 11% for state prison. Jail was recommended for 34% of people of color and 20% for Caucasian people. Related to violations of probation, there are 47% of people that have been in violation, with the higher percent being 40–50-year-olds. ¾ of the violations are still awaiting an outcome. Dan said that in 2025 there were almost 25,000 contacts with people under supervision. He said that 60% of the cases were closed successfully. He said that they are looking to expand on the data they are collecting. He also said there will be a new case management system in 2027. He wants to make sure that the information in this system is archived in some way. Dan shared information from the case management system they are currently using. Dan said that they have secured a \$50,000 grant to look more closely at what services can be enhanced to address the racial disparity in the number of people of color that do not successfully complete probation.

- Dan spoke about the community service program to highlight cost savings to the county to avoid the program being cut in future budgets. In 2026 Tompkins Workforce NY will be coming to do training in the Day Reporting program. They also have a mental health wellness program in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension. They also have a women's group as well as a men's group.
- Dan said that the officer arming process is reaching its culmination. He and other officers are going to a "less lethal" training to learn about the effects of and the decontamination process when pepper spray is used. Next, they will have firearm training and then body camera training.
- Bridgette asked how housing status can affect their success in probation. Dan said that they are tracking that a little bit because the instability of being unhoused can contribute to the ability to maintain law abiding behavior. He said that someone from Cornell Cooperative Extension comes once a week to meet with people that are eligible for the 1115 Medicaid Waiver to help them access resources.
- Dave asked if the employment data collected separates full and part time employment. Dan said that they do not collect that data, they are only concerned with an employable person having a job. He said that there are people that are enrolled in extensive treatment programs that are not expected to be employed.
- Bridgette asked what the violation count was for 2025- there were 88 violations for the year. The number for 2026 is trending a bit higher.

- Dave asked how long the review of unsuccessful supervisions will be and if Dan has identified anything that may lead to unsuccessful probation cases. He said homelessness, food insecurity and lack of treatment options and availability in the region. He said that a peer connection program may be helpful, but he was unable to secure a grant to implement that.
- c. **1115 Waiver Overview and Status Update: Care Compass, Rebecca Rathmell & Nicole Cashman** – Nicole gave an overview of the eligibility criteria for the Social Care Network that TC is a part of. Post-release services are available to Medicaid recipients through the 1115 waiver. The program provides enhanced services related to housing, nutrition and transportation during the transition from fee for service Medicaid to Managed Care Medicaid. A screening is provided before release to determine what services the person may need. They are then connected to local organizations that can help them in the transition. Once the person transitions into managed care Medicaid a new screening is conducted to assess their needs and then services are provided related to housing and utilities as well as furniture. The goal is to find sustainable tenancy through local support and opportunities.

Rebecca shared her screen to show a presentation about enhanced services. The presentation will be shared with the group. Recently released people that have chronic health condition are one of the eligible groups. New housing supports add significant resource potential. The re-entry population is not captured. The suspended status of the population is a barrier to identifying people that can benefit from these services. Care Compass has been hosting a work group to establish a referral workflow to capture people pre-or-immediately post release. The workflow is a 5-step process that involves identifying eligible individuals, reinstating coverage, screening and assessing individual needs and then attesting to eligibility. Rebecca asked if Tompkins County is interested in a similar approach to enhanced support. Marie said that she has worked with Betsy Violet to screen people at TC jail, she said that her viewpoint is that the assessment process is working but that Betsy can speak more to that. She said that the lack of affordable housing is a concern but overall, the 1115 waiver program has enhanced resource connectivity. Rebecca said that there are instances where the 6-month housing support can be extended. She said her group continues to advocate to have that support extended. She said that there has been progress towards reducing barriers in social service departments related to housing. She said the biggest struggle is the pre-release process. She said there is a bottleneck related to available providers that can participate in the waiver program. The state is making changes to accommodate that. Marie said that the therapist at the jail is part of the waiver program and that has helped. Nicole said that screening has to be done after release because the person's Medicaid is suspended while they are incarcerated. Bridgette asked how the follow-up works for people that meet with Betsy pre-release. Marie said that if people are eligible the appointment is scheduled for the day of their release. Rebecca said that one

development they are working on is more coordinated communication between social services departments and the jail so that potentially eligible people can be contacted when they are released. She hopes to reduce the number of steps to take to initiate services.

Dan asked about accessing services for a person that they are working with that has been off probation for a year but still receives support from his PO because they have a relationship of trust. He has been receiving services from the 1115 waiver, but he wants to transfer his services to California. Dan and Rebecca will meet to discuss this specific case. She said that Medicaid functions at a state level so services may not be transferred but there may be an opportunity to connect them to existing services in CA. Rebecca said that if there are any components of the work they are doing in Broome County that would be helpful for TC to please reach out.

- d. Long-Term Inmate Report: Cpt. Harrison, Lance Salisbury, Matt VanHouten-** The report has 9 people listed. Matt said that one has had a suppression hearing and is waiting for a decision. One person is waiting for a bed in a psychiatric facility; three people are waiting for sentencing hearings that are scheduled in June. One person just finished a trial that was a mistrial, a new trial is in the fall. Another person has court in June, and the case will be resolved. Another person will resolve their case through a plea and sentencing on May 28th.

Meeting Adjourned; at 1:31 pm. The next meeting will be on June 24, 2026, in-person.