

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: February 28, 2024

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Bridgette Nugent, Jeremy Cranmer, Matt Van Houten, Ray Bunce, Sherron Brown, Jerry Wright, David Sanders, Daniel Cornell, Erica Cotraccia, Rich John, Kate Shanks-Booth, Taili Mugambee, Yasmin Rashid, Jordan Clemons, Lance Salisbury, Harmony Ayers-Friedlander.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Bridgette welcomed everyone and asked for updates.
 - a. Sherron said that the College Initiative Upstate classes begin March 18th, they are still looking for registrants and applicants for the program.
 - b. Dan Cornell said that for the first time in 10 months they are fully staffed.
 - c. Rica said that next months the CARS program will open an Opioid treatment program in Cortland and hopefully in April they will be opening one in Chenango County as well. Bridgette asked if CARS is involved in taking clients from the now closed Alcohol and Drug Council. She said they are working to make sure that ADC clients are not experiencing a lapse in care.
 - d. Rix said that he just attended the NYSAC conference where a couple of resolutions were passed; the first one was to try to get NYS to do a better job of specialized secure detention. There are times when a person under the age of 18 needs to be detained and can't be housed in a jail but there are few alternatives to securely detain youth. The other resolution is to get more financial support from the state for Probation Departments.
 - e. Ray said that there is a Capital Project at the with an increase in contractors that need to be escorted in the jail. Taili and Ray have been discussing a jail garden project, they have a good plan for the summer. The head count has stayed around 60 people.
 - f. Youth Services is hiring a project assistant to help with a resource mapping project. They are also looking to hire a youth service specialist that can work with youth programs to offer resources to youth with disabilities.
 - g. Jeremy said the Community Dispute Resolution Center has been creating more school programming.
 - h. The Ultimate reentry Opportunity (URO) program is working on 3 primary projects this year. The jail gardening program: the data collection of the sunflower house, which shows a 7% recidivism rate; they are also working on the "Beyond the Block" program with a local employer to teach them what it means to recruit, hire and retain people in the community that are in the reentry process. The reading group for the "My Grandmother's Hands" book is still meeting. Monalita Smiley from the CJC and the Tompkins DA as well as the Chief of Police for the City are all participating in this group.
 - i. Yasmin and Jordan introduced themselves and talked about their program Unbroken Promise Initiative, and the work they do in the community to served marginalized communities. Their areas of focus are housing, policing in the

community, childcare, food in security, workforce development, youth services and economic vitality.

- j. Harmony reported that the CARE team has been launched for the City of Ithaca. She responds with officers that request her on calls.
2. **Changes to Agenda:** None.
 3. **Minutes Approval:** The minutes from January were approved.
 4. **Updates:**

a. **Chair's Update- Bridgette Nugent –**

- i. **Outreach Worker Programs:** Bridgette said the information for RFP for the Community Outreach Worker Program (now the Mobile Supportive Services Program) is on the Tompkins County Purchasing Site via Bidnet.
 - ii. **CJATI Advisory Board Revised Bylaws: Vote at March Meeting-** The template was released by the Legislature; Bridgette updated the new template with the CJATI Bylaws and sent that to the group. She is hoping to vote at the March meeting. Please look at the Bylaws and contact Bridgette with any feedback.
- b. **DA Dashboard Overview: Matt Van Houten-** Matt shared his screen to show the DA's Data Dashboard. Each page of the dashboard has a description of the data available, and a glossary of the terms used on the page. He showed the demographics of the individuals arrested for felony crimes. He said all the information is self-reported by the individual. The data has filters that can be used to specify the data that you are seeing. Matt has encouraged everyone to visit the page and learn more about the information that is collected and displayed. On the last page of the data page there is information that shows the crime, criminal history and sentencing information for people that received a prison sentence. Ray asked if the numbers for people sent to County Jail are listed? Matt said that is part of the dashboard that shows the numbers of people arrested for misdemeanors and other crimes that had a sentence of probation or local jail time. Dan also clarified that people that are a part of pretrial release supervision are not listed because they have not been sentenced. Matt said he has also asked the Department of Emergency Response about publishing numbers of police calls and arrests. Taili asked if there is information available for the demographic breakdown of Tompkins County to help create a better picture of what the data shows. Matt said he will see if that data is available somewhere that it can be organized and added to the DA's Data site. Dan suggested using Census data. Matt appreciates the feedback; he asked that as people learn more about the site, they reach out to him and let him know what they think can be improved. Bridgette will share a link with the group so people can check it out.

- c. **Data Report Out and Discussion:** Bridgette asked that the group think about what they want to see in data sharing in the county. She has asked other groups to be prepared to share more about the data sharing that they do. Dave recommended Department of Justice data can be helpful for the group. He will do a presentation about that data and how OAR uses it in the future.

- d. **Long Term Inmate Report:** Bridgette shared the report with the group. Matt reported that of the people on the list, 2 people are waiting for a trial. The rest of the group are waiting for their sentencing. There is still one person waiting for a report from an expert psychiatrist so that he can be sentenced. Ray said that the list seems to be getting longer and there are people that need mental health services that are still in jail. He also said that there seems to be a hold up on sentencing; he is unsure if that is a hold up in the DA's office or at Probation. Matt said that it seems to be a trend that people request a trial which takes time to arrange and then the person pleads guilty just before the trial and then the sentencing can take 6-8 weeks. He said that it depends on the court schedule and availability of the legal team of the inmate.

5. **Adjournment- Bridgette** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:30. The next meeting is scheduled for March 27th at 12:00.