

Minutes for Criminal Justice/Alternatives to Incarceration Advisory Board (CJATI)

Date: 1/27/2021

Call to Order: 12:02

Attendees: (24) Deana Bodnar, Karla Brackett, Ray Bunce, Deanna Carrithers, Suzi Cook, Dan Cornell, Mark Dresser, Donna Fleming, Henry Granison, Judy Griffin, Lisa Holmes, Rich John, Louise Miller, Scott Miller, Taili Mugambee, Bridgette Nugent, Mary Orsaio, Susan Robinson, Benay Rubenstein, Lance Salisbury, Franci Saunders, Angela Sullivan, Matt Van Houten, Jerry Wright.

Changes to the Agenda: The Long Term Inmates Report was added.

Minutes: 12/16/20 meeting minutes were accepted.

Moved: Louise Miller

Seconded: Rich John

Ayes: 17

Abstentions: (2) Angela Sullivan and Louise Miller.

CJATI Goals Discussion: Lisa Holmes shared the CJATI Purpose from the bylaws:

- (1) To study the criminal justice system in Tompkins County with particular attention to programs that are alternatives to incarceration
- (2) To identify unmet needs and opportunities for meeting these needs and improving the system, including potential funding sources
- (3) To make recommendations to the Tompkins County Legislature and its committee that deals with public safety
- (4) To provide a forum for networking, coordination, and communication between agencies and departments making up the County's criminal justice system; and
- (5) To fulfill its duties as mandated under NYS Executive Law, Article 13-A, §261 (development and submission of a local service plan annually).

Lisa Holmes presented a slate of proposed goals for 2021 as follows:

- a. COVID-19 Impacts
 - Assess social, health and economic impacts of COVID-19 on client populations and ATI program funding;
- b. Reimagining Public Safety
 - Provide regular updates to CJATI;
 - Gather input from CJATI members where appropriate
- c. Parole
 - Study impact of Parole technical violations on jail statistics;
 - Work with Regional Parole to incorporate ATIs;
 - Monitor NYS Parole Reform movement "Less is More";

- d. Bail Reform
 - Assess impacts of Bail Reform on jail statistics and community services;
 - Identify gaps and advocate to fill gaps;
- e. Disproportionate Impacts on Racial and Ethnic Minorities
 - Continue work of Georgetown Capstone Project on diverting youth of color from criminal justice system;
- f. Submit Annual Plan as required by NYS
 - Administer Article 13A funding;
 - Collect and submit quarterly RBA data as required;
- g. Improve Inter-Agency Communication and Collaboration
 - Provide structured time for agency updates and presentations about services;
 - Facilitate inter-agency collaboration on service delivery and grant opportunities.

Discussion/Recommendations related to 2021 Goals:

- Benay Rubenstein: It would be good to go over the list of ATIs at a future CJATI meeting.
- Judy Griffin: Would like to review national evidence-based ATI programs.
- Taili Mugambee: Provide historical information of when CJATIs started in New York State.
- Rich John: It would be good to revisit all the ATI programs and where we're going from here. ATI program impact is important in keeping crimes down.
- Lance Salisbury: There has been no correlation between bail reform and the recent blip in violent crimes.
- Taili Mugambee: Take into account the impact of COVID-19 on marginalized communities.
- Scott Miller: Recent transfer of care coordinator at TCMH impacted a client in Wellness in Recovery Court who committed suicide. Not suggesting causality but the change in care manager was very impactful for this client.
- Franci Saunders: Desire for goals to lead to action. We must meet people where they're at.
- Taili Mugambee: Concerns about who is missing and how we contextualize the results of the Reimagining Public Safety process; concerns about lack of buy-in among community members.
- Rich John: Reimagining Public Safety subcommittees have met in purposefully segmented groups to allow for safe places for people to share experiences. The reimagining report must be a living, evolving document. This work must be a priority for CJATI in 2021.
- Taili Mugambee: CJATI plays a pivotal role in Reimagining Public Safety and can help with facilitation.
- Benay Rubenstein: It's a difficult time to work with Parole due to COVID-19. It would be good to get in touch with statewide organization and do our part to work in the Southern Tier.
- Taili Mugambee: The Poor People's Campaign is working on reducing the incarceration of elders.
- Judy Griffin: Technical violations are a disruptor in people's lives. Not all jails offer MATs.
- Taili Mugambee: Would like to hear a presentation on the work from Georgetown.

- Matt VanHouten: We must broaden goal beyond youth to entire community: acknowledge systemic bias.
- Lance Salisbury: Agrees on broadening goal. Economic bias is also a factor.
- Judy Griffin: Definition of public safety: who is the public and whose safety are we worried about?
- Lisa Holmes: This feedback from Committee members will be used to further shape and finalize CJATI Committee goals for 2021.

Reimagining Public Safety Update: Deanna Carrithers, Chief Equity & Diversity Officer

Reimagining Public Safety goes beyond Executive Order 203 to ask what is just, what is right?

What are our current responses, and are we responding in culturally appropriate ways?

The draft report will be released to the community by February 17, and there will be 30 days to respond and react on virtual platforms, including a Town Hall, Virtual Affinity Groups and a Public Hearing.

More information about these efforts can be found on the County's website:

<https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/ctyadmin/reimaginepublicsafety>

Feedback:

- Donna Fleming: Hope that the report will come with specific action items, even if they're small.
- Judy Griffin: It's important to remember that the twin to oppression is liberation.

Long Term Inmate Report: Ray Bunce

There is currently an overall jail census of 33.

There are 7 people currently state-ready, but New York State has suspended intakes into the prison system. Two individuals on the list may have plea agreements and be taken off. No jury trials for the foreseeable future due to COVID. All those on parole are there for new charges and none for technical violations.

Comments:

- Rich John: The nature of the list has changed, as we used to see people awaiting trial for several months. The impact of the 3rd County Court Judge has made an impact.
- Taili Mugambee: Did the types of crimes on the list last year look similar?
- Lance Salisbury: The types of crimes last year may have looked similar, but they would have been processed more quickly. COVID-19 has impacted the wait time for trial.
- Taili Mugambee: Has COVID-19 impacted violent crimes?
- Matt VanHouten: Last year we never would have seen people waiting 5 months for trial. Violent crime is sporadic in Tompkins County.
- Louise Miller: Crimes such as domestic violence and child sexual abuse may have increased as a result of COVID-19, but would not be captured on the long term jail report. It would be captured in the Advocacy Center calls, orders of protection, number of children interviewed for child sexual abuse.
- Suzi Cook: DCJS has incident numbers, and we should review them.

- Benay Rubenstein: College Initiative Upstate will be starting another program this spring and is accepting referrals.
- Ray Bunce: COVID vaccinations at the jail: Corrections officers are currently eligible to be vaccinated and have been signing up as possible.

Adjourn 1:37

Motion: Rich John

Second: Francie Saunders

Submitted: Lisa Holmes

Date: 1/28/2021