

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

Date: 3/24/2021

Call to Order: 12:04

Attendees: (26) Sanah Ahmed, Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Tammy Baker, Deana Bodnar, Marie Boyer, Karla Brackett, Ray Bunce, Suzi Cook, Dan Cornell, Donna Fleming, Henry Granison, Judy Griffin, Amy Heffron, Lisa Holmes, Jessica Janssen, Rich John, Allen Luo, August Miguez, Louise Miller, Susan Robinson, Benay Rubenstein, Lance Salisbury, Angela Sullivan, Matt Van Houten, Keyanna Vann, Jerry Wright.

Excused: Deb Dietrich, Bridgette Nugent, Mary Orsaio

Introductions and brief announcements were made by attendees.

Changes to the Agenda:

Lisa Holmes updated the Committee that she had a positive phone conversation with a supervisor from regional Parole in Elmira and invited him to attend CJATI. A follow up e-mail from his Bureau Chief stated that DOOCS staff would not be participating at this time.

Tompkins County's 13A grant was approved and is pending NYS signature. Lisa will contact Benay when funding is available for claim for College Initiative Upstate.

Lisa is working with 3 students from Cornell Institute for Public Affairs this spring who are helping with CJATI related data.

Angela Sullivan updated on the status of the Alcohol & Drug Council's Open Access Center. ADC was successful with zoning and planning with the Village of Lansing and is currently in process with New York State Bond Council through mid-April, after which they can go out to bid for the remodel, which will take 9-12 months. Still targeting an early 2022 opening, when they will be able to offer 24/7 medically supervised withdrawal and stabilization.

Minutes: 2/24/21 meeting minutes were accepted.

Moved: Rich John

Seconded: Henry Granison

Ayes: 25

Abstentions: 1

Updates:

a. Marie Boyer, Reentry Coordinator, TCMH

Marie provided an update on the Reentry Program for 2020. She continued to see participants in 2020, utilizing COVID safety precautions. No participants contracted COVID. The program numbers have declined over the last 3 years due to decreases in the jail population: In 2018, 91 people enrolled; in 2019, 87 people enrolled; in 2020, 64 people

enrolled. Since the decrease, Marie's availability to provide more intensive case management increased beyond the 90 day period. Marie provided an example of intensive case management with an individual coming out of jail with history of homelessness. Marie assisted the individual to secure Section 8 voucher, navigate SSI and appeal, establish a medical team involving a pulmonologist, neurologist and mental health professional, all voluntary, and assisted person with accessing mental health services. They navigated many crises throughout the year, one example provided may have otherwise resulted in a law enforcement interaction. This year's recidivism rate was 16%, down from 19% in previous year.

b. Reimagining Public Safety

Rich John reported that both the City of Ithaca's Common Council and the Tompkins County Legislature are actively considering the Reimagining Public Safety proposal, proceeding with parallel resolutions to be adopted by April 1st. The County Legislature will be voting on the resolution on March 30. The resolution to start on implementation will be considered at the April 15 Public Safety Committee meeting and go to the full Legislature after that. There is clear support for implementation on the Legislature.

Donna Fleming indicated that the City has received lots of input on the plan and there is still opportunity to comment. The most controversial aspect for Common Council is the first recommendation which calls for replacing the IPD; there is widespread support on Common Council for the remaining recommendations. Common Council will be voting on the resolution on March 31.

The report in its entirety, including the recommendations from both the City and the County can be found here: <https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/ctyadmin/reimaginepublicsafety>

Tammy Baker has been charged with collecting feedback from individuals in marginalized populations. She has conducted 3 in person focus groups and 10 individual interviews. If CJATI members are working with anyone who wants to provide feedback on the plan and may have difficulty accessing the website, please get in touch with Tammy: tbaker@fcsith.org

c. Long Term Inmate Report:

Lisa Holmes proposed that the Long Term Inmate Report be shared using the initials of the individuals on the list rather than full names. Although it is technically public information and it is used to assist individuals in the jail, it is also sensitive information and can be exchanged on a "need-to-know" basis among the parties working with those individuals. Committee members expressed agreement with this practice moving forward.

Ray Bunce: There are seven individuals that have been in the jail for 5+ months due to NYS not taking transfers, and some are awaiting trial. There is no record of an attorney visit for

the bottom person on the list. There are a total of 12 individuals in our jail who will be going to NYS DOCCS once that open up.

Matt VanHouten: There are seven individuals on the report; many of them are the same from last month. Two people on the list are awaiting sentencing. Jury trials will begin next month, and that is the main reason why people remain on this list. Several of the individuals on the list are also on parole and not eligible for bail based on their parole status.

Lance Salisbury: We have this current list because of COVID and the inability to move cases along. It is unusual and unfortunate, and mostly out of local control. As for the last individual on the list not having received an attorney visit, during COVID, there are different types of contact and much less in-person visitation in the jail. Now that attorneys can get vaccinated, we'll probably start to see that shift somewhat.

The Committee discussed the importance of collecting and analyzing aggregate demographic and other information to monitor and address bias and systemic disparities. This report would be separate from the Long Term Inmate Report.

d. Inventory of Current Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) Programs

Rich John provided a power point presentation (attached) that he shared in 2019 with the New York State Association of Counties. In 2017, we lost a waiver from New York state that allowed us to double bunk in our jail. The County hired the Center for Governmental Research as a consultant, which recommended an investment in Alternatives to Incarceration programs rather than building a larger jail facility. With that investment, CGR estimated we could reduce by 29 beds per night.

After investing in multiple ATI's the County has achieved the following:

2017 average daily jail census: 76

2018 average daily jail census: 72

2019 average daily jail census: 61

2020 average daily jail census: 36

Tompkins County population: 105,637

Nationally, there were 226 jail inmates per 100,000 residents in 2018.

This is success for what we've set for our goals. We've achieved this without seeing a dramatic increase in crime rate. However, we haven't seen a real reduction in recidivism. We currently don't have good recidivism measures and should follow up to discuss what measures would be most meaningful: (eg: arrests, diverted cases, convictions).

Adjourn 1:27

Motion: Suzi Cook

Second: Rich John

Submitted: Lisa Holmes

Date: 4/5/2021