

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: December 14, 2021

Time: 12:00 – 1:30p

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Benay Rubenstein, Mark Dresser, Suzi Cook, Marie Boyer, Jenn Olin, Bridgette Nugent, Donna Fleming, Matt Van Houten, Ray Bunce, Ryan, Erica Cotracchia, Deana Bodnar, Deborah Dietrich, Daniel Cornell, Amy H, Henry Granison, Judy Griffin, Louise Miller, Sue Robinson, Scott Miller, Richard John, Travis Brooks, Lance Salisbury, Taili Mugambee and Deanna Carrithers

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** - Deanna welcomed participants to the meeting and thank them for their support of the CJATI committee and the community.
- II. **Changes to Agenda** – Deanna asked if there were any changes to the agenda and no changes were requested. The meeting proceeded with the agenda as presented.
- III. **Minutes** - The minutes for the September 22, 2021 meeting were approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- IV. **Annual Sexual Harassment Training** – Members of CJATI were reminded to complete Sexual Harassment Training as soon as possible. Deanna will reach out to those who have not completed training and send a gentle reminder. Deanna thanked committee members for their attention to the reminder and completion of the training.
- V. **Centralized Arraignment Process (CAP)** – Judge Mark Dresser and Undersheriff Jenn Olin provided the CJATI committee with an update. Judge Dresser indicated that the construction of the room and judges training were recently completed at the Sheriff’s Office. Judge Dresser indicated that he requested JCAP funding to support the construction costs for the CAP and funding was approved. Judge Dresser highlighted the work of the Tompkins County Facilities in constructing the bench and it was indicated that the bench is one of the nicest in the district.

Judge Dresser indicated that the CAP would convene twice a day at 8a and 8p. Judge Dresser indicated that 13 judges will participate and some with health challenges have opted out of the process. He also indicated that the space was also available for defense counsel to meet with clients.

Undersheriff Olin also provided a story about a recent incident in which the new CAP process increased efficiencies and coordination throughout the County. She also shared the policy and process information distributed throughout municipalities to operate the CAP and she looked forward to working with all collaborating agencies. It was stated that the CAP would commence on January 3, 2022.

A question was raised regarding whether the City of Ithaca would be participating in the CAP, and it was stated that the City would not be participating; however, there is a provision to allow the City to participate in case of emergency. While there was no City representative available to answer the question, it was stated the City has several specialty court matters that potentially factored into the decision.

A question was raised regarding what would be markers for success. It was stated that this CAP will allow deputies to get back on the road more quickly. It was also stated that the process was an extension of the after-hours arraignment process, and the new CAP would support a cohesive effort.

Completion of Sheriff's Office Annual Report – Undersheriff Jenn Olin and Captain Ray Bunce presented the remainder of the Sheriff's Office Annual Report. The presentation began in September but due to schedule conflicts the presentation could not be completed until December and highlights from their efforts over the past year were shared. Undersheriff Olin highlighted accreditation efforts in addition highlighting specialized units such as CINT, Specialized Response Teams, etc. A question was raised about additional changes to SWAT other than the name change. Changes including new uniforms, training, and painting the bus, etc. This is in response to the concerns of the community.

New tactical equipment was highlighted that was purchased with grant funds to keep the Sheriff's Office response and equipment modern. The Sheriff's Office also highlighted the efforts including the community garden, poet laureate, iPads as ways to engage with residents of the jail. Jenn also highlighted community engagement activities in addition to recruitment and retention efforts. Jenn mentioned a significant increase in the number of female officers and indicated that the Sheriff's Office continues to look to increase diversity of race within the Sheriff's Office.

- VI. **Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program** – The LEAD program started their soft launch in November and the Program will eventually have up to 40 clients. Most referrals have come through social contact referrals from IPD. The LEAD program is also looking for another case worker. Travis will attend the meeting in January to provide a more comprehensive update.
- VII. **Long Term Inmate Report:** Ray Bunce, Matt VanHouten, and Lance Salisbury provided an update on the long-term inmate report. While there were four names, Matt indicated that there should have been five names. Matt indicated that a couple of residents should be sentenced shortly, and Ray noted that sentence dates have been moved which leads to a longer stay in the jail.
- VIII. **Reimagining Public Safety Update** – Deanna highlighted that Monalita Smiley has been hired as the new Community Justice Center Project Director. She will be invited to attend the next CJATI meeting to make introductions. In addition, Deanna shared that the CJC Advisory Board Development Subcommittee continues to meet and develop guidelines for the board. There will also be future discussions about the role of CJATI in relationship to the Reimagining Public Safety process.
- IX. **College Update Initiative Program** – An update was requested of the program and will be provided to the group at the February meeting.
- X. **Adjourn** – The meeting is scheduled Wednesday, January 26 and a Zoom link will be sent to the committee.