

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: June 22, 2022

Time: 12:00 – 1:30p

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Deanna Carrithers, Matt Van Houten, Ray Bunce, Lance Salisbury, Marie Boyer, Donna Fleming, Daniel Cornell, Benay Rubenstein, Sue Robinson, Bridgette Nugent, David Sanders, Deanna Bodnar, Erin Hynes, Judy Griffin, Jerry Wright, Temitayo Sanusi Parkinson, Scott Miller, Peter Salton, and Mary Orsaio

Welcome and Introductions – Deanna welcomed everyone.

- I. **Changes to Agenda** – No proposed changes.

- II. **Minutes** – Minutes from May meeting approved.

- III. **Chair Updates (Deanna)**- Deanna will send the Goals now that they have been assigned. She is including Bridgette Nugent as Bridgette will be the facilitator as Deanna is leaving her position in Tompkins County Administration on Friday June 24, 2022. Deanna said that it has been an honor to lead the CJATI and she has enjoyed her time in TC. She thanked the group for their work. Deanna introduced and welcomed Bridgette.

- IV. **OAR Client Survey**- Dave Sanders- Dave talked about the purpose of their client survey, he said that the information was collected so that it can be shared with other agencies so they could have a clearer picture of the needs of people in the community when offering services. The survey also provides data that can be used to seek funding when there are grant opportunities. The data is also being used to get a picture of the impact of the Sunflower House. Twenty-eight (28) community indicators are being collected. There is trend data for each one which means the data is collected from the previous 10 years. Crime and arrests have been tracked and now they are tracking hospitalizations and opiate overdoses. This helps give a picture of whether there are gaps in services.

The volume of people coming to OAR since COVID is much higher than before. In May 2022 there were 600 visits to OAR and 242 of them were unduplicated. The increase in people led to OAR trying to find the cause in this increase. In June of 2021 there was a pilot survey of 21 people. It was found that people were uncomfortable answering questions about their MH or substance abuse history, so those questions were removed. The modified survey still collects interesting and significant information.

The data that was collected:

- a. Education: 80% of people the people surveyed have a high school diploma or less.

- b. Income and Employment: 35% of the people have no job and are also not receiving benefits from DSS. They get all their food from food pantries and other free food sources. 41% of the people that have no income have not been arrested in 5 years or longer. 26% have not been arrested in 10 years or longer. This is a ripple effect of incarceration. Whether it is a gap in employment or other reasons is unknown.
- c. Income: The average salary is \$9,600.00
- d. Stability: 70% of the people do not have a partner. This contributes to financial struggles. Of the people surveyed on average have 3.7 children.
- e. Community Supervision: 63% have no community supervision.
- f. Housing: 69% have unstable housing. People that said they have stable housing were asked how many times they have moved, they reported moving two or more times in a 2–3-year period. The definition of stable housing needs to change.
- g. Criminal History: The number of arrests on the survey were measured up to 25 arrests. A lot of the people indicated that they had been arrested more than 25 times. The average is 9.89 times.

Dave asked if anyone has questions. **Donna** asked if OAR has decided to change the services they offer or develop new services based on the data that they have collected. Dave said their first focus is on the increased volume of people seeking services at OAR. They have decided to give staff Wednesdays off from client services for the summer to avoid burnout. What Dave would like to promote is having agencies working together to increase outreach and services and to find the gaps in services and seek funding to meet those needs. **Judy** asked what the demographic breakdowns in the data collected. Dave said that there are 28 indicators being collected. One of them is disproportionate racial disparity with arrests and jail population. Currently 35% of the jail population are African American males so that has decrease since bail reform, but that number is starting to increase again. The survey information can compile the information based in race, gender, age, etc. **Peter** asked where the question regarding addiction is. Dave said that people were not willing to answering MH and Addiction questions. Each program at OAR can do surveys and as time goes on more information can be collected.

- V. **Assigned Counsel and Public Disclosure Process** – Matt VanHouten- Deanna, Matt, Mona, and Lance have been working on the public disclosure piece of the reimagining plan and what data the community is interested in, to achieve a level of transparency with the justice system that we don't have right now. Matt is hoping to be able to get information about things like traffic tickets and traffic stops that is not usually a part of the information the DA's office receives. Having information about who is being stopped, stopped and searched, given a ticket or a warning and the demographic information for those occurrences would be good to have. When a person is arrested what happens to them? They do not prosecute crimes of poverty. Statistics of who is going to jail. Bail recommendations. Who is diverted to MH or Substance Abuse Court? What happens to those cases? This is all information that the community wants to know. Matt and the others are looking for input from CJATI about the process of sharing the data collected with the community. **Deanna** added

that not only is the data important but also hearing from the offices that are impacted by the plan. Matt said that he filled out a long survey from Measures for Justice and the main recommendation was that a data analyst should be hired to manage the data. Matt has added one to his budget request for 2023. CJC will be hiring a data analyst. Deanna reiterated what Matt said about the purpose of the report being transparency and accountability by disclosing the key data including demographics, dismissals, prosecutions, deferred cases and other data. CJATI can be a resource for critical thinking as it pertains to reimagining. Deanna asked if there are other groups that should be a part of the reimagining plan. The milestones for success: a formal launch of a planning group by July 8th, developing evaluation criteria for the planning process by September 2nd, identifying and finalizing the metrics and data for public disclosure by December 30th, identifying resources and tools to display the information by the same date, and February 17th having a report that can be presented to the Legislature. Using the website www.publicsafetyreimagine.org is a good way to contribute ideas. **Donna** said that she hopes that there is good collaboration and not “toe stepping”. She said that the more public data the better and that will help in showing what work reimagining public safety is trying to do. **Judy asked:** how will data be collected? Making sure that the data collected is accurate, Deanna agreed consistency and accuracy is key and having standardized data protocols is the way to do this. ITS suggested that training in the data collection system can help this. **Matt** said that when someone is arrested the demographics that are recorded are self-reported. Mary Osario said that when there is a traffic stop, no demographics are collected. Matt reiterated that no one is adding demographic information what is reported by the individual is what is collected.

- VI. Long Term Jail Report-** There are 3 people on the list that have been in the TC Jail for more than 5 months unsentenced. One of the three has a trial date of 8/1/22. One is on the trial track and has an appearance soon where the case may be resolved. The other is also on track to trial. Ray asked if trials are catching up from COVID delays. Matt said yes but that also one of the inmates had a parole violation and then is answering to the new charges.
- VII. Adjournment-** Deanna said that Rich John will give updates about the TIDES program at the next meeting. Sherrif Osbourne will also be doing a presentation about the unarmed pilot program. There will be committee updates as well. Peter asked more about who is and should be giving bail reform updates. Matt suggested that maybe after the presentation Peter’s questions can be answered. Deanna invited Mary Osario to present on the IPD dashboard at a future meeting.