

## **Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting**

Date: September 28, 2022

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

**Attendees:** Bridgette Nugent, Derek Osborne, Jenn Olin. Matt Van Houten, Kate Shanks-Booth, Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Rich John, Sherron Brown, Jerry Wright, Dan Cornell, David Sanders, Lance Salisbury, Peter Salton, Charley Willison, Louise Miller, Judy Griffin, Sue Robinson, Mike James, Taili Mugambee, Suzi Cook, Deana Bodnar, Scott Miller.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Bridgette introduced herself as the Deputy County Administrator and the Chair of CJATI. All other attendees introduced themselves and stated their ties to TC and CJATI.
- II. **Changes to Agenda:** No changes to the agenda.
- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from the July 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.
- IV. **Updates:**
  - a. **Chair's Update: Bridgette Nugent**
  - b. **CJATI Bylaws Review and Updates-** The County Legislature is making updates to the County Advisory Board Policy. The updates are an effort to streamline and make consistent the many advisory boards in the county. There will be more consistency with the bylaws of the different advisory boards. The CJATI bylaws will need to be reviewed and updated to reflect the overarching policy. Bridgette will reach out to voting members to pull together a small group that can work on the updates. The policy will be released in the next few months and will go into effect in the next year. Some of the calls that the TCSO wanted the clerks to handle were not approved by NYS (car-deer accidents, minor vehicle collisions, and the completion of fix it ticket forms). TCSO is exploring other avenues of tasks for the clerks that can lessen the burden on the sworn officers. One of the clerks has taken over the sex offender management program which has been an asset to the department. Derek shared a chart that shows the calls that the clerks have handled since July. There is room to expand on these calls. **Judy** asked how many calls total are received in this period to show the percent that was taken by the clerks. Derek said they continue to review what types of calls the clerks can take. There are about 12,000-13,000 calls a year for TCSO. From 7/5/22-9/27/22 90 calls were handled by the clerks. The hope is that even if there are calls that a deputy must respond to maybe the clerk and deputy can work together. Like a petit larceny call where a deputy can respond, but the suspect is gone, the clerk could then do the follow-up interviews to collect more information which will release the deputy to be available for new calls.

- c. **Reimagining Public Safety: TCSO Unarmed Response Pilot Program- Sheriff Osborne-** The Unarmed Response program is designed to handle calls that come to the Sheriff's Office that can be handled by a civilian rather than a deputy response. The two Sheriff's clerks began working on their own in July. There have been "hiccups" and it has been a learning experience. One of the clerks is leaving this week but there is a deputy that can not work on the road currently and will take that spot. **Jenn** expanded on that; in July the TCSO had 1,458 calls for service and the clerks were able to do is follow-up calls for burglaries or other calls where they were able to collect more information and tips from complainants and victim. **Rich** commended the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Department for all the work in this program. Rich said that other agencies in the county can learn from this work. Derek said there are several areas where savings can be seen (though harder to measure) from fuel and officer time travelling to different areas of the county. **Peter** agreed that these are good first steps. He also asked if the program is fully developed or is there more work to be done. Derek said that the program is close to being considered fully developed. Peter asked why the clerks were not answering overdose calls and MH calls. Peter said that a lot of times a person that is struggling in a MH situation can be triggered by response from an armed officer. Derek said there is a plan now for a co-response program to answer calls of that nature. The plan is that there could be a social worker that rides with a deputy that is "dressed down" and is in an unmarked car. Peter said that there is a concern that if a person that responds that doesn't have a medical background may not make the right response decision for the person, there may be missed opportunities for treatment for MH or drug use. **Taili** asked what the selection process was for the clerks and how recruitment was handled for these positions. He also asked if there was any demographic information gathered from the calls the clerks have handled. Derek said that the recruitment process did not look for people with law enforcement background they specifically looked to hire civilians and they worked closely with TC HR, doing phone interviews to narrow the list down, and then in-person interviews. The next position will be filled after the next civil service test. Jenn clarified that Taili's question was regarding the clerk's positions. She also added that Deanna Carrithers (former CEDO) and Mona Smiley (CJC Project Director) were a part of the hiring process. Taili said that the demographic information is important to see how calls for people of different races. Jenn said that they are working on the best way to accurately gather that information. **Judy** said that collecting demographic data is improving in the healthcare system as well. She said that asking directly for the information and letting people know it is because the agency cares and wants to be able to recognize disparities to change processes. Even though it can be uncomfortable to ask directly it is important information. She also wants input from all of the outreach teams in the county as the Sheriff works with Frank Krupa to develop a co-response program.

d. **S.O.S Program Update- Dan Cornell-** Dan said that (SOS) Strengthening our Students, has been utilized since 2005 to make contact with kids that may have behavioral trouble at home or at school, the program is a precursor to the PINS program. It is an effort to help youth change their behavior before they become a part of the Family Court system. It is not a mandatory service but in 2022 the goal is to have the program utilized more often. During the pandemic many children lost community supports and the support they may receive in school. **Jan** spoke about some of the challenges of receiving referrals too late, after a child already had many absences or a referral that came in near the end of the school year. The Probation Department has decided to take a more proactive approach to have earlier intervention like if a teacher or counselor sees a child that is veering off a positive path, they can be referred to SOS. The program is 4-8 weeks. Everyone involved in the child's life is made aware of the behavior concern and contract is made to have the child meet positive goals. Positive reinforcement motivators are developed to help the child meet their goals. Referrals come from schools and parents. No records are kept of the contact between the Probation Department and the child. Dan said that there is a section in the Probation Department Annual Report that has data from the SOS program, Bridgette will access that information and share it with the group. **Taili** asked if in the future Dan would consider partnering with other agencies in the community that are also serving youth. He said that collaborating with other agencies may help the youth in the SOS program to get the support they need to treat any underlying causes of the negative behaviors that have brought them to the attention of SOS to provide long-term strategies to help them succeed. Collaboration with other agencies could also help to get the data for the children that take part in SOS. **Dan** said that partnering with other agencies to have referrals come to SOS is welcome. **Taili** asked Jan what the overall value of this program has been. Jan said that it has helped a lot in cases of truancy. Dryden school has used SOS when reaching out to families when children are absent. They are referred to SOS after 10 days absent. **Mali** then asked if the probation officers have seen a difference in African American students are succeeding versus their Caucasian counterparts. Jan said that is not something that she tracked she was tracking the reasons for the referrals. She said that is something worth looking into. Taili reiterated that if there is another group that could work with Probation to collect that data it would help to keep that child off the record. Dan said that they can track demographic data. Dan reiterated that the goal is to contact students earlier, while they are still in the beginning of the year where they have a chance to make different choices. **Taili** said that having the demographic data can be a guide to improve the programs that the county already has. **Dave** said that the data from SOS and PINS did exist several years ago, and that now that COVID restrictions are lifted in schools there will be more data. He agreed

that outreach to the schools about how and when to refer students will make a difference.

- e. **2022 Goal Area Workgroup Updates and Action Items- Bridgette-** Bridgette asked what progress towards the CJATI goals have been made. **Rich** said that he was part of the group looking at Parole issues. He said that they are seeing fewer people in the jail on technical violations. There are people in the jail with parole violations, but it is usually in connection with another crime. He said that they are not seeing the parole officers using the ATI's. He said that the hope was that the officers would use some of the ATI services in absence of the ability to put people on jail on technical violations. He said that people are being transferred to Elmira for Parole hearings because under parole reform they can't be held in TC jail anymore. John said that they are trying to get it so that they can be held in the CAP court so they can avoid the issues with transport. **Peter** said that the move to Elmira is temporary for an indetermined amount of time while local corrections officials' interface with Albany to end the practice. **Lance** said that one of the realities is that Elmira is supposed to be temporary and that it is a better solution in light of the fact that parole made no real efforts to address this part of reform. He said that it will take ongoing follow-up from TC to make sure that this process is improved. **Peter** said that it is basically custodial interrogation that is happening in Elmira. You go to the proceedings there at that is the way that court works. Bridgette reiterated that for now there will be updates and information as it is received but no current action.

**Louise** spoke about her work with Dan, Suzi and **Cana** regarding needs of unserved and underserved victims. It was hard to find time for everyone to meet. They spent time getting up to speed on the needs in the community. At this point they are just getting the information for community need and they have not developed a plan yet. They are hoping to get funding for additional victims' services in the community. They are also looking for ways to help victims that do not want to use the criminal justice system out of fear. Louise will share the document her group has developed to outline the community needs and how the group can help. Dan said that they are looking for ways to have the include victims' voices at the Probation Department. They do a DWI victim impact panel; they are looking for new speakers for that. They collect and disperse restitution payments and meet with victims of crime to get impact statements. They do have victims that do not trust the system. They want to make sure that they will be safe if they speak. Louise reiterated that law enforcement and court offices all provide victims services in one way or another. Once the document the group has created is finalized Bridgette will share it with the group. **Judy** added that like OAR they also come into contact with a lot of victims that do not want to reach out to the criminal justice system.

**Judy** said that she is not part of any of the goal groups. But she wanted to share some insights. She asked if there is an interest in envisioning beyond

ATI's and working with a place like Vera. She went on to say that there was a comprehensive program evaluation of REACH, Judy would like to share the findings of that report once it is approved. Judy also talked about recommendations for the Opioid settlements, there are populations that are mentioned by the Senate and Legislature that the funds be used to support evidence-based intervention specifically it should be supporting people with criminal justice contact related to their opioid use and women and women and people that are pregnant and parenting. The Legislature is putting together a task force at the county level. **Dave** said that Shawna Black has already reached out to make contact with systems involved experts and OAR provided her with that information.

**Peter** said that in looking at the goals he did not see a goal that matches what Sheriff Osborne talked about which is having a co-response team for substance use and MH calls. Can any of the settlement money be used to fund that program? There doesn't seem to be any goals that can meet RPS needs. **Bridgette** said that the goal is to have the work of CJAZTI coincide with RPS and the Opioid settlement which are larger elements that impact the work of CJATI. She said that in developing goals in the future the group can think a little more specifically around some of the bigger projects. **Rich** said that when the goals were developed the idea of co-response was already developed in RPS, it can be a part of the 2023 goals.

**Dave** spoke about the goals around disproportionate minority contact and they revisited the capstone project which is one of the reason Dan presented about SOS. Step one was looking at how schools make referrals to probation step two will be to involve DSS and Family Court and how DSS makes referrals to FC and CPS termination of parental rights and emergency removals. Dan suggested also looking at Adults not just Youth and Dave would like to invite Lydia from HSC to talk about what they do. She can give demographic information on housing disparities and other things that can benefit the group.

**Bridgette** said that all of the goal workgroups would welcome new members if there is anyone interested in working towards any of the goals.

**Scott** gave an update on CJATI funding and MH. CJATI is instrumental in supporting ATI in the MH court that started in 2019, the Legislature started funding the position for the coordinator of that program. Scott said that due to the success of the program the state is now going to continue the funding for that program. This could not have happened without the support of CJATI.

**Taili** said that he was a part of for the group that is looking at improving inter agency communications, they are in the process of creating a health and wellness work group. They are looking to form a wrap around communication of the different groups looking for gaps and overlaps. The data development team is looking at the effectiveness of ATI's. They are looking at how they can support the RPS process that has come to a

standstill. They want to keep the momentum going towards RPS. For awareness and engagement, they have not attending many tides meetings but they recognize that they need to start working on that. Taili shared information on work programs and awareness and outreach. He also shared information on upcoming events. Bridgette asked for that information to be sent to her so she can share it with the group.

- f. Long Term Inmate Report: Ray Bunce, Matt Van Houten, and Lance Salisbury** Ray Bunce was not present and there are no changes to the report from the last meeting.

- V. Adjournment-** Bridgette adjourned the meeting at 1:33 pm.