

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: October 25, 2023

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Bridgette Nugent, Ray Bunce, Scott Miller, Daniel Cornell, Matt Van Houten, David Sanders, Stacy Cangelosi, Deana Bodnar, Travis Brooks, Peter Salton, Sherron Brown, Taili Mugambee, Yasmin Rashid, Louise Miller, Judy Griffin, Rich John, Kate Shanks-Booth, Sue Robinson, Mike James, Lance Salisbury.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Bridgette welcomed the group and asked for updates.

- Dan Cornell (Probation) said they are struggling with staffing issues. There are several people out on long-term disability. They have hired a new staff person that will begin after Thanksgiving.
- Judge Scott Miller said that the Ithaca City Treatment Court (Misdemeanor drug court) and the Felony Drug Treatment Court are being combined beginning January 1st and court will be held in the County Courthouse and Judge Wallace will be the judge in that court.
- Deana Bodnar (DSS) said that Code Blue is beginning, St. Johns is setting up congregate sites at the Salvation Army and using one of the floors at the Econo Lodge for congregate sheltering as well.
- Dave Sanders said that OAR is moving to 530 S. Fulton St.
- Cpt. Ray Bunce said that the jail is fully staffed. He said that the population is edging up at the jail. They have 69 inmates. They have a lot of females housed at the jail.
- Matt Van Houten said that his office is tracking the number of people in the jail and he is creating a data dashboard to track who is in the jail and why and number of arrests, participation in ATI and recidivism. He said he is open to hearing from the community about what else should be tracked. He said there will be a glossary of terms and context of the data that is presented.
- Judy Griffin (REACH) said that she is attending addiction medicine conferences to share some of the outcomes and data of the retention rates for their programs because they have a high retention rate over a 5 year period.
- Louise Miller (Advocacy Center) reminded everyone that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- Sherron Brown (College Initiative Upstate) said that the college prep classes have begun. She said they have 8 participants that are very enthusiastic; in the 4 weeks of class so far they have had perfect attendance several times already. She said that she has been very busy during this grant season. She said that in the next year they are hoping to extend their work to domestic abuse survivors that have been incarcerated. They are looking at ways to meet the very specific needs of that demographic and they are looking at grants for that work. They

recently hosted a job readiness workshop, and it went very well. One of the participants is already employed using skills she learned there.

- Stacy Cangelosi (Alcohol & Drug Council) said they are still working to staff the detox program.
- Taili Mugambe (URO) said that they recently had a grand opening at their new space on State St., the Audrey Cooper Center for Restorative Justice and Reconciliation. He said that Leslyn McBean Clairborne presented at their community book read. She presented on the impact of trauma on black women whose sons and daughters have been assaulted or murdered by police. He said that although there is good attendance at the book read, they would like to see more participation. He said the meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 at the First Baptist Church at 309 N. Cayuga St. His hope is to share the work that they do and the effort to create systematic change in the community. Sue Robinson asked if Leslyn's presentation was recorded. Taili said it was and it will be available on their Youtube page, and the link will be shared with the group.
- Yasmin Rashid introduced herself to the group. She has been a part of the Ithaca Community since 1989. She is the President of the Unbroken Promise Initiative. The initiative focuses on the disservice area of the West End community of Ithaca, they bring resources and remove barriers to those individuals. There is also a transportation Initiative in collaboration with TCAT for the NYSERDA grant for an on-demand service in that area as well.
- Kate Shanks-Booth said that Youth Services is currently working on reconnecting with the criminal justice system. They are going to provide training and workshops to help them make sure that they are being inclusive, and trauma informed to the needs of youth of color.

2. Changes to Agenda:

3. Minutes Approval: The minutes from September were approved.

4. Updates:

- a. Chair's Update- Bridgette Nugent** – Bridgette said that Tammy Baker has sent a survey to respective agencies and organizations that provide street outreach with a focus on individuals who are currently unsheltered or unhoused. The purpose of the survey is to identify who is provided services and where the services are being provided to identify any overlap or opportunity for coordination. Bridgette will provide an update on that survey at the next meeting.
- b. Update on LEAD Program- Travis Brooks:** LEAD is in the end of the 3rd year. They are wrapping up the grant from the DOJ. They are looking for funding for the future potentially from the city of Ithaca. They have 3 full-time and one part-time coordinator. There are 40 participants in the program. They have had over 140 referrals in the last few years. There are 20 participants on the waiting list. In the next couple months, they will be close to capacity at around 65. Each caseworker can have a caseload of 25 so that will leave room for emergencies. He said that the work expected, and the hours do not match the pay that is being offered. Referrals come from IPD, the DA's office,

community members and other agencies. He said that they are hoping to expand the program to other areas. They partner with REACH for case management and outreach. He said that 60% of participants are from the BIPOC community and 40% are white. Yasmin asked if they have representation from TCMH and Travis said that there has been someone from that office attending meetings for the last 6 months. He said that they are going to make sure that the county is available to offer the services people need for Mental Health. He said that having caseworkers that can meet people where they are is a goal. Travis said that they have had caseworkers available in City Court to meet with participants and to do on the spot referrals. Lance said that this has had a positive impact. Peter said that he was glad to hear Travis refer to Reimagining Public Safety. He said that it is all related. He asked for more information about LEAD. Travis said the program is an alternative to charges in crimes of poverty. If the participant doesn't follow through, the next time they have police contact they will receive an appearance ticket. It is a pre-arrest intervention. Peter asked if LEAD has a plan to work with TCSO. Travis said that he and Sheriff Osborne are looking to seek funding to provide that by the end of next year. Travis said he will come back in a few months and bring Anna who is the coordinator for the caseworkers so she can talk about their perspective.

- c. **Long Term Inmate Report- Matt Van Houten** - Bridgette shared the report on her screen. There are 7 individuals that have been in jail unsentenced for 5 months. 3 are waiting for trials. One is on a psychiatric hold and looking for the appropriate psychiatric resolution to the case. 3 people are waiting for sentencing which takes 6-8 weeks from the resolution of the case. Taili said that seeing the numbers in the jail go up if Matt's data analyst is seeing any trends about type of crime. Matt said it is a combination of violent crimes and people that persistently refuse to appear in court. There is also a fugitive from out of state that is awaiting extradition. He said it is hard to establish trends when there are 60-65 people. Matt said the overarching trend is the drug epidemic and violence among people that sell drugs. Louise said that there are also a fair number of domestic violence and sex offenders. Taili asked if sex offender is a MH diagnosis in the DSM. Louise said that she is not aware that it is a treatable condition. There was a discussion about whether crime rates are going up or down. Yasmin said that arrests aren't the only indicator of crime. Peter asked what can be done in data collection and sharing to have that information. Matt said the DA's office doesn't have access to call data. Dept. of Emergency Response does but it is a large undertaking that no one agency can manage.

- 5. **Adjournment- Bridgette** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:30. The next meeting will be on November 29th because of the Thanksgiving Holiday.