

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: April 26, 2023

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Bridgette Nugent, Chief Jerry Wright, Matt VanHouten, David Sanders, Mike James, Lance Salisbury, Sherron Brown, Deana Bodnar, Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Daniel Cornell, Cpt. Ray Bunce, Keegan Young, Stacy Cangelosi, Judy Griffin, Louise Miller, Hon. Scott Miller, Rich John, Kate Shanks-Booth, Michael James, Taili Mugambee.

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- a. Chief Wright met with Angela Sullivan and took a tour of the Alcohol and Drug Council Open Access Center on Triphammer Road.
- b. Judge Miller stated they still have an open position for a resource coordinator for County MH court.
- c. Louise Miller said they are still struggling to hire for their open positions. They are working on their annual fundraiser. A new ED has been hired and will begin on May 30th.
- d. Cpt. Bunce is actively hiring and training new corrections officers.
- e. Stacy states they are working on hiring people in the new center on Triphammer Road so they can fully open.

2. Changes to Agenda: No changes to the agenda.

3. Minutes Approval: March minutes approved.

4. Updates:

a. Chair's Update- Bridgette Nugent

- i. **Vote to approve allocation of 2023 DCJS Funding to College Initiative Update:** Bridgette explained what the funding is and where it comes from. There was a bid for the funds (\$18,000). Bridgette is recommending that College Initiative Upstate receives the funding. There was no opposition to this recommendation. Bridgette suggested that rather than open the bidding for the funds each year that there be an annual vote to renew the funding for the next 3 years. **Dan** asked if this is allowed, and Bridgette confirmed that it is.

b. Updates from OAR:

- i. **Dave Sanders:** Dave shared a PowerPoint with the group highlighting the services offered at OAR and the people that are served through their programs from the year 2022.
- ii. **Sherron** shared the date of the graduation ceremony for the CIU participants that have completed the college prep program and will be moving on to higher education or employment. She will send an

- invite to anyone that would like to attend. She also said that there are people in adjacent counties who are interested in programming, that Tompkins has specifically that doesn't exist in their counties and they are running into problems in having access to that programming.
- iii. **Jerry** asked if OAR clients are TC clients or from other counties are even out of the state? Dave said that the funding primarily comes from TC so they serve TC. People that request to come here from other counties or out of state OAR cannot help them. There is a pilot program in Schuyler County. He said that 98% of the clients live here.
 - iv. **Rich** asked if there was a plan to have another supportive housing site like Endeavor or Sunflower House? Dave said that another supportive housing site can be successful. Having the programs be very structured and making it difficult for people to get into to ensure that participants are serious about doing the work they need to succeed.
 - v. **Judy** said that highlighting the make up of the OAR staff was a good way to highlight why their programs are successful. She also said that the programs that are relevant to the needs of their clients also help in their success. She also said that highlighting the lessons learned from Sunflower House can help in future supportive housing projects. Dave agreed and said that as long as there is an equal focus on trauma and substance abuse there can be more success for the clients. Judy agreed that treating only substance abuse is not the answer. Meeting the basic needs and the MH needs of people that are in recovery is also important.
 - vi. **Mike J.** asked if there are other options for making donations or weekend volunteer opportunities. Dave said that they are set on donations right now. They are trying to reach out to community partners to see if they can pass on some of the things they have. OAR also just found out that they need to find a new space and they are hoping to find something that offers better storage for donations. The focus is more on monetary donations at this time.
 - vii. **Dan** asked if there was a way to track how many OAR clients are also probation clients. Dave said that he is willing to meet with Dan to figure out the best way to do that. Dan said that he did a great training yesterday with Dr. Michael Gomez about trauma and substance abuse going hand in hand. He is going to share the recording of the training with his staff and invites anyone from CJATI to join. Louise said that another issue is that there may be resources for trauma work but the people that need the work struggle with taking the steps to get help because it is hard work and it is very frightening. There are other barriers like transportation and childcare that some people face.

c. Updates from Ultimate Reentry Opportunities (URO)- Taili Mugambee:

- i. Therapy or counseling is only one part of the process to treat trauma. He said that what they are seeing is neglect and lack of long term interventions. It is a long-term process, and they need to stick with the people that are on that journey and make sure that people are really working on their triggers. He also said that the approach to people that need this healing needs to be done in a way that allows them to make the decision to do the work for themselves.
- ii. URO has just begun the prelaunch of the community book read “My Grandmother’s Hands. There is a zoom link to join this on the 3rd Thursday each month at 5:30 p.m. This is a 15 month program to cover all 24 chapters of the book. Bridgette has the link for registration with all of the dates. Taili said that it is important for the service providers to also understand and work on their trauma so they can better serve the community.
- iii. **Judy** wanted to add that she believes that harm reduction is a framework moving forward for service providers. She said she would like to meet with Taili to talk more about that.
- iv. **Deana** said that for the past 7-8 years in Family Treatment Court they use a model of solution focused trauma informed care. It is a method of meeting people where they are and meeting their individual needs. She said that the way that clients are treated in court by the judge and other staff has made an impact on the clients they serve. She has offered to do a short training course for the CJATI group. She said she can also offer training to any of the other agencies that are interested.
- v. **Rich** said that he appreciates the discussion, and he thinks that it can help as the City looks at housing resources being that housing is the main need for some people. He said that having models that are client centered and giving people dignity in choosing their treatment and making sure that they are in charge of their trauma plan is important. He said that there does need to be some “force forward” when treating people with substance abuse and trauma issues in an effort to avoid some of the consequences the community faces because of crime.
- vi. **Judy** said that she does understand his point but that there needs to be care in considering the ramifications of forcing people into care at a pace that does not serve them. **Taili** agrees that there are signs that people give that indicate that they need help and seeing those signs and answering the cries for help and successfully supporting those folks is important. Starting with the youth of the community is an important step. **Dan** said it is tough to balance meeting people where they are and protecting victims and the community.

5. **Long Term Inmate Report- Cpt. Bunce:** There are 58 inmates in the jail. There is an influx of females there are currently 14 females. There are some current inmates that are waiting for beds in state MH facilities.
- a. **Matt** said that 7 of the 10 people on the list are waiting for a trial date. He said that this is a lot, and it is unusual. Two of the people are waiting for MH beds. On Monday there were 17 females in the jail which is a record, and the jail is not equipped for that many females.
 - b. **Ray** said that they have moved things around to accommodate.
 - c. **Matt** said that every Monday his office reviews the jail list to make sure that people that can be released are being released. There has been an increase in gun crimes. He and the Sheriff have been working on applying for a grant that can allow them to analyze the gun crimes and focus on how to prevent them using evidence-based practices. He said a lot of gun crimes are drug related and some are just arbitrary but there are a lot of guns on the streets right now.
 - d. **Taili** shared website links to two organizations that can provide presentations that can help understand crimes of violence. Lance said that people need to understand that there are two types of gun crimes people carrying unregistered guns and then there are people using guns for personal feuds or drug related crimes and that is a small group of people. A lot of the guns have been purchased out of state and then used in NYS.
6. **Adjournment- Bridgette** asked the group to email her with ideas for future presentations. She will email the group with all of the resources that were mentioned today. Bridgette adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm. The next meeting is on May 24th @ 12:00 via Zoom.