

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: October 23, 2024

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Beverly Livesay Room at the Human Services Building

Attendees: Bridgette Nugent, Daniel Cornell, Samantha Stevenson, David Sanders, Matt VanHouten, Louise Miller Peter Salton, Sherron Brown, Holly Mosher, Ray Bunce, Jeremy Cramer, Sue Robinson, Lauren Harrison.

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Bridgette welcomed everyone, everyone introduced themselves. This is the first in-person meeting in at least 4 years.
2. **Changes to Agenda:** Dan will not be present to share the probation dashboard, his presentation will be added to the agenda in November. Dan arrived after his public release of the dashboard. He said about 8 people attended and asked good questions. The current data shows only a 67% discharge rate. Dan said he believes this is due to reduced access to resources and services, more dangerous drugs, and the current mental health crisis. He said the dashboard will help people realize that change is needed so resolutions can be considered. Dave said a deep dive will be needed to identify the needs and the response to the needs of the community; he said follow-through and action are important.
 - a. There was a discussion about the failure of Telehealth in properly treating people. Dan thinks it has made effective treatment difficult. Samantha said that her experience is that it has expanded the ability to treat people that have transportation trouble or do not feel safe leaving their home.
3. **Minutes Approval:** The minutes of the September meeting were approved.
4. **Updates:**
 - a. **Chair's Update- Updates to CJATI Advisory Board By-Laws, Bridgette Nugent:**
 - i. The bylaws were reviewed and updated based on the template provided by the Legislature. The Public Safety Committee and the Legislature approved the bylaws. After the approval it was found that some language needed to be updated.
 1. On page two it is written that there will be no designated seat for a non-voting liaison to CJATI from the Legislature. There is a seat for one local defense attorney and two "at-large" members. Sue asked if the list represents all members; the list defines voting members only.
 2. Peter asked if there can be more definition of the "justice involved" individual. Should the person have former incarceration, former or current probation supervision? Matt

said that it is important for the person to have experienced incarceration.

3. Dave asked how roles are being filled, there is a seat for one more “at-large” member.
4. The revised by-laws are approved.

b. Tompkins County Jail Updates, Capt. Bunce and Cpt. Harrison:

- i. During the last CJATI meeting there was some conversation about inmates not receiving medical care in a timely manner at the jail. Some people shared stories that were relayed to them by people that have been housed at TC jail.
 1. There are currently 33 inmates in the jail, 29 inmates are being housed in Cayuga County because of the renovations. During COVID the jail had the lowest number of inmates at 28. The jail and the DA work closely to keep the jail numbers down. Peter asked how many people in the jail are non-bail eligible, Ray said maybe 10, there are 8 serving sentences, with the majority being probation violations or missed court.
 2. Ray reported that people are in better physical health when they leave TC jail than they are when they arrive. There is a physician and a psychiatrist that are on staff for 4 hours a week (each) and an RN that works 40 hours. They are all available on call if needed.
 3. NYS law requires that an inmate sees a medical practitioner within 72 hours of first arriving at the jail. At TC jail people are often seen within 24-48 hours.
 4. Ray addressed the concerns that people at the meeting had about the detox procedure at the jail. In the initial evaluation at the jail a drug test is administered. Based on the evaluation and the results of the drug screening, necessary detox drugs are prescribed. At the jail, suboxone was provided, when necessary, to inmates before it was required by NYS law. REACH has different criteria for prescribing detox medication.
 5. Ray reiterated that TC jail is not a full-time medical facility. The medical staff is on-call for emergencies. He said that he understands that people in withdrawal are uncomfortable; the treatment they receive is based on policies around medically necessary care, it is not an administrative decision.
 6. The Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) law in NYS requires that inmates receive medication that they are currently prescribed when they are remanded. Information about existing prescriptions can be provided at intake. The individual then signs a release for the RN to contact their pharmacy so

the information can be confirmed, then the medications are prescribed. The jail contracts with Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services (CARS) for methadone, if a person is prescribed methadone they receive it by the next day.

7. Sherron asked if the doctors at the jail diagnose and treat unknown, existing or new medical conditions. Ray said that does happen.
8. Bridgette asked if people receive post-release referral to medical services.
 - a. Ray said that 1-2 weeks before release, a Medicaid Navigator meets with people that are due for release. Advocates from REACH and Public Health also work with people to make appointments.
 - b. People that are receiving care under MAT receive individual counseling from REACH.
 - c. When someone is due to be released, they are also provided with access to apply for other services (SNAP, Housing, etc.) when they request it.
 - d. Any remaining medications that they were taking are given to them upon release.
9. Dave asked if there was ever more than 1 RN, Ray said there used to be and it would be great if they had another one again. Dave asked what happens if the current RN needs to take time off. Ray said there are other RN's that fill in and the Dr.'s can increase their hours. There are officers on staff that are trained in medication distribution.

Ray said that he communicates with Samantha from REACH on a regular basis; He is wondering why she has not shared the stories she has heard and voiced her concerns about inmate medical care to him. He will continue to communicate with her, and he hopes that he can get more specific information about her concerns so that he can address issues or any misinformation.

10. Dave said that he has heard concerns about the quality of the food. Ray said that the kitchen is out of order during the renovations. They are contracting with a food service company that provides one hot meal a day and 2 other meals as the law requires.

ii. Renovation Update:

1. A secure ceiling is being added to the kitchen as well as a new grease trap.
2. The showers in the "Dorm" area in the jail are being updated with a secure ceiling and a new floor and faucets.
3. The laundry room is being updated to add a secure ceiling.

4. There will be a new officer's station in the medium/maximum inmate area. The holding cell has been updated to 3 cells – 1 of them is ADA compliant.

The renovations should be completed in mid-late November. The renovations are one step closer to future jail updates to create an enhanced facility that allows for direct supervision rather than the linear supervision design that exists now.

iii. Jail Phone System:

1. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) changed the law regarding charges related to phone calls from jail. Incarcerated people will not be charged more than \$0.12 a minute for calls. All the proceeds will go to the call provider, the jail will no longer receive a portion of the revenue.
2. Phone calls are recorded for the safety of the staff and others in the jail and for the safety of the community and to prevent crime. Both parties to the call are made aware, at the beginning of the call, that the calls are recorded and may be monitored. Attorney calls are not recorded or monitored. Attorneys request to be added to the privileged communications list. The county will pay for this service moving forward.

iv. Centralized Arraignment Processing (CAP) for City Court:

1. Ray is concerned that jail cannot handle an increase in centralized arraignments. If IPD and the city court are added it could lead to jail overflow. He is requesting that the holding cells at IPD be used to hold people waiting for city court arraignment. People can be help in the IPD facility for up to 72 hours. Ray said that Tom is invited to come tour the jail.

c. Tompkins County Probation Dashboard & Data Dive, Dan Cornell:

1. Dan arrived after his public release of the dashboard. He said about 8 people attended and asked good questions. The current data shows only a 67% discharge rate. Dan said he believes this is due to reduced access to resources and services, increasingly dangerous drugs, and the current mental health crisis. He said the dashboard will help people realize that change is needed so resolutions can be considered. Dave said a deep dive will be needed to identify the needs and the response to the needs of the community; he said follow-through and action are important.

2. There was a discussion about the failure of Telehealth in properly treating people. Dan thinks it has made effective treatment difficult. Samatha said that her experience is that it has expanded the ability to treat people that have transportation trouble or do not feel safe leaving their home. The group agreed that there are pros and cons to telehealth, there is no “one-size” fits all answer, people should have choices. Sherron said that data should come from people with experience and asked how that data can be captured. Bridgette said the group needs to identify what is needed to help this group figure out what the community needs and then ask the Public Safety Committee for help.
3. Dave said there needs to be more collaboration between LE and the courts to help change the landscape of substance use disorders and the crimes related to it. Where is the breakdown, is it at the LE level or is it in the court system. There are concerns about lack of manpower in LE agencies, but it may also be a difference in philosophy about crime. There has been a void in leadership that has led to more/continued crime. Samantha thinks that a response to social services is needed to help reduce crime rather than a criminal justice response. Sue said that having support does not mean they will be utilized, something more needs to be done. Ray said that accountability for drug dealers is necessary. Samantha said that accountability is not the answer. Dan said that the motivation for involvement in crime needs to be considered. A criminal justice response could incentivize people that do not have mental health or substance abuse disorder, to stop making different choices.
4. Peter said that the current substance abuse model is outdated (from the 70’s) and needs to be updated to fill the gaps and avoid duplication of services.

At the next meeting there will be a quick overview of the Probation dashboard.

- d. **Long Term Inmate Report, Matt Van Houten:** There are 2 people waiting for trials that have been scheduled for January; 2 people have been sentenced; 1 is being released today; 1 is in a forensic medical facility.

5. **Adjournment- Bridgette** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20th, (due to Thanksgiving) at 12:00 in the Beverly Livesay Room at the Human Services Building.