

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: September 25, 2024

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Bridgette Nugent, Lance Salisbury, Daniel Cornell, Samantha Stevenson, David Sanders, Jordan Clemons, Jerry Wright, Tom Kelly, Matt VanHouten, Rich John, Taili Mugambee, Louise Miller, Mike James, Scott Miller, Sadie Crusade.

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Bridgette welcomed everyone, Bridgette introduced Samantha Stevenson, the Director of Reach Medical and everyone introduced themselves and was given a chance to share updates.
 - a. Samantha is the Director of REACH Medical.
2. Chief Kelly said that the City is looking into participating in the (Central Arraignment Program) CAP program. Matt said a meeting with all the stakeholders for this project will be in October.
3. **Changes to Agenda:** No changes.
4. **Minutes Approval:** The minutes from the July meeting were approved.
5. **Updates:**
 - a. **Chair's Update, Bridgette Nugent:** Bridgette said that the group is going to move to in-person meetings beginning in October. CJATI will meet in the Scott Heyman Conference Room at the Old Jail.
 - i. **Update from NYSAC Public Safety Committee, Rich John-** Rich is a longtime member of the (NYS Associations of Counties) NYSAC Public Safety Committee.
 1. He said that a LE officer attended the meeting and presented about his police dog that is trained to detect electronic devices. This service has been used to find people and to find unauthorized devices in probationer's homes and in jails and prisons.
 2. He said several resolutions were passed. One was in support of elected sheriffs and undersheriffs being authorized to serve as peace officers.
 3. He said that there is legislation to enhance 911 systems so that they can receive texts and videos as part of 911 calls. They also want to connect all 911 centers in NYS to be able to respond to calls in if a 911 center has a breakdown that prohibits their ability to receive calls and dispatch responders. Rich gave an example of when Buffalo had a snow emergency and was unable to manage all the calls that came in. NY State

said that implementing the program depends on securing funding for the project.

4. He said there is also a lot of activity around emergency medical services. The Legislation to support volunteer medical services. The goal is to make it easier to set up Ambulance services and manage the billing for it. They are working on options to transport patients to medical facilities other than hospitals like crisis stabilization centers.
5. There was a resolution with proposed changes to the Raise the Age Law, the law was developed to separate minors that need to be detained from incarcerated adults. The regulations surrounding the law are very complex and cost prohibitive. There are no beds for youth in TC.
6. There was a resolution passed related to funding for Probation Departments. The state is providing less funding while requiring that more programs and services be offered.
7. There was also legislation related to Medically Assisted Treatment. Currently, NYS offers \$8.8 million in funding to the 62 counties in NYS which is not near enough to fund the initiative.
8. Rich said that there was another issue that he mentioned at the meeting that was not related to a resolution; Tompkins County is not representative of the rest of the state. The Connecting Families Act. There is legislation that would allow for people that are incarcerated to have the ability to make free phone calls. Matt said that inmates in TC jail are charged for phone calls and texts in the jail, they are also informed clearly that they are being recorded and monitored. He said that it is for the safety of victims and the people that are housed in and work in the jail.
 - a. Taili asked what NYSAC is, Rich explained that it is the NYS Association of Counties and within that organization there are several committees. Taili asked if there is an annual budget and Rich said NYSAC does. Taili also asked what the qualifications are for joining NYSAC. Taili asked what the purpose of the organization is. Rich explained that it is lobbying and networking between counties. Taili asked for more information about the idea that there are counties that have people pay the bill for being surveilled. He asked what the law is that allows incarcerated people to be surveilled in communications. Taili also asked if NYSAC is an organization where decisions are being made regarding funding justice related resources, specifically

the GIVE grant. Rich said no, NYSAC was not involved in that process.

- b. David asked what the goal of the MATS legislature was because at the TC Jail people have been known to suffer needlessly when MAT's were not provided to them. Samantha said that there are counties that are ahead of the curve regarding the implementation of that treatment. In TC the process to get the treatment in TC jail can be clunky and result in delays of treatment. She said that REACH is happy to work with the TC Jail to better implement the treatment. Mike said that he detoxed from heroin in the jail, and it was a terrible experience and leads to desperate acts to try to get drugs in jail.
- c. Jordan said that he is aware that there are inmates in the jail that have medical grievances, their medical needs are not being met and that it is a human rights issue. Captains Bunce and Harris are not present at the meeting because they are at a conference. Rich said that if Ray was present, he would say that inmates are leaving the jail in much better medical condition than when they arrive. He said the jail works hard to address inmate medical needs. Rich said that he is happy to discuss this further. Samantha said that it is the experience of REACH staff that their patients that are incarcerated are not being given medications and other treatments that they were receiving before incarceration. She said that the REACH staff is often ignored when they reach out to jail staff to provide medical care information. She said that REACH is interested in helping to close the gaps that exist in TC jail.

- b. Tompkins County GIVE Grant: Local Implementation & Impacts, Matt VanHouten & Daniel Cornell-** Matt said that last year was the first year that TC was identified as being eligible for the GIVE grant. GIVE is in its 10th year of working towards reducing gun related crimes. He said that it was originally decided that IPD would be the chief agency to receive GIVE funds. Last year Matt, Sheriff Osbourne and Dan Cornell applied for the Probation Department to also receive GIVE Grant funding. Dan said that there are prescribed protocols that the department must follow that are evidence based and has proven to have a positive impact on reducing gun violence in the community. When a probationer is considered eligible for supervision under the GIVE grant, they are required to be under greatest risk supervision

for a minimum of one year and they are required to be on electronic monitoring for a minimum of 6 months. They also must participate in a cognitive behavioral program and the department does their best to connect them to MH and other treatment programs that are deemed necessary for their rehabilitation. The department also connects them to employment services. Probation Officers are also meeting with them at least 2 times a week and conducting home visits regularly. Probationers agree to this level of supervision as an alternative to incarceration.

- i. Under the GIVE grant 23 guns have been removed from the community. Dan said that the gun violence in the county has had a disproportionate impact on young men of color. From 2020-2023 there were 19 shootings in the city of Ithaca with a total of 19 victims. 66% of them were men of color, some of them died and some of them were paralyzed. He said that his department has worked hard to reduce the violence in the county. Most of the people being supervised under that grant have responded well to supervision but there are others that are still not “buying in” to the program and that group can cause a lot of havoc in a short amount of time. Dan said that the cognitive behavioral intervention for probationers under the GIVE grant have contributed to the 23% reduction in gun related crime that has been attributed to the work done under the GIVE grant. Albany has reported that the TC Probation Department has gone above and beyond to help change the behavior of probationers supervised under the grant. The probation department receives \$46,200 for GIVE related work.
- ii. Chief Kelly from IPD shared the experience of IPD working under the GIVE grant. He said that Ithaca has been identified as a Tier 2 city meaning that they can use funds from the grant to address all violent crimes in the city. He said that his department has a goal of offering outreach to youth and young adults to help keep them from becoming involved in activities that can lead them to criminal behaviors. Funds are also used to address the most violent offenders, and the probation department plays a big role in that. The goal is to redirect them from the risky and violent behaviors that they have previously participated in. When people are showing a propensity for violence IPD works with the DA’s office to make arrests that will remove those people from the community. He said the department is working to have an in-house crime analysis that can identify areas that are “hot spots” for crime. Once these locations are identified they will work with other agencies (code enforcement, ATF and the taxation department) to secure the resources needed to reduce crime in those areas. He said that they also hope to coordinate with local businesses to identify areas that are experiencing an increase in crime so they can focus manpower in those areas and reduce crime. Jordan

- said that he has a lot of respect for the work that the probation department does in the community. He said that he has worked closely with OAR, Assigned Council and the DA's office to identify intervention programs that can help to reduce violence in the community; he looks forward to meeting with Chief Kelly as well.
- iii. Taili asked for more information about the cognitive behavioral interventions that the probation department uses and how that is funded. Dan said that there is a program at TCMH. The only downfall is that a person can go to MH for their evaluation to participate in that program; if they indicate that they are not ready or interested in participating then they are not required to. He said they also use active journaling to help probationers identify risk factors and create a plan to help not be susceptible to those factors. High-risk supervision is determined by a risk assessment that uses the risk of violence, risk of recidivism, and the risk of failure to appear in court as contributing factors. Lack of family support, lack of employment and education level are also evaluated in the risk assessment. Dan said there are currently 365 people under supervision and 16% of those people (59 individuals) are being supervised at greatest risk. 23% (87 individuals) are classified as high-risk. So, 40% of people being supervised are determined to be high or greatest risk. Taili asked which programs implemented by the probation department are showing the highest level of success. More resources need to be allocated to the programs that are successful.
 - iv. Dan said that the probation dashboard is about to be released. He said that currently their success rate of people that successfully complete probations is 53%. He said that the numbers from 2021-2023 the success rate was 75%. He said that historically if someone was rated as a greatest risk, there was a 50/50 chance that they would complete probation. He said that he thinks that the lack of resources for substance abuse and MH treatment is the cause of the lower success rates. He said that OAR has recidivism data. Taili asked if probation directors in the state come together to discuss trends and share resources. He said that there are regional groups that meet monthly, and all directors meet twice a year.
 - v. Dave said that he appreciates the work being done to reduce gun violence. He asked if there can be a discussion added to a future agenda that looks at data to understand the contributing factors to the increase in crime and substance use. Bridgette said that this discussion can be added to the October meeting. Tom said that the city is looking into participating in the (Central Arraignment Program) CAP program.

c. **Long Term Inmate Report, Matt Van Houten:** 2 cases are resolved or will be resolved and the other 2 people waiting for trial, one of which has been scheduled in January.

6. **Adjournment- Bridgette** – The meeting was adjourned at 1: 05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 23rd at 12:00.