

Minutes for Criminal Justice/Alternatives to Incarceration Advisory Board (CJATI)

Date: 1/23/2019

Call to Order: 12:02

Attendees:(28) Rich John, Henry Granison, Amie Hendrix, Sharon MacDougall, Susan Robinson, Benay Rubenstein, Jennifer Olin, David Williams, Bill Rusen, Joanne Conway Pietrasz, Ray Bunce, Taili Mugambee, Kaela Klapan, Amy Heffron, Bridgette Nugent, Deana Bodnar, Matt Van Houten, Lance Salisbury, Pat Buechell, Paul Neugebauer, Deana Bodnar, Lance Salisbury, Deborah Dietrich, Amber Abele, Amanda Bashi, Louise Miller, Patricia Buechel, David Sanders
Excused: Angela Sullivan, Mark Dresser, Scott Miller, Derek Osborne, Suzi Cook

Introductions: Introductions were made.

Additions/ Deletions/ Announcements: Several agenda items were added.

Minutes: December 2018 minutes were accepted

Moved: Deb Dietrich

Second: Matt Van Houten

Ayes – All

Governor Cuomo's 2019 Justice Agenda:

Ensure Fairness in the Criminal Justice System: Matt/ Lance

The Advisory Board reviewed the potential impact of the Governor's justice agenda:

Ending cash bail: The proposal calls for those charged with misdemeanors and non-violent felonies to be released ROR (Released on Recognizance). Matt stated that the PRESUMPTION of ROR is already a stated policy in Tompkins County. To ask for bail, the criminal activity needs to involve something violent, an otherwise serious crime, or high risk of flight.

Enacting speedy trial: It was explained that this item was more of a NYC issue. Defendants will not move through the justice system any faster within Tompkins County unless there is a 3rd County Judge in approved.

Discovery reforms: Once again this agenda item falls into the NYC realm.

Long Term Jail Statistics: Ray & Matt

As we reviewed the long-term inmate report, it became obvious that a 3rd County Judge would assist in decreasing the amount of time in waiting for a trial. A third judge has been advocated for by the Legislature. Ray also mentioned that most of the jail is unsentenced, so if the Governor's agenda passes we could potentially have as little as 23 people in our jail. Because of this realization as well as the factors discussed by Matt, many in the room believe a diluted version is expected to pass.

Jail Forensic Counselor Report: Joanne

Joanne introduced herself and provided a brief background of her experiences and skills which included 17 years at Mental Health. She also worked in the jail in the past, but only 4-6 hours a week – now she is available fulltime. One of the hardest obstacles was allowing inmates to familiarize themselves with the new normal, the amount of time and attention provided. Joanne offers many services; including intake and assessment to identify Mental Health and Substances Abuse; referrals outside the facility, and groups and individual counseling. Groups include a session which helps to decrease stress. She currently has (3) men's groups and (2) DBT dialectic behavior therapy. DBT is used to decrease physical aggression and increase coping skills. She is very proud of the writing skills developed in the groups. Recently (12) men entered a pen prison contest. Ray feels that the program has been extremely helpful in making the prison safer. Rich said that we use the acronym ATI, but that might not be the best description, this program improves the quality of life for those who are in our jail, but also for the people that work there. It's not an ATI, but it's a benefit to both.

Added to the Agenda: Mental Health Reentry Update: Sharon

Sharon spoke about the Reentry program and its first year of services. Marie will be at the February meeting to present 4th quarter and Year to Date data.

2019 Sequential Intercept Mapping Awardees – Dave/ Sharon

Tompkins County was awarded the SAMSHA GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation Sequential Intercept Mapping workshop! Dave, Amie and Sharon will head-up the planning team to work on addressing needs and rollout. We expect 1.5-day workshop later this year.

SAMHSA's GAINS Center has selected 10 communities to take part in Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) Workshops. SIM Workshops are designed to allow local, multidisciplinary teams of people to identify and discuss ways in which barriers between the criminal justice, mental health, and substance use systems can be reduced and to begin development of integrated local strategic plans. This round of SIM workshops focuses specifically on Intercept 2 (Initial Detention and Initial Court Hearings) and Intercept 3 (Jails and Courts). Congratulations to the following 10 communities that have been awarded SIM Workshops:

- Sebastian County, Arkansas
- Del Norte County, California
- Santa Cruz County, California
- Chatham County, Georgia
- Reno County, Kansas
- Tompkins County, New York
- Potter County, Pennsylvania
- Pickens County, South Carolina
- Randall and Potter Counties, Texas
- Fairfax County, Virginia

Governor Cuomo's 2019 Justice Agenda

Legalize Adult Use of Recreational Marijuana: End the disproportionate criminalization of one race over another by regulating, legalizing and taxing adult use of recreational marijuana.

We provided an open discussion, not if legalization was good or bad for our community, but assuming Recreational use was made legal, what 'might' be the benefits, concerns, problems, and issues that could result.

Positive: Decrease jail census. In 2018 there was only one person in Tompkins County jail on possession of Marijuana. That individual had more than a pound. Many inmates with possession are also charged with a list of other crimes, therefore removing one crime would not mean they would not be arrested.

Potential concerns: Poor guidance by the State and a regulatory burden similar to that of Raise the Age might create many unanswered questions. Some examples: Who will regulate the industry? What's the penalty for unregulated/unlicensed growing, and/or selling of marijuana (fines, jail, who regulates?)

Taxes and Fees: The New York Times estimates NYS will make \$250-\$670 million dollars year one from the recreational marijuana sales. Where is that money going? The same NYT article explores the monetary shortfall and costs in revamping the NYC subway system. Locally legalization has the potential of increasing the number of DUI, which will impact on our jail population, as well as impact our hospitals with likely increases in accidents and injuries.

Youth: Many voiced their concerns on the impact on youth and the likelihood of increased use among young people. Youth recognize that cigarettes and alcohol are harmful, but do not identify marijuana as being so, funding on educating young people of the likely negative effects of smoking marijuana

After a healthy discussion the following consensus was reached:

- ✓ Advocacy to ensure that taxes and fees are kept local to address any unforeseen effects that might result from legalization of marijuana.
- ✓ Potentially earmarking the funds for (DUI) and (Youth) strategies.

Adjourn 1:10

Submitted: David M Sanders

Date: 1/25/2018