

Citizen Advisory Committee

12.10.15

Notes

In attendance: Eileen Blackwood, Bruce Bovat, Sara Giannoni, Richard Kemp, Julian Portilla, Marija Valencak

Absent: Debbie Thibault, Jan Wright

Staff: Anneke Hohl

1. Reviewed agenda and answered preliminary questions about agenda items.
2. Reviewed and approved notes.
3. Confidential discussion of one offender reentry case.
4. Discussed Community Notification Protocol. Greatest sense of urgency is around developing protocol for what happens once the City has been notified of a release. At the request of the Mayor, the Parallel Justice Commission has been looking into issues around the release of high risk, maxed out offenders, and how to improve policies and protocols. A report back to the Mayor is under development, and will likely impact the protocol recommended by the CAC, which is likely to include the resurrection of prepared, collaborative public forums that could be rolled out at a moment's notice. A secondary priority is to clarify any questions about current DOC directives around community notification of release of high risk offenders and release sensitive notification (RSN) offenders.
5. Staffing updates and considerations.
 - a. Anneke updated the CAC on ongoing Chittenden County reentry conversations with DOC, including likelihood of creating a liaison position that would be housed at Burlington Probation and Parole, but employed and supervised by a Chittenden County CJC. CAC expressed support for Burlington CJC to express interest in employing and supervising this position, especially if compensation for supervision/overhead costs are included. This led into conversation about Safe Driving classes (#5 on the agenda) because an additional role for the liaison position could be facilitating the Safe Driving classes, which DOC is looking to transition to the CJs. CAC expressed support for this if it is included in liaison position and the police department's community room was suggested as a potential location for holding classes.

- b. Considering two different individuals for work experiences that would be provide front desk coverage on Tuesday evening and Fridays, and would be financially supported by VocRehab or ReachUp. CAC expressed support for moving forward.
- 6. Fees. Question has come up among Community Justice Network of Vermont (CJNVT) membership about whether differences in fees between centers expose them to risk. Discussed that there's not a legal problem because program participation is voluntary; however, CAC supports work toward standardization using a formula based on the service provided.
- 7. Next steps with bylaws. This should be first agenda item in January so we can really start to dig in. Other suggestions for next meeting included reviewing Kathy Fox's most recent COSA research findings.
- 8. Confirmed Next Meeting: 1.21.16 at 8:15 am