



**Nancy Wyman**

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## **Youth and Urban Violence Commission**

*April 13, 2015*

Cabinet Attendees: Nancy Wyman, Scot Esdaile, Susan Storey, Michael Lawlor, Andrew Woods, Jillian Knox, Carleton Giles, Brent Peterkin, Mark McKinney, Clayton Northgraves, Vernon Riddick, Megan Quattlebaum, Andrew Papachristos, Karen Jarmoc, Alice Forrester, Scott Wilderman, Kim Buchanan, Ryan Matthews, David McGuire, Scott Jackson, Adrienne Cochrane, Sam Gray

Absent: Dr. Manuel Rivera, Jeana Bracey, Brian Foley

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.	<b>Call to order &amp; Introductions</b>	Commissioners introduced themselves.	
2.	<b>Review Charge of Commission</b>	Lt. Governor Wyman read the charge to the Commission.	
3.	<b>Trends in the Criminal Justice System- Mike Lawlor, Undersecretary Criminal Justice Policy and Planning, Office of Policy &amp; Management</b>	Mike Lawlor stated that the policy goals are to reduce crime, reduce spending, and restore confidence in the criminal justice system. Lawlor provided a presentation on the recent trends in criminal justice. Lawlor addressed statistics on gun homicides based on race/ethnicity and age of victim, juvenile detention rates, and juvenile arrests by age 2008-2013. Lawlor also presented the decrease in rates of new admits to prison.	

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		<p>Scot Esdaile asked if the numbers shown for incarceration by age showed the number for the Manson Youth Institution. Lawlor confirmed that they were.</p> <p>Lt. Governor Wyman asked a question concerning the population of inmates aged 40 and up. Lawlor noted that there are a variety of factors that impact the rate of incarceration for older inmates.</p> <p>Lawlor highlighted the policy of prioritization, stating that, by law, priority must be given to investigating violent crime.</p> <p>Lawlor closed with mention of national landmark publication – “Breaking School’s Rules,” which addressed the school to prison pipeline.</p> <p>Scott Wilderman asked about recidivism rates for youth in comparison for adults. Lawlor stated that juvenile recidivism rates are dropping among individuals who are higher risk. Scot Esdaile asked about the prosecution of gun dealers. Mike Lawlor noted the current policies aimed at combating the sale and trafficking of firearms and ammunition. Scot Esdaile asked about the correlation of economics and job creation and crime, urged that the CBIA be involved in these discussions. Lawlor stated that the CBIA is at the table, and even in this recent recession, crime rates were declining. Lawlor mentioned current policy that subsidizes employment for people coming out of prison. He also noted the creation of a correctional facility focused on reentry and employment.</p>	

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		<p>Andrew Woods asked for non-fatal shooting data and violent crime data and as it relates to hospitalization. Mike Lawlor asked Brent Peterkin to address the specific data but noted that non-fatal shootings have declined in addition to violent crime.</p> <p>Alice Forrester asked about the Department of Corrections costs and budget trends from 2008-2013. She asked if the decrease in DOC budget means more money back into the community for prevention. Mike Lawlor stated that in the last 5 years the DOC has closed 3 prisons and are down about 1000 employees. Because of this, spending is about \$720 million compared to \$900 million. Lawlor also addressed recent cost saving initiatives, including contracting with nursing homes for inmates who require skilled nursing home level of care. These inmates would require twice as much money spent on if their needs were addressed in the prisons. Lawlor stated that DOC will save \$26 million from decrease in inmates.</p> <p>Scott Wilderman asked for the rate of youth ages 16-24 with a high school diploma or GED. Lawlor suggested Commissioner Semple and Commissioner Katz come in to speak to Wilderman's question as well as inviting the warden at Mason Youth Institution and the Director of CJTS.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Relevant Research on Youth and Urban Violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Kim Buchanan, UCONN School of Law</b></li> </ul>	<p>Lt. Governor introduced Kim Buchanan.</p> <p>Kim Buchanan addressed research that illuminates some of the ways in which policy choices about legal rules shape our definitions of crime, and can inadvertently foster the lawbreaking that criminal punishment aims to deter.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Andrew Papachristos, Yale University</b></li> <li>- <b>Megan Quattlebaum, Director, Yale Justice Collaboratory</b></li> </ul>	<p>Buchanan addressed that incarceration does not deter crime, and may increase it. Buchanan referenced criminologist Francis T. Cullen, Cheryl Lero Johnson, and Daniel S. Nagin who concluded that: three observations, based on the existing science, are possible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Custodial sentences do not reduce recidivism more than noncustodial sanctions.</li> <li>2. With less confidence, we can propose that prisons, especially gratuitously painful ones, may be criminogenic.</li> <li>3. It is likely that low-risk offenders are most likely to experience increased recidivism due to incarceration.</li> </ol> <p>Buchanan noted that, while juvenile justice aspires to be less punitive and more rehabilitative, studies of juvenile justice interventions indicate that they tend to increase recidivism, both in the short term and into adulthood Buchanan then cautioned about defining and punishing undesirable behavior by young people (and others) as “crime.”</p> <p>Andrew Woods suggested the Department of Education to come and give a presentation regarding suspensions and expulsions.</p> <p>Karen Jarmoc requested a presentation from the Department of Public Health addressing their School Health Survey.</p> <p>Scott Jackson noted the role of the School Resource Officer and its positive impact in Hamden High School.</p> <p>Karen Jarmoc asked for suggestions to alternatives to incarceration.</p>	

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		<p>Lt. Governor Wyman suggested creation of a subcommittee for alternatives to arrest.</p> <p>Kim Buchanan suggested alternatives to arrest such as psychological interventions for children and families, diversion from incarceration toward treatment, restorative justice initiatives.</p> <p>Carleton Giles noted CT has a School Resource Officers Organization and to hear from them to address their role and their standardized training.</p> <p>Andrew Papachristos presented on how to use network science to understand relationships among people effect the patterns we see in gun violence in our cities in Connecticut.</p> <p>Papachristos addressed homicides by town, social network connections among who gets shot, the concentration of gun violence and exposure to gun violence, predicted probability of gunshot victimization by network exposure to guns for 14-24 year old men, how to leverage for violence reduction addressing short term and long term solutions, and mapping the violence landscape to identify individuals at risk.</p> <p>Andrew Woods noted patterns and clustering of risk factors within certain communities. He noted the importance of addressing prevention and intervention, and followed up on Alice Forrester's point of repurposing resources.</p>	

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		<p>Alice Forrester highlighted the idea of threat assessment teams and restorative justice groups to bring community members together in order to have resources available to support families and address problems facing cities.</p> <p>Megan Quattlebaum presented on legitimacy, specifically addressing the notion that adolescence is the most important time in the development of attitudes towards legal authorities. Relevant factors include how respectful police officers are during stops and frequency of stops. When stops are performed respectfully and judiciously, contact between juveniles and adult authorities can build legitimacy and trust, making young people more likely to follow the law and cooperate with authorities in the future.</p> <p>The perception of legitimacy has a greater impact on compliance of the law compared to instrumental factors such as sanctions. The more legitimate you think actors in the criminal justice system are, the more likely you are to obey the law.</p> <p>Quattlebaum noted that when youth are repeatedly stopped, they begin to see all stops as unfair regardless of the characteristics of the stops. She suggested fewer contacts and increased focus on the respectful nature of contacts between youth and police. Police stops for youth lead to lower confidence and trust in legal institutions, and an increase in the likelihood of criminal behavior. Suggested that every interactions be treated as a teachable moment to increase positive socialization.</p>	

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		<p>Vernon Riddick clarified that Student Resource Officers play a positive role through their interactions, and are often selected because the individual has an interest in becoming a mentor or teacher. Addressed the need for parents and guardians to police their children and focus attention on involving parents.</p>	
5.	Next Steps	<p>Lt. Governor requested Commission members submit ideas for sub groups and future presenters. Lt. Governor opened the floor for questions and comments:            Karen Jarmoc requested that the Commission look to current state and national models to expand upon that are currently working.            Scot Esdaile asked which policies have caused the recent trends in criminal justice that Mike Lawlor presented on.            Lawlor responded that at this point the degree to which</p>	

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		<p>recent policies have impacted incarceration and crime rates is unknown.</p> <p>Carlton Giles: Suggested getting out into the public to see what practitioners are doing in the field.</p>	
6.	Adjourn	Lt. Governor Wyman asked for motion to adjourn. Motioned by Carlton Giles, seconded by Karen Jarmoc.	