

County Chief Adult Probation and Parole Officers Association of PA
General Business Meeting
Wednesday, September 25, 2019
Days Inn State College, PA

Chief POs in attendance: Gale Kendall (Adams), Frank Scherer (Allegheny), Regina Himes (Armstrong), Donald Neill (Beaver), Bob Williams (Berks), Christine Shenk (Bucks), Rick Parsons (Carbon), Darby Christlieb (Cumberland), Chad Libby (Dauphin), Paul Markiewicz (Erie), Steve Barnett (Forest), Doug Wilburn (Franklin), Dan Miller (Fulton), Leonard Hahn (Huntingdon), Paul Ruffner (Jefferson), Michelle Beaver (Juniata), Mark Wilson (Lancaster), Mark Surovy (Lehigh), Michael Vecchio (Luzerne), Ed McCoy (Lycoming), Todd Harpster (Mifflin), Bernie Sikora (Monroe), Michael Gordon (Montgomery), Jim Miller (Montour), Tim Heitzman (Northumberland), Roger Miller (Perry), Dave Stager (Tioga), Bob Daugherty (Venango), Carl McKee (Warren), Jon Ridge (Washington), Jim Chapman (Wayne), April Billet-Barclay (York).

Others in attendance: Geoffrey Willett (Adams), Bruno Mediate (Allegheny), Steve Esswein (Allegheny), Christopher Franceschi (Armstrong), Wendy Ferrero (Berks), Brendan Harker (Berks), Owen Scott (Berks), Trevor Oates (Crawford), Andrew Cooper (Dauphin), Randy Mumma (Dauphin), Meredith Zurin (Dauphin), Tabatha Spangler (Dauphin), Jason Snyder (Dauphin), Stan Cioccio (Erie), Jennifer Rager (Erie), Ashlee Rosner (Fayette), Matthew Kibe (Fayette), Drew Washabaugh (Fulton), Audrey Rakow (Lebanon), Pam Sheffer (Lehigh), Carmen Lopresto (Luzerne), Maria Augello (Luzerne), Ryan Smeltzer (Mifflin), Bob Angradi (Monroe), Todd Bergman (Montgomery), Kathy Subbio (Montgomery), Brian Updegrove (Northumberland), Michelle Orris (Perry), Robert Wolff (Pike), Kim McLaughlin (Somerset), Karen Lebar (Washington), Collette Kidney (Westmoreland), Janice DeFloria (Westmoreland), Pat Nuzzo (Westmoreland), Donald Overmoyer (York), Rhys Kershaw (York), Sue Claytor (York), Mike Stough (York), Melissa Turner (York), Laura Westover (York), Jamie Forry (York), Kelly Ross (York), Katherine Gruver (York).

Helene Placey (CCAPPOAP), Nevin Warner (AOPC), Alexis Noble (CCAP), Tom Dougherty (PBPP), Sandy Halicki (PBPP), Michelle Hair (PBPP -Interstate), Carrie Peters (PCS), Ryan Myers (PCS), Jennifer Hutton (PCS).

Meeting called to order: by President Mark Wilson at 9:02 a.m. with Pledge of Allegiance.

President's Welcome

Mark Wilson introduced the new Chief Probation Officer appointments: Shawn Burkhart (Clearfield), Mark Surovy (Lehigh), Maria Augello (Luzerne) and Jodi Tanner (McKean). Also, Amanda Moore (Blair) and Doug Wilburne (Franklin) were appointed Acting Chiefs.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President

Mark Wilson briefly recapped the conference. Executive Committee will review results of evaluation forms in moving forward with 2020 conference plans.

Vice-President

No report

Secretary

Paul Ruffner introduced minutes from the General Membership Meeting held on Friday, June 7, 2019. There were no additions or corrections. Motion made by Bob Williams to approve the minutes; seconded by Mike Gordon. Motion passed.

Treasurer

Chris Murphy was not in attendance but submitted a Treasures report which was relayed by Helene Placey. Current Balance of \$160,506.74. Motion made by Dave Stager to approve the Treasurer's report; seconded by Rick Parsons. Motion passed.

Executive Director

Helene Placey noted the following:

- MI Training for Trainers Update: Fifty-four (54) Train-the-Trainers scored proficient with tapes; approximately five hundred (500) probation officers trained in MI 1 and MI 2. The MI-20 web-based licenses invoice was received and paid. Regional training will be available next year.
- Implementation Leadership Academies offered by ACJI will start Phase II with a one-year virtual classroom training. Commencing October 9, 2019, the trainings will continue the second Wednesday of each month, running approximately 45 minutes in length.
- Contracts are being prepared for the *Carey Group* and *The University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute* to further evidence-based offender supervision in counties throughout the Commonwealth. A tentative meeting on December 5, 2019 will proceed the General Business Meeting the following morning. Further details are forthcoming.
- Probation Reform: Senate Bill 14 was introduced in February 2019. Public Hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee were held on June 25th and 26th in Harrisburg. Vice-President Billet-Barclay provided testimony on behalf of the Chief's Association.
- House Bill 1555 was introduced this summer and is also legislation to reform probation. There is no movement in the legislature presently.

- Risk Assessment Tool by PA Sentencing Commission: The Chief's Association submitted a letter in opposition of the risk-tool developed by the Sentencing Commission. On September 5, the Sentencing Commission voted to adopt the tool and it will be sent to the legislative branch for a ninety-day period.
- JRI II legislation (SB 500, 501, 502): No movement
- Memberships have increased and Associate memberships have increased.
- 2019 Conference: Speakers presentation (handouts and PowerPoints) will be posted on the Chief's website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Statewide EBP Committee

- Bill Burrell's contract has been extended for two years. PCCD and DOC each contributed \$120,000.
- **Goal Team 1:** (Risk/Needs and Specialized Assessments) Chad Libby reported the Goal Team will reconvene in October, 2019 working on specialized risk assessments, Domestic Violence and DUI
- **Goal Team II:** (The Blueprint for EBP Implementation) Bob Williams reported this document should be utilized to educate staff, stakeholders, Judges and others on core competencies.
- **Goal Team IV:** (The Dashboard). Rick Parsons reported the goal team will work with JNET to capture data for recidivism project.

Firearms Committee

No report (deferred to FETC under State Agency updates later in the meeting)

Intercounty Transfer Committee

No report

Training Committee

Committee Chair Dan Heydt was not in attendance but Helene Placey reported that a survey was completed in August in conjunction with the Department of Corrections to utilize State funds that are earmarked for county probation training. The survey results the chiefs identified the following priority areas: (1) Search and Seizure; (2) Officer Field Safety; (3) Aggregate sentences; (4) Intro to EBP (already covered under grant) and (5) medical marijuana. Results indicated a preference for monies to be contributed to a combination of travel reimbursement (hotel, etc.) and professional development expenses.

Program Committee

No report

Legislative Committee

Carl McKee reported that not a lot is moving at this time.

By-Laws Committee

Darby Christlieb reported the proposed by-laws amendments, if adopted, will be effective 1/1/2020.

There will be an election of officers for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer at the December 6, 2019 quarterly membership meeting.

A motion was made to adopt the by-law revisions to change committee structure by Christine Shenk, seconded by Rick Parsons. Motion passed.

Darby will send an email next week to collect nominations which need to be generated thirty (30) days before the December 6 membership meeting.

STATE AGENCY UPDATES

AOPC

Nevin Warner reported that there will be a Treatment Court Conference in October in State College. Also, Tom Darr, Court Administrator of PA, is retiring the end of the year. Geoff Moulton has been appointed by the Chief Justice to replace Tom.

Department of Corrections

No report

JNET

Amelia Marsh reported (in lieu of Todd Sackett) on several features including:

- JTACS dashboard this year
- MARIS is in Phase II, probation and parole warrants with Delaware, Maryland, DC, maybe NJ by end of 2019
- Working to make system for user friendly; user provisioning upgrades in 2020
- 1st phase of PCCD/IP/AOPC/ service link to share software and reduce data entry
- Reverse address phone pick-up upcoming in Federated Search by end of 2019 (white pages)
- Recidivism project is ongoing; contract in place with workshop upcoming
- County training opportunities are available to customize to individual offices; contact Todd Sackett at tsackett@pa.gov.

PBPP - Probation Services

Tom Dougherty provided the following report:

- Grant-in-Aid all submitted; 1st invoice for next year is forthcoming.
- Audits on Probation Field Services are being completed.

PBPP - Interstate Services

Tom Dougherty reported:

- Passed audit on warrants for absconders
- No geographical limits on absconders

- Issue in timely manner (two weeks)
- March, 2020 definition of sex offender will change to include “anybody registered or is to be registered or imposed sex offender conditions” is presented for a vote. It will change documents that are required for transfers, need sex offender assessments completed, victim statements, conditions of probation and criminal complaints.
- Revocation Hearings will require new dispositions
- Warrants issued within 15 days

DOC – Training Division

Mike Dooley, Director of Training, Department of Corrections reported:

- He met with Helene regarding county probation training funds and is available to discuss any issues regarding training needs and/or ideas.
email: midooley@pa.gov or phone: (717) 361-4312
- Three BTAs scheduled for 2020
- Build capacity for training -the-trainers
- Available seats for NIC Leadership Academy; dedicated to counties; 1st session in December 9th and 10th. It is a year-long curriculum

PCCD

No report

PA Commission on Sentencing

Ryan Myers reported:

- On September 5, the Sentencing Commission voted to adopt the risk tool under Amendment 5 of the 7th edition guidelines as well as resentencing guidelines. There is a ninety-day waiting period. This will likely pass. Keep in mind the guidelines are advisory in nature and the risk assessment tool will create a note to the sentencing Judge on SGS generated guideline form that there is a need for additional information (which will come most likely in the form of a PSI report).
- Contact Ryan for individualized trainings.
- Carrie Peters is retiring after 30 plus years!
- There are two vacancies for outreach and education positions

FETC

Joe McLaughlin reported

- the PA Login system SETMS. Contact Joe with questions
- New contract for courses submitted in May to start trainings in July 2020.
- PWT, HACC. Looking for new vendors
- Continuing Ed courses are distributed; Intergovernmental agreement to use equipment.
- October 31 is requalification deadline; Cont. Ed courses by end of December.

PA DUI Association

No report

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS

- Audrey Rakow reported on Lebanon County's policy (President Judge Tylwalk) ban on the use of medical marijuana by probationers under supervision. There is an appeal pending by the ACLU. Contact Sally Barry or Audrey with any questions
- Mark & Helene discovered two addition door prizes left over from last-night's dinner banquet. Both prizes were randomly awarded to meeting attendees.

Rick Parsons made motion to adjourn the membership meeting, seconded by Carl McKee. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next quarterly membership meeting: Friday, December 6, 2019 at Days Inn, State College

Respectfully submitted,

Paul L. Ruffner
Secretary