

County Chief Adult Probation and Parole Officers Association of PA
General Business Meeting
December 7, 2018
Days Inn State College, PA

Chief POs in attendance: Frank Scherer (Allegheny), Regina Himes (Armstrong), Sean Ryan (Bucks), Doug Ritson (Butler), Rick Parsons (Carbon), Tom Backenstoe (Centre), Chris Murphy (Chester), Jayne Smail (Clarion), Jason Foltz (Clinton), Paul Markiewicz (Erie), James Caccimelio (Fayette), Steve Barnett (Forest), Dan Hoover (Franklin), Leonard Hahn (Huntingdon), Paul Ruffner (Jefferson), Michelle Beaver (Juniata), Mark Wilson (Lancaster), Sally Barry (Lebanon), Ann Marie Egizio (Lehigh), Gary Seefeldt (McKean), Todd Harpster (Mifflin), Bernie Sikora (Monroe), Michael Gordon (Montgomery), Jim Miller (Montour), Tim Heitzman (Northumberland), Roger Miller (Perry), Jeff Angradi (Pike).

Others in attendance: Bruno Mediate (Allegheny), Christine Shenk (Bucks), Trevor Oates (Crawford), Gretchen Anderson (Dauphin), Mike Shrauder (Dauphin), Meredith Zurin (Dauphin), Amber Snedeker (Huntingdon), Audrey Rakow (Lebanon), Carmen Lopresto (Luzerne), Michelle Orris (Perry), Kim McLaughlin (Somerset), Troy Freeman (Tioga), Donald Overmoyer (York).

Helene Placey (CCAPPOAP), Nevin Warner (AOPC), Margaret Thompson (PBPP Interstate), Michelle Hair (PBPP Interstate), Tom Dougherty (PBPP), Mike Pennington (PCCD), Carrie Peters (PCS), Bob Merwine (PSDC), William Burrell (Consultant).

Meeting called to order: President Mark Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed to honor the memory of Ron Kokinda, retired Chief of Carbon County who recently died.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President

Introduced Gale Kendall, the new Executive Director of Probation and Parole in Adams County.

Vice-President

No report

Secretary

Paul Ruffner noted that the minutes from the September 19, 2018 General Business Meeting were corrected to reflect that the Margaret Thompson from the PA Interstate Compact Office noted that the Annual Business meeting was in Orlando, FL in the fall of 2018. Motion made by Rick Parsons, second by Michael Gordon to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed.

Treasurer

No report

Executive Director

Helene Placey noted the following:

- Conference generated income of \$37,675 and expenses of \$36,363 for a net of \$1,311. Recent prior conferences reported loss of income to the association, so this is a trend in the opposite direction.
- Participant ratings were presented on the Plenary and Break-Out speakers/presenters from the Fall, 2018 Conference.
- Executive Committee met to discuss feedback from the conference participants and a consensus was reached to implement the following changes for the 2019 conference:
 - Move the location of the conference to the Days Inn, State College to accommodate the increase in attendees.
 - 2019 conference registration fees will increase by \$25.00
 - Activities will be increased (keep the golf and fishing outings).
 - Any activities with additional costs will have a participant co-pay.
 - Vendor reception will include a drink voucher system.
- Evidence-Based Practices: Motivational Interviewing Training for Trainers (taping and coding) is progressing through February, 2019. Seventy-two (72) trainees are moving forward through the train-the-trainer process. Anyone wishing to become a trainer must score an 85% proficiency rating. Once trainers are identified, regional trainings will be held throughout the state. In addition, there are 20 web courses available.
- The Implementation Leadership Academy held in July had a participation rate statewide of about 50%. Tentatively, three more sessions will be scheduled in 2019, if there is enough interest.
- The 2019 Operating Budget for the Association will be presented by electronic submission prior to the March, 2019 General Membership Meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Statewide EBP Leadership Team

Mark Wilson presented Bob Merwine, formerly with PCCD, a Letter of Appreciation for his efforts in establishing Evidence-Based Practices for County Adult Probation and Parole Officers. Mr. Merwine has accepted a position with the Public Safety Delivery Center.

New Members for the Statewide EBP Leadership team are Rick Parsons, Carbon County and Mark Ledford, Cambria County.

The Chief's Association adopted an Evidence-Based Strategic Plan in 2016. The goal of the strategic plan is to enhance public safety, reduce recidivism, and provide for a more effective use of public funds through the implementation of evidence-based practices (EBP) in the county adult probation and parole system. The strategic plan is the result of a dynamic partnership between this Association and many key stakeholders in Pennsylvania's criminal justice system. The strategic plan was written as a multi-year document dated 2016-2018. Since the EBP implementation process is going to take many years, a draft resolution was read which would

extend EBP strategic Plan an additional three years (from 2019-2021). A motion was made by Sally Barry to adopt the resolution extending the strategic plan an additional three years. Seconded by Rick Parsons. Motion passed.

Bill Burrell reported that the Arnold Foundation has monies to improve probation and parole practices. A letter of intent to do grant with Pennsylvania, Arizona and the Iowa Department of Corrections will be sent to the Arnold Foundation in support of the Alliance for Criminal Justice Implementation. This is a promising avenue to pursue. Money may be available for Leadership Training and other endeavors.

Goal Team 1: (risk/needs and specialized assessments) needs everyone to complete the survey monkey that has been emailed to all chiefs. Thirty-seven (37) have been completed so far.

Goal Team 4: Sean Ryan is retiring in January, 2019. Rick Parsons is new chair; Christine Shenk from Bucks County is serving as Vice-chair. Future projects include working with the Public Safety Delivery Center, PBPP, PCCD and DOC for a performance management dash board. This will include work with JNET, UCM, Connectrex and BTM.

Firearms Committee

Michelle Beaver reported an email was sent out recapping the years activities.

Intercounty Transfer Committee

No report

Training Committee

Dan Heydt from Berks County met with Melissa Bronstetter from PBPP in November. No BTA schedule has been produced yet for 2019.

Program Committee

No report

Legislative Committee

Helene reported on an email from Michael Gordon (Montgomery) and Christopher Murphy (Chester) regarding the DNA collections required for some M1 and M2 offenses, commencing in December, 2019.

By-Laws Committee

See New Business

STATE AGENCY UPDATES

AOPC

Nevin Warner, Problem Solving Courts Analyst, reported there is funds up to \$50,000 for Implementation Grants and up to \$30,000 in Discretionary Grants to enhance current

operations of Treatment Courts. Grants do not pay for staff salary but will pay for overtime wages and things such as data entry, costs of drug tests, etc.

Department of Corrections

Kelly Evans, Deputy Secretary for Reentry (not in attendance but provided an update via email) reported that consistency is needed in handling Special Probation violation cases. Some counties are closing cases which could be a concern. It was suggested to have a meeting with DOC to address the potential to reject resubmission of a PB325.

JNET

Todd Sackett reported:

- Several features including a learning management system for registrars, making it more user friendly; new notification events for Megan's Law registrants.
- Criminal Complaints for electronic submission or through JNET/AOPC to alleviate problems with OTN and data redundancy.
- Application Consolidation (make more user-friendly).
- Recidivism project (data storage; security risk). Please give Todd feedback.
- Training initiatives (10 or more people)
- JNET conference next week.

PBPP - Probation Services

Tom Dougherty reported that Grant-in-Aid invoices will be processed this month; \$ to counties in February, 2019.

Bill McDevitt is retiring on 12/21/18.

PBPP - Training Division

No report

PBPP - Interstate Services

Margaret Thompson reported she seeking suggestions from departments to provide training on ICOTS to probation officers. Lebanon and Snyder County came to their office in October, and training was provided for the Mercer District Office.

The Rules committee will vote in October, 2019 on the modified definition of sex offender. Mandated federal law requires County Probation Departments to "retake" offender on warrants. Their audit stresses the importance of tracking of warrants and retake of absconders.

PCCD

Mike Pennington spoke on behalf of the Office of Criminal Justice Systems Improvements.

- 14 out of 15 Federal applications have been approved.
- In January, 2019 a \$1.2 million Opioid Abuse Program will be activated.
- Additionally, ten (10) separate grants for up to \$15,000 each for County Re-entry grants.

- The School Safety/Security Committee (Act 44) is a stand-alone committee charged with assessments/physical security/vendors to do risk assessments for school districts. \$60 million for 21 purpose areas for school safety.
- \$7.5 million for community violence reduction/prevention
- Coalition of State Governments (CSG) stepping-up initiative to reduce mental health and co-occurring drug and alcohol issues from confinement in jails.
- Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), de-escalation, and officer wellness will be on March 26, 2019
- CJAB conference scheduled for April 9-10, 2019 at the Penn Stater Conference Center

PA Commission on Sentencing

Carrie Peters reported that they held a quarterly Commission meeting December 6, 2018.

- Risk assessment tool has been postponed from the January, 2019 implementation. There was not a lot of positive feedback at the June, 2018 public meeting. There was a December public hearing yesterday and four (4) more next week. There is discussion about looking at prior “convictions”, not arrests as part of the risk assessment. The commission is working on a 2nd generation risk assessment tool.
- SGS Web stat sheets needs to get out prior to sentencing.
- Next Sentencing Commission meeting is March, 2019.
- Mandate for Commission to develop a pre-trial risk assessment for Domestic Violence; nothing formal on this yet.
- Amendment 5 of 7th edition, OGS assignments have been updated; to be reviewed in March, 2019 with public hearings in June. When adopted, will take effect in January, 2020.
- Guideline Trainings will be held in the Spring, 2019. Counties may request for Commission staff to come there and do individualized session.
- Data needs to be entered in SGS web on revocation/resentencing information. Numbers are low, and the Commission needs data to make this work.
- Discussion on Sentencing Guidelines for Probation Revocations.
- SGS Web vendor is out of business; doing web-design in-house.

Pa DUI Association

No report

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS

Helene Placey reported there is a continuing push for probation reform legislation (arising from the Meek Mills case out of Philadelphia) suggesting term limits of 6 months for resentencing on any probation revocation. The DA’s association does not have consensus on this but may consider recommending status reviews for early terminations of probation/CIP as an alternative encouraging early termination of probation supervision. Mark Wilson suggested chiefs discuss

this issue with their PJ to get their opinion and feedback to determine if there is any consensus for our Association to take a position on any potential legislation.

Sean Ryan, Director of Bucks County Probation and Parole, will be retiring in January, 2019 after 42 years of service. His intellect, influence and dapper attire will be missed by all. Congratulations.

Paul Markiewicz, Director of Erie County Probation and Parole was elected as the newest Member-At-Large representative on the Executive Committee.

The next General Business meetings:

- March 8, 2019
- June 21, 2019
- Conference dates are tentative: either September 9-11 or September 23-25

Meeting Adjourned

Chris Murphy made motion to adjourn, seconded Rick Parsons. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul L. Ruffner
Secretary