

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

Notes

August 14, 2008

8:00 a.m.

Room 8 / HyVee Hall

Coordinating Council Members Present: Sheriff Dennis Anderson, Judge Arthur Gamble, Sally Kreamer, Supervisor John F. Mauro, Valorie Wilson.

Absent: Supervisor Tom Hockensmith, John Sarcone.

Others Present: Jerald Brantley (Spectrum Resources), Captain Donna Brooks, Supervisor Angela Connolly, Sue Elliott, Supervisor E.J. Giovannetti, Rox Laird (DM Register), Chief Bill McCarthy, Mike O'Meara, Khalid Rashid (Spectrum Resources), Jeff Riese (Polk-DM Taxpayers Assoc.), Linda Ripley, Nancy Robinson, Allen Spencer (Spectrum Resources), Linda Zanders, Neil Wheeler.

I. Pretrial Release

Presented by: Nancy Robinson, Assistant Director of Field Services, Fifth Judicial Department of Correctional Services

The program started from an editorial that appeared in the Des Moines Register. As a result we started to try and assist those who were not a risk to be out of jail but did not have the money to post bail. The brochure talks about the three programs with Pretrial Release.

We obtain a list of those booked every morning. We review the inmate's job, past criminal history and answer these questions:

Will they show up in court?

Are they a risk to re-offend?

Mental Health and substance abuse evaluations are also performed.

Pretrial Release is the first stage of the three programs. This stage of the program is staffed seven days a week, 365 days a year. When individuals are released they must abide by the bond conditions, keep attorney and Pretrial informed of their whereabouts, not be re-arrested and make all scheduled court appearances.

Release with Supervision provides the same services as Pretrial Release but with the added benefit of a supervising officer who the defendant is required to report to. If a defendant does not qualify for Pretrial, we take another look to see if they would qualify with supervision and ask these questions:

Do they have a permanent residence?

Do they need substance abuse assistance (urinalysis)?

Intensive Pretrial Release is supported by the Sheriff and provides the most extensive supervision. These are individuals with more perceived risk; they must meet with a probation officer weekly, may have a curfew and are provided with home and job visits. This program also utilizes various electronic monitoring measures.

It costs \$85.52 per day to keep someone in the jail. The Intensive Pretrial Release Program has achieved a savings of \$855,371.04 from July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008. Offenders released by Pretrial offense type totaled 142 Intensive Pretrial Release and 928 Pretrial or Release with Supervision over the same time period (FY 07/08). Total interviews conducted were 2,531 Pretrial, 657 Intensive Pretrial, 564 Release with Services.

A significant number that are incarcerated have mental health issues. Two positions have recently been created to assist mental health inmates.

Judge Gamble asked about the ratio of offenders to officers. Nancy responded that 37-45 clients are supervised and receive home visits. Sally Kreamer stated that the warrant fugitive team work with the Sheriff's Office and can handle a caseload maximum of 60 due to this cooperative program. Without the warrant team and SWAP, we could not handle the numbers we have. Sheriff Anderson agreed.

Sally Kreamer stated that the warrant fugitive team is able to quickly respond when an incident occurs with a violent new offender. In the case of an escape, we contact the Sheriff, the faster they are notified the faster they can be found. They have found with the probation violators prewarrant checks, people were not reporting. Once we contact the fugitive team and tell them that there is a warrant out for their arrest, they become more responsive. We have found that the offenders respond better when they see a uniformed officer showing up to tell them than a probation officer who does not wear a uniform.

II. Polk County Pretrial Services Program Assessment Presented by: Sally Kreamer, Director, Fifth Judicial Department of Corrections

The Pretrial Services Program Assessment was conducted by Marie VanNorstrand through the National Institute of Corrections. The last page of the report references the points system which had never been validated. Very few risk assessments are validated by the Criminal Justice Program.

Several measures that will show those let out and "X" amount show up for court get arrested or re-arrested so we can see if we can get more people out. Many of the offenders who are homeless we tend not to take out because we don't know if they would show up. This is one of the few nationally

validated. People who post bond compared to correctional services supervision.

There is a timeline for implementation. Some of the recommendations were placed on hold until the new jail opens. A lot of the report has to do with training staff.

We recently realized that we could get more people out if we allowed inmates to access their cell phones. People no longer remember phone numbers and the inmates were not allowed access to their cell phones so they did not have the numbers they needed that would allow us to release them. We have worked with Captain Brooks to get this resolved.

Access to a jail manager if there are mental health issues, a call goes to the case manager and the inmate is out of jail more quickly.

Nancy Robinson stated that the assessment did not cost anything. It was a tremendous lift for the program to be able to do this.

Sally Kreamer stated that Fifth Judicial was the only District in the State of Iowa that had intake positions which were recently upgraded because of turnover due to low pay.

The consultant felt that we could take more risk but we want to rely on a validated risk assessment.

Valorie Wilson asked what the report referenced in talking with the judges. Sally Kreamer stated that it had to do with initial appearances, when we are at the new jail; the judge signs the order so they can be released so the process isn't drawn out. It cuts 2 – 4 hours by providing an initial appearance. If it doesn't get done at the initial appearance, it could be a day or more.

Judge Gamble stated that one of the efficiencies that will be apparent right away when the new jail opens is the efficiency of having everyone under one roof which will make the inmates more accessible.

Valorie Wilson stated that with the meaningful first appearance that judges set the standard bond. Judge Gamble stated that the judicial council reviewed the standard bond schedule a few years ago and the standard bond had been reduced so that has been addressed. Valorie Wilson stated that some of it had been addressed and some hadn't.

III. Update from Sheriff Anderson
a. Video Conferencing

We are making progress on the cost and installation of the video conferencing for offices. We will place a couple at the main jail for defense lawyers to confer with clients instead of them having to drive out to the jail in order to expedite the process. The cost is approximately \$6,000 for each station. This should be in place prior to the move to the new jail. We will have an opportunity to run our own line to the Public Defender's Office. This will allow more access than TI. Tony Jefferson is looking at this and costs will be brought back at our next meeting. We still need to work out the protocol for when it is in place and operational.

Valorie Wilson stated that Kathleen Masterpole had talked with Tony Jefferson and Scott Horman and they said that the inmates would have to be interviewed in the pod. This will not provide the confidentiality that the Public Defender's Office needs with its client. Sheriff Anderson stated that the confidentiality issue can be worked out and is part of the protocol he mentioned. Valorie Wilson and Kathleen Masterpole will meet with Captain Brooks to go out to the new jail and discuss a workable protocol for all parties. Sheriff Anderson is running a cost for the Public Defender for six stations. Because we will be running a private line, there can be an unlimited amount of hook ups in the future.

Mike O'Meara stated that there should be a centralized location for private attorneys to use. Sheriff Anderson advised that there will be a location at the main jail that will be accessible to attorneys. After the operation is set up, we will review the number that will be needed based on use.

Judge Gamble stated that there is an ICN link for court hearings in Room 206 of the Courthouse.

Sally Kreamer stated that correctional services will slow down and would add days to jail stay if they are not allowed video conferencing access. Correctional Services needs to hold an administrative hearing prior to the revocation hearing on probation violators who get arrested. Sheriff Anderson stated that we will do whatever we can to expedite the process. Supervisor Mauro stated that these initiatives may cost dollars to begin with but they will end up saving dollars in the long run.

b. Jail Statistical Analyst Position

The posting has closed and the review of applications is complete. Seven applicants have been selected as finalists. We will be interviewing and will hopefully make a job offer next week. We have a good group of seasoned,

experienced candidates. If all goes as planned, we should be able to introduce the person at the next meeting.

IV. Bylaws

Mike O'Meara stated that John Sarcone had hesitation about establishing bylaws this early in the process. We need to have the opportunity to grow and see how things work before we commit to bylaws. There is concern regarding the voluntary member section. Not because of the group size but the workability. Bylaws would inhibit flexibility.

Sally Kreamer stated that if there are not formalized bylaws the group won't be able to accomplish anything. Valorie Wilson stated that we need guidance as far as bylaws go but agreed with John's concerns that we need to proceed slowly. Judge Gamble stated that to formalize would be good although he hasn't studied the list of volunteer members. We shouldn't be locked in to the volunteer members at this point. Sheriff Anderson agreed that we should formalize with bylaws to keep people at the table. Supervisor Connolly stated that bylaws will give 100% accountability.

Mike O'Meara stated that this is only the first official meeting of the group and bylaws put too much structure at the start. The group needs to be more cooperative/cohesive than structured and we are not at the point to formalize. Supervisor Mauro stated that it is not the intent of the committee to force votes on any issue if bylaws are established.

It was the consensus of the CJCC Executive Committee that Mike O'Meara and John Sarcone would look at the bylaws based upon the concerns discussed and bring a recommendation to the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

V. Staff Support for the CJCC

Sheriff Anderson asked the group for a point of clarification regarding the taking of minutes for the committee. If that is the desire of the group he can provide clerical support. Supervisor Mauro suggested that the Auditor clerk the meetings. It was the consensus of the CJCC Executive Committee that the Board of Supervisors requests the Auditor to clerk the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council meetings.

VI. Open Discussion

Supervisor Mauro stated that Spectrum Resources appeared before the Board of Supervisors regarding their Prison Re-entry Program. It would be advisable to have Spectrum make a similar but shorter presentation to the CJCC to obtain a recommendation that could be taken to the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Connolly stated that prison re-entry is about saving

dollars if it can contribute to reducing recidivism. This is another reason for the bylaws as the bylaws reflect that CJCC be a recommending body to the Board of Supervisors on funding jail diversion projects.

Sheriff Anderson recommended that he and Sally Kreamer talk about the SWAP Program at the next meeting so that everyone understands what the program is and how it works.

A representative from Spectrum Resources handed out a sheet of statistical information regarding the prison re-entry program.

VII. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m., Thursday, September 18th.