

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)**

**April 9, 2009 Minutes**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Hy-Vee Hall**

CJCC Members Present: Judge Arthur Gamble, Tom Hockensmith, Angela Connolly, Valorie Wilson, Sally Kreamer, John Sarcone.

CJCC Members Absent: Bill McCarthy.

Others Present: Sue Elliott, Ron Olson, Bill Vaughn, Michael O'Meara, Lynn Ferrell, Scott Locker, Donna Brooks, Leesa Shoemaker, Scott Horman, Cynthia Steidel, Carl Kelly, Nancy Robinson, Mike Polich, Rox Laird, Jeff Riese, Ann Sheely.

Approval of February 26, 2009 minutes.

Moved by Hockensmith, Seconded by Wilson to approve the minutes as presented.

Mobile Crisis-Mental Health (handout) – presented by Cynthia Steidl

The Mobile Crisis Unit was started in 2001 funded by Polk County Health Services, with the State contributing funds. Due to budget cuts at the State, it is unsure if the State will continue to fund this program. Mental health workers assist the police/sheriff and do assessments for mental health issues so that the arrested person can be directed somewhere else besides the jail. The Polk County Sheriff and Des Moines Police were spending a lot of time on mental health calls. They were averaging 3 – 4 hours per mental health call. Polk County realized that a lot of people were going to jail with mental health issues. The mobile crisis team can go out with the police on mental health calls and nurses can medicate on the spot. The average call now is 18 minutes. The mobile crisis team has saved two officers and \$130,000 in savings to the City of Des Moines. Most of the calls are from Des Moines, but all departments use the unit. Only 2% of persons are actually going to jail. 53% are kept in their homes. Mobile crisis diverts from hospitals and jails and people can stay in their homes. Mobile crisis workers do follow up and coordinate services, which is a big cost savings. Earl Kelly, CEO of Behavioral Health Services, Eyerly Ball and Westminster said the state will provide funding however, no contracts have been signed yet. Lynn Ferrell, Director of Polk County Health Services, said there is uncertainty about money for this year, although they've sent an RFP out for the program.

State Computer Access – presented by Sally Kreamer

They have requested access to the Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) system but haven't received a response yet. PSI writers have not been an issue, so that is not slowing them down yet. IWD is checking to see if it is legal to give access. Also, getting persons out of jail with post PSI's is going faster. The State wanted more assessments and this is going well. PSI writers are interviewing at the jail, which makes it a quicker process. Supervisor Connolly stated that the Sheriff has a team working on the data.

Update from Sheriff McCarthy

Leesa Shoemaker gave an update on the 13 member task team (ILEADS). They are working on internal/external information for CJCC, following inmates from booking to release to make sure we have accurate inmate statistics. The end result would be consistent relevant data, create

training documents for staff, and enhance statistical reports. This is a 6 month project by the Sheriff's Office. Immigration issues lead ILeads to tackle the issue. Supervisor Connolly stated that we have to have the data to move forward. Sally Kreamer stated that this was a very aggressive plan it took the Department of Corrections two years to move from the old system to the new system. Chief Shoemaker stated that this is the number one project for the Sheriff. Supervisor Hockensmith asked if there was an issue with updating programs through IT? Chief Shoemaker stated that the Sheriff's Office is working with IT to have issues reconciled.

#### Self-Arrest Program – Captain Donna Brooks

The first self arrest program was a success. There were 153 letters sent out, 72 returned due to addresses. Four warrants were cleared before the program started. Out of 77 possible candidates, 12 came and turned themselves in (15% success rate). The next date for this will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> and a press release will go out. Valorie asked if this could be done at a time other than jury week. Captain Brooks stated that they are trying to keep to a certain day for recognition within the community. Judge Gamble stated that Judge Witt has taken the lead on the program and mentioned that it would have been helpful if the letters had gone out sooner.

#### Web Conferencing – Captain Donna Brooks

This is still progressing. I.T. is working with the Sheriff so it should move quicker. Equipment will be in the jail this month and then to others after that. It is taking some time to get the wires in and get things hooked up. We will be working on policies/procedures within the next two months.

#### Juvenile Update – Leesa Shoemaker

There are currently 10 juveniles in custody, four of these are located in Marshall County due to the nature of their charges. Meyer Hall has six juveniles. There has been great communication with CFYS. We have a set process that within a 24 hour period if they are eligible to go to detention they are transferred. There have been no issues. Judge Gamble asked if it is done as a change of jail site? Chief Shoemaker stated that all parties must sign off, judge and county attorney. Valorie Wilson asked if the juveniles are brought to the jail first? Chief Shoemaker stated that was correct. Our goal is to keep them in Polk County and use resources within 24 hours to have them transferred. If they are eligible, they go to the juvenile detention center.

#### Bridges-In Custody Drug Treatment – Mike Polich

United Community Services has been providing in-custody jail treatment services at the jail since 2002. We have a 71% non-recidivism. Bridges offered to fund 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the in custody program this year. Outpatient women's program – VNS looked at outcomes, a majority of those that failed were due to housing issues. Transfer out of jail into community is an issue a year after in-custody treatment. We are making application for a grant to assist with transitional housing through Byrne Grant funds. The Sheriff has made the data available. We are asking \$1.4 million with a 25% match from Bridges. If appropriated, this program will provide seamless transitional housing.

Tom DeKouski, Bridges. Jen VanLiewk, VNS has provided services in partnership with Fort Des Moines for 5 ½ to 6 years. The program is 18 months. 12 – 18 months when in independent

living. There is space available at Vine Street and Fort Des Moines (need renovations). Transitional housing is where the issue is. VNS will provide ancillary treatment for women and children. VNS helps them with life issues and strong reproductive health as well as wraparound services that looks at wholeness and wellness. We would be able to do parenting work such as making sure children are ready for school. This is the key to the client's long term success and staying out of jail.

The neighborhood association in West Des Moines has approved putting women into the homes. Bridges will begin construction on space in West Des Moines and South Des Moines, if funded, they could be up and running July 1<sup>st</sup>. Currently there are 27 women in a pod. Sally Kreamer stated that they are working on adding more.

Meth and alcohol are the main addiction sources. Sally stated that last month the Department of Corrections had a number of offenders discharged from prison with no follow up with parole. There is no waiting list on the women's programs.

#### Urban Institute Application Update – Ron Olson

Urban Institute is a nonprofit organization out of Washington, D.C. who studies public policy. We received notification that they will be studying county jails and received an invitation to apply. We have been notified that Polk County was not selected.

#### Open Discussion:

Supervisor Hockensmith thanked everyone for the work they are doing. We are making positive steps. Mobile Crisis is an important program that must be preserved. John Sarcone stated that if they save even one life it is well worth it. Supervisor Connolly stated that the Sheriff has save three lives because of mobile crisis. Sally Kreamer stated that the Mobile Crisis unit saves a trip to Broadlawns. Supervisor Connolly stated that they are true crisis management and prevent people from going to jail. The Jail Diversion Program in the jail, is currently case managing 12. We may want to include a jail diversion update on the next agenda.

#### Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m., Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.