

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)**  
**January 26, 2012**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**Veterans Memorial**  
**Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center**

CJCC Members Present (9): Bill McCarthy, Sally Kreamer, Judge Gamble, Tom Hockensmith, Marilyn Lantz, Gary Mikulec, John Sarcone, Valorie Wilson, Judy Bradshaw, Angela Connolly

CJCC Coordinator: Gary Sherzan

Others present: Sue Elliott, David Jones, Michael O’Meara, Candy Morgan, Gary Sherzan, Angela Connolly, Lynn Ferrell, E.J. Giovannetti, Doug Phillips, Jan Sears, Curtis Pion, Dillon Kraft, Linda Ford, Rox Laird.

Moved by McCarthy, Seconded by Mikulec to nominate Tom Hockensmith as Chairperson for 2012 CJCC. Hockensmith declined and nominated Angela Connolly as Chairperson.

Moved by Connolly, Seconded by Sarcone to nominate Tom Hockensmith as Vice-Chairperson for 2012.

Moved by Hockensmith, Seconded by Mikulec to approve the November 17, 2011 minutes.

**I-Leads Committee – Jan Sears (handouts)**

Two handouts distributed. There was nothing unusual about the Jail Operations and Statistical Analysis Initiatives and Jan reviewed new information they have put together – Statistical Analysis 2011.

There is an increase in bookings but population has not gone up. They are reviewing data to see why it’s up and will continue to give stats on this. The suggestion is to put together a sub-committee with Gary Sherzan and interested stakeholders to review the data in more detail and come up with actionable items for the CJCC to explore.

Female bookings are up 23%. They are now tracking data by day and time and looking for patterns. There are more people from the courts coming in during the day and then it spikes up around midnight on weekends. The Sheriff is rearranging medical staff to meet these needs.

There are now stats on bookings based on race and ethnicity, male bookings by age groups, male bookings by offenses (drugs, public intox, OWI’s, etc). There is also an increase in females booked for alcohol related charges. Jan presented statistical information on female bookings by race and ethnicity, age groups and offense (large number related to alcohol and substance abuse). Lots of society offenses which include trespassing, OWI, drunkenness, prostitution, etc. Tom asked if the elimination of the In-Custody Drug Treatment Program has had an impact on these numbers. Jan said it has and it could get worse. Probation/Parole violations are considered offenses and those are included in the statistics. Stats are also

being collected for special needs groups (i.e. mental health, substance abuse issues). Michael O'Meara mentioned that the mental health and substance abuse commitments have increased dramatically.

Gary spoke about bookings of probation violations in jail. There are about 12 percent in jail strictly for probation violations. It is a significant number in that group. There are 7,000 people being supervised. You have an extremely large pool of people to draw from, 1.5 percent of the population. Without those services, it could be a lot worse. There are approximately 100 clients per probation officer. 70 agents handle 90 – 100 people.

Sheriff said a sub-committee could be formed to organize this information and reach out to groups (i.e. homeless, veterans, etc) to be effective. Tom lauded everyone's efforts in gathering the information. When we first formed the CJCC, we didn't have any information close to what we have right now as far as tracking trends. Angela and Gary will come up with a list of people and groups to form a sub-committee for a holistic approach on the issue.

#### **Hispanic Community Report- Sheriff McCarthy**

Sheriff McCarthy mentioned meeting with the Hispanic community to discuss concerns, immigration issues and how persons get sent to jail over those issues. There were concerns about Sheriff's personnel and ICE personnel (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). The Sheriff's Office are not ICE agents. We have the responsibility to enforce the law and solve crime where we can. There is no criminal law about someone being undocumented. That is not the job of the Sheriff or Police Department. They will continue to meet with the community on their concerns and issues.

#### **Iowa Supreme Court Committee Update – Candy Morgan (handout)**

Candy Morgan reported on the work of a Task Force set up by the Iowa Supreme Court to improve the sophistication of local court personnel including judges, attorneys, and other court staff in working with foreign born people. She highlighted three issues from the report of two consultants from the Center for Public Policy who are studying the Iowa Court system as it relates to immigration issues (see handout): 1) Judges are unsure what their role is in using an immigrant's undocumented status in sentencing and other aspects of criminal trials. 2) There are language problems for local law enforcement, in the court rooms and in the Clerk's Office for communicating with foreign born persons. Iowa lacks an adequate number of certified interpreters. 3) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has waited at the courthouse for persons on court business which is a deterrent to persons testifying or conducting business at the courthouse. In addition, she reported on the cultural differences faced daily by court personnel in standards for child rearing and the use of violence to keep control within the family. The Sheriff referred to former Assistant County Attorney Fred Gay's efforts in making Somali families aware of different cultural standards for violence in the United States. The next meeting of this group is scheduled for the end of February.

### **Mental Health Redesign – Marilyn Lantz and Lynn Ferrell**

There is a legislative committee meeting with a proposed bill being presented to committee and will be posted on the DHS website once presented. The goal is to redesign the adult mental health system. Money is the issue. The goal has been there but there has never been funds available to keep the old system in place while a new system is implemented.

Lynn said that the redesign proposal as outlined in the Governor's budget request would require Polk County to cut \$7.3 million in services in FY13. This would be accomplished by starting a waiting list again and by ending some or all services for approximately 300 to 400 consumers. Angela stated that the redesign includes placing counties into regions. While Polk County has good services now the level of services will go down and other county services will go up.

### **Courts EDMS System – Scott Ruhnke, Iowa Court Information System**

Judge Gamble asked Mr. Ruhnke to speak to CJCC regarding electronic filing of court documents.

Electronic filing of court documents would eliminate the need for someone to prepare documents, mail them out or go to the Courthouse downtown to file them or pick up them up. Persons could register and enter their information in the system, attach the documents and they get sent to Clerk of Court and approved. They would then be electronically distributed to those who need them. There would also be a way to electronically access the documents remotely, anytime.

This project was started several years ago; Story and Plymouth County were selected as pilots and are now in full production. This will start in Polk County in the spring of 2013. The benefits would be faster communication between users, secure/confidential, greater transparency, all information in one location, savings on supplies (i.e. paper, mailing supplies, etc), and reduction in foot traffic at the courthouse. They have been meeting with Polk County agencies to discuss equipment needs, etc.

Sally asked about using signature pads for signing off on documents now and not waiting until we get the whole system in place. Scott stated that the County Attorney in Woodbury County checked on signature pads and they are valid. Judge Gamble said it is a good time to start this as we prepare for EDMS. We could check into that. Scott is available to provide updates on the project to the CJCC in the future.

### **Crisis Stability (23 Hour) Center Subcommittee Update – Gary Sherzan and Lynn Ferrell**

Gary gave an update on the composition of the proposed center: it should be a 23 hour program, 24 hour staffing, approx 4 beds, open floor; the mobile crisis unit would make the decision on who gets in. There needs to be a place for discharged persons to return to. Funding of the project will be a challenge. This will be included as a core services under the mental health redesign but it is unsure when the piece will be funded and if we move forward before the state funding is available could we obtain it later? It was suggested that we wait to see what happens with the mental health redesign before moving forward. Lynn acknowledged the work of Deb from Mobile Crisis Team on providing the statistics. Lynn stated that we are better prepared to move forward should the state decide to fund the project. Candy Morgan is doing research on licensure requirements.

**Mental Health Court – Gary Sherzan**

Nationally, 15% of people that are on probation or parole have some form of mental illness (over 1,000 in Polk County). A court would need a judge, prosecutor, probation officers, etc. Is there some alternative to this to accomplish the same thing. This may need necessary funding down the road. A community setting that brings counselors together with probation/parole staff in one campus setting would allow additional supervision. This group will meet again the first of February.

Sally said Dr. Tony Tatman is put together a pilot project in Dallas County and it is working well. Information provided from booking allows mental health information to be given to the judge at the time of pretrial and sentencing. Sally will provide an update at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned.