

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

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

CJCC Members Absent (1): Sally Kreamer

CJCC Coordinator: Gary Sherzan

Staff Present: Nancy Robinson, Sue Elliott, Donna Brooks, Candy Morgan, David Jones, Nick Lemmo, Becky Buch, Jan Sears, Jana Rooker, Curtis Pion, Lynn Ferrell, Tammy Hoyman, Jim Basinger, Betty Christensen, Brian Brooks, Judy Fowler, Sharon Chambers, Terri Sommerlot, Jana Rooker, Jeff Aldrich, Tony Tatman, Linda Ford.

Moved by McCarthy, Seconded by Sarcone to approve the January 26, 2012 minutes.

I-Leads Committee – Jan Sears (handout)

An increase in bookings continued in January and February. They are meeting with Gary to use statistics for other analysis.

Inmate population, as of the 6<sup>th</sup>, was 983 with 163 females. Female population is increasing. We have been hitting the threshold for females for the last several months. Parole and Probation violations remained steady. We continue to see the ability of the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial to move them through the system well.

Rated vs. operational capacity – when numbers drop, pods can be closed. We have had one closed for over a year. This summer, we were able to close two pods, 128 capacity. The report has been modified to show rated operational capacity. When we closed the 128 beds, about the last week in January, population highs were consistently above capacity by having the two pods closed. Sheriff likes to have a 10% leeway. During the last week in January population highs were above capacity and they opened a pod in February. The average daily population is growing. We have started analysis to identify what is happening which could be a combination of things. This is a significant increase that goes against the normal population swing. They are at “summer highs” now and usually these numbers are in July and August. We have put all of our resources into looking at stats and bringing those numbers down.

Mental health numbers are the same, females slightly higher. They have instituted new procedures regarding medications and are working with community doctors on this. They are actually keeping individuals coming in with mental illness working with community doctors and remaining on their basic drugs used to control issues they have and are being prescribed for up to 30 days.

Awaiting other facilities report – slight change in the average length of stay, up in some areas, down in others. Bookings by Agency – approximately 27,000 persons (13%) were cited out versus going to jail by agencies on our system (Altoona, Ankeny, DM Police, Department of Corrections, Federal agencies, Iowa State Patrol, Polk County Sheriff’s Office, Polk County Courthouse, WDM Police, Other). Stats do not include West Des Moines, Clive and Urbandale. Westcom uses a different foundation and enterprise system than we do.

Bookings by agencies increased this year by 11½ %. It’s increasing, but no one is staying longer. January and February were unusual; we released 80 fewer people than were booked in. All increases are due to local inmates not federal. These are inmates that are our responsibility to house. Iowa State Patrol numbers are mainly due to the Occupy Des Moines people. Increases are in misdemeanor offenses (society offenses). The warmer winter weather could be a contributing factor.

They are moving forward to identify changes in population demographics that may be contributing to increase in jail population; working on data sharing – Criminal Justice Community Partners; continue work on recidivism rates for special needs inmates; and continue work on the integration of medical statistics and demographic information.

Questions were asked why people are in the jail longer, can they afford bail, did they break probation, etc. They are looking at allowing people to pay by credit card for small offenses. Parole violations seem to take longer. They are working on trying to get people out sooner. In January, 600 people bonded out, with an average stay of three days. Nancy Robinson mentioned the pre-trial release program that helps get people out quicker. The largest percentage of releases in January and February was 600 and they stayed three days. We are looking at decreasing it to two days. There are those people who are with us because of the bond. Bottom line seems to be if you can’t afford bail, you stay in jail. An audience member commented that jail is not the place for mentally ill persons.

#### Crisis Stability (23 hour) Center Subcommittee Update – Gary Sherzan

Work is continuing on the 23 hour Center and Mental Health Court, which is on hold until after the Legislature adjourns. They are looking at using the west wing of the jail to house the 23 hour unit, with a separate entrance, and also putting the drug treatment program at the jail too. It will have a different security level and also hold the in-jail drug treatment program. Funding is an issue. The purpose for getting all the data is to figure out a long term solution.

#### Dallas County Mental Health Court Update – Dr. Tony Tatman (handout)

This is a pilot program that is being implemented in Dallas County. Kurt Greving, Jail Diversion, Eyerly Ball and Darci Alt, CPC, Dallas County are also involved with the pilot program.

The program is for persons with mental illness that are involved in corrections and how can we better serve a mental health individual. There is a screening tool being used in the booking process up front to take action immediately and identify the needs of the inmate. This allows for a more intense opportunity to understand what they need and where they come from, allows us to identify their needs and set up what they need to be successful upon their release. This is a source of information that can transfer through probation and be

provided to the courts and identifies treatment options. This has been provided for two months and is fairly successful. It's still too early to tell. Most people are willing to sign a release and the process is more streamlined. It follows the person to keep them involved and on their medications, etc. so they don't end up back in jail. This is a smaller scale than what Polk County does and more direct work. Funding for this program comes from the CPC Mental Health Office in Dallas County.

Nancy Robinson introduced Terri Sommerlot. She mentioned that they recognized a need to have a supervisor on site at the jail and are moved a part-time probation officer to full time to deal with the jail population. 30 – 35 percent of individuals booked in to the jail on initial appearance are probation violators. We hope to begin to look at those and remedy the no bond issue. Terri worked at the jail for 14 years and in Cedar Rapids prior to taking the position.

Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) – Chief Judy Bradshaw (handout)  
Lieutenant Jeff Aldrich presented the PowerPoint presentation

In the mid-1990's, when the state of Iowa implemented some laws to deal with domestic abuse, imbedded in those laws were holding those officers accountable. There is a liability on the police if we don't do the right thing. My predecessor and I looked at what we could do to create a safety net to make certain we had strong cases and additional evidence collected. The Police implemented a domestic abuse resource team. Chief Bradshaw introduced Major Dana Wingert, Commander of Investigations Unit and Lieutenant Jeff Aldrich. The main priority was to ensure long term safety of victims and others within the household, but cases were not followed up regarding the police or protection process.

The main priority of DART is to connect with the victims, return to the scene in order to contact people that were involved and gather additional evidence. They determine if there are any underlying issues or overlooked charges. They offer assistance to various agencies (shelters, County Attorney, etc.), transport to shelters or hospitals, take weapons out of the household for safekeeping and issue 911 telephones. They compile information in a report and forward to the County Attorney to assist with prosecution. They offer victims shelter services, advocacy services and protective orders, etc. They collaborate with several agencies: DHS, Children and Families of Iowa, Legal Aid, etc. DART units specialize in repeat victim contact and evidence gathering. Building trust in police system themselves. A greater number of victims decline to prosecute compared to those handled through DART. The ratio of reoffending for cases handled by DART is lower than for cases not handled by a specialized unit. Since the inception of this unit, lives have been saved.

Open Discussion

Angela said Gary is working with the Sheriff's Office and hoping to do something with the west wing. There is some concern that a pod had to be opened for inmates. It is alarming that the population is growing. Arraignments are longer, we don't know why but we are going to find out why. Point in time on homelessness numbers are down in the camps. We will keep working to figure out why numbers keep going up on the jail. Another issue to look at is drug treatment.  
Meeting adjourned.