

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

July 12, 2012

8:00 a.m.

VM – CCCU CC

CJCC Members Present (9): Gary Mikulec, Judge Gamble, Tom Hockensmith, Angela Connolly, Sally Kreamer, Lynn Ferrell, Marilyn Lantz, Valorie Wilson, John Sarcone.

CJCC Members Absent (2): Bill McCarthy, Judy Bradshaw

CJCC Coordinator: Gary Sherzan

Staff Present: Sue Elliott, Frank Marasco, Dave Higdon, Dave Knight, Doug Phillips, Rick Blaylock, Dillon Kraft, Curtis Pion, Linda Ford, Teri Sommerlot, Rebecca Buch, Nick Lemmo, Michael O’Meara, Candy Morgan, DMPD representative.

Moved by Hockensmith, Seconded by Wilson to approve the May 24, 2012 minutes.

In-Jail Drug Treatment Update – Angela Connolly

Angela announced that we have an agreement with Bridges of Iowa for a substance abuse treatment program at the jail. Sheriff McCarthy made a proposal to allow a drug treatment program to be located in the west wing of the jail and as of today an agreement has been reached with Bridges of Iowa, Inc., Polk County Board of Supervisors and the Polk County Sheriff. Bridges will provide staffing and programming, the program is targeted for the male population but has potential to provide substance abuse treatment for women. This program will allow judges to sentence individuals directly to the program. Angela recognized others involved in this endeavor: Don Lamberti, Bridges founder, Tom Jackowski, Larry James, Pat Coughlin and Ellie Anderson. Mr. Lamberti said they are happy to help people make changes with this program and to work with the County, Judges and everyone else involved. Chief Doug Phillips said the Sheriff is a big proponent of this program. People have addictions and they are trying to feed that addiction when they end up in jail. If we try and help them reach their goal we will see less recidivism. This was Sheriff McCarthy’s vision from the beginning and I am glad it has come to fruition. Angela thanked everyone involved for their work in making this happen.

I-Leads Committee Update – Frank Marasco (handout)

Frank highlighted some of the statistics in the reports. Current population is at 962. This fluctuates almost daily. The four year average gives us a better perspective of what the jail population is and Tuesday is 962, the average is 955. It is a high number but it is a seasonal number. Summer months seem to be higher than others. It gives us a clearer picture that nothing is out of the ordinary. We are keeping our eye on it. Bookings and releases are up on average. Probation - Fifth Judicial are 12 – 15 percent of the jail population. There is one full pod dedicated to ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). The female population is down slightly from May. Staff is continuing to work with other agencies for placement (i.e. Oakdale, etc). Chief Phillips said there has been some improvement in this area. We have been able to work with Oakdale. Oakdale is taking prisoners from all 99 counties. There is a system where we make appointments and get people there as quickly as we can. Tom stated that previously the wait for Oakdale was much higher.

We are going to continue to provide the CJCCC with a full report. As far as the meetings moving forward, we will condense the presentation to what is pertinent to the CJCC. Parole - 24 releases in June with the majority sentenced to prison. 95 that were released completed their jail sentence.

Pretrial Release – Teri Sommerlot (handout)

Teri went over statistics for June. There are usually no significant changes from month to month. Probation, parole and simple misdemeanors were a little higher this month. They are continuing to look at probation violators to see if there are new charges. They are waiting to do interviews with simple misdemeanors when they have been in jail 24 hours. This is a slow process and in some cases we are not finding the people we had hoped to serve.

Jail Diversion – Dave Higdon

For the Jail Diversion report, Health Services will report on one area of mental health diversion each month. In July, they looked at the two primary outcome measures for the post-booking diversion program during FY11/12. The first measure is the number of days between booking and release for people connected to long-term community based supports (the program target population). The average number of days from booking to release was 19 from July 1, 2011 through June 30 2012. This figure indicates that people with mental health issues have about the same length of incarceration as anyone booked into the Polk County Jail. The second measure is for people who are followed after release by jail diversion staff. During twelve months before being engaged by jail diversion this group had 5,928 days of incarceration. During the time in the program this same group had 1,736 days of incarceration. This represents a cost avoidance of 4,192 days.

Valorie inquired about the FACT (Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) program and if it is still being used. Dave said yes if it is an appropriate fit with an individual. John asked about mobile crisis contacts and if there has been an increase or decrease. The number has been constant, about 2,000 calls a year. Dave said about 2% of those end up in jail. DMPD representative said this is a very positive program. Des Moines Police Officers appreciate having the mobile crisis unit. Previously, the only option was taking them to the hospital or jail. Mobile Crisis is the best alternative to jail.

CJCC Subcommittee Update – Gary Sherzan

Gary reported that the CJCC Subcommittee met two weeks ago and discussed the process of getting through the jail. We talked about citations and a question came up. Paperwork becomes a problem as Dave talked about. Judge Moison raised a question of simple misdemeanors on trespassing and why those are coming to jail. We talked about arraignments and want to move back to 10 days if possible. The Public Defender has stopped taking stand alone misdemeanor domestics; those go to the private bar. One of the concerns that Judge Moison raised and we all should be concerned about is the electronic filing once it is on board and whether or not the process will be slowed down as a result. We need to look at why that is. Electronic filing could start in Spring 2013. The Court is working with staff to address those issues. Sherzan will talk with Gamble about the process.

Gary mentioned transfers to Oakdale and looking at requesting a certified copy before transporting. Oakdale accepts inmates during regular work hours and the County has to make an appointment. Also, if you make appointment and five people are going, the Sheriff cannot take six. Under the present policy you have to make a separate appointment to bring the person back. Those are some of the areas that are holding up moving people to Oakdale.

229s and 812s to Cherokee, are also being looked at. The wait at Fort Des Moines, 17 to 40 days for people who have been sentenced and violated probation. Those sentenced as a condition of release to Fort Des Moines have to wait in jail until there is room. Everyone is competing for the space. Prison release and probation violators are waiting to go there. There is a lack of available space to get folks in unless we expand our resources in Polk County. Sally stated that last year we had a 33 percent failure rate at the Fort. This year, 21 percent of the people aren't being taken in because more are successfully completing the program. The success rate has improved dramatically over the last year. The prison population has dropped by 500 since January and the bulk of them came to the Fort. We are working with parole on who is appropriate for the Fort to not have them take all of our work release beds and also working on a proposal for the legislative process. Sally will bring information to CJCC in the Fall.

Judge Gamble mentioned they will work on getting more information regarding getting a certified copy from the Clerk's office.

Tom stated that he sits on the Fifth Judicial District Board of Directors and their caseloads are high. It saves money in the long term if you staff up the Fifth District for community based corrections. I don't understand why the legislature doesn't see that. Gary stated that Sally and he are working on a proposal to submit to the CJCC, Board of Supervisors and the Department of Corrections and will approach CJCC this fall on going to the Governor's Office with the DOC and trying to advance a proposal through the legislative process. It isn't finalized yet but as soon as we have a better idea of what we need to do, we will present to the CJCC.

Tom thanked Gary for his work on the Bridges contract.

Open Discussion

Judge Gamble distributed a handout regarding protocol for handling applications/petitions for mental health commitment of respondents in the custody of the Sheriff. There is not a very good process in the Clerk's office for handling these cases. They are working to develop a protocol to file applications. He asked that the committee review the information and let him know if there is feedback.

Lynn mentioned a status report on who is waiting to go to IRTC in Mt. Pleasant. Hopefully, that number will go down when Bridges gets in place at the jail. Bridges opening is scheduled for September 1st. This is something we need to watch for in the future. We will have that savings when they go to Mount Pleasant they get charged for it through the general supplemental fund.

Meeting adjourned.