

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

September 13, 2012

8:00 a.m.

VM – CCCU CC

CJCC Members Present (8): Gary Mikulec, Judge Gamble, Tom Hockensmith, Valorie Wilson, Sally Kreamer, John Sarcone, Bill McCarthy, Lynn Ferrell

CJCC Members Absent (3): Angela Connolly, Judy Bradshaw, Marilyn Lantz

CJCC Coordinator (1): Gary Sherzan

Staff Present: Sue Elliott, Curtis Pion, Dave Higdon, Dillon Kraft, Dave Knight, Frank Marasco, Leesa Shoemaker, Tony Lemmo, David Jones, Rebecca Buch, Nancy Robinson, Teri Sommerlot, Candy Morgan, Michael O'Meara, EJ Giovannetti, Tony Tatman, Rox Laird, Tony Leys, Linda Brandeis, Marty Ryan, Teresa Bomhoff, Chris Gammell, Mollie Mertens, Jennifer Minor, Mikki Stier, Linda Brandeis.

Moved by McCarthy, Seconded by Sarcone to approve the August 16, 2012 minutes with change to page 2, item 2 under Legislative Agenda Update. "A peace officer can issue a citation in lieu of a person being sent to jail."

American Correctional Association (ACA) Certification of the Polk County Jail – Chief Leesa Shoemaker

Sheriff made opening comments stating that he initially made a presentation to the Board of Supervisors asking for support because this is a major effort. It was important to the command staff because it is a mark of competency and proficiency. This required a large commitment from staff and is an expense to maintain.

Chief Shoemaker gave a history of the new jail (bonds approved in 2005 and the jail opened in 2008) and went over the process to achieve accreditation. ACA is the oldest and largest international correctional association in the world. In February 2011, a team was formed to start the process. A lot of work was done educating staff. Planning began 18 months out to achieve accreditation. Iowa Jail Standards need to be followed and audits from the State Jail Inspector are done. ACA provides national standards that point out to us as an agency our strengths and weaknesses. ACA has the national benchmark that we want. We have an obligation to house inmates, make sure staff is safe and that the facility is a friendly place to work.

The final audit was May 2012; the Auditor spoke highly of the staff and facility. ACA requires additional training up to 40 hours per detention officer. Training now also includes volunteers, part-time workers and maintenance workers. The accreditation adds an extra element of professionalism to the agency. She thanked Sergeant Palmer and Lieutenant Kraft, who worked on this. The next audit is in three years and we will go to full Adult Local Detention Standards which will require more work performance based standards. There are less than a dozen jails in Iowa that have that accreditation.

I-Leads Update – Frank Marasco (handout)

Population is at 898 total (147 females, 751 males). August population was at 900. The Parole/Probation/Marshall Services numbers are consistent. Average Daily Population -there are higher spikes in population at certain times (i.e. State Fair) and they will continue to monitor that. Releases are still exceeding bookings and that is good. Intake is extremely busy at this time. Intake and an RN position were moved from court staging to the jail. We are using existing staff to address problems and this is working well so far. Last year, 2011, was the busiest year at the jail. They are on par to meet that again this year. Oakdale number should go down. There are not a lot of changes with other facilities. Tom said this is good to have this information available.

Pretrial Release – Teri Sommerlot (handouts)

Stats are low this month; numbers fluctuates based on how many people are being served. Probation or simple misdemeanors (public intox, disorderly conduct, criminal trespass, etc) usually plea out so no interviews are done on those. They track the simple misdemeanors to see who is still in jail. The average initial appearance number is usually around 45. A couple of days it was at 80 (during the State Fair) with lots of simple misdemeanors.

Teri attended a National Conference on Pretrial Services conference in August and said we seem to be doing things right. We are ahead by having the CJCC and a coordinator. A handout of Recommendations of Symposium Participants was distributed for review and Terri challenged everyone to look at the recommendations to see what we can do to have a better pretrial system in Polk County.

Jail Diversion – Dave Higdon (handout)

The grant for the Iowa Prescription Drug Corporation is ready to be submitted. It will be submitted to Mid Iowa Health Foundation, Prairie Meadows and Polk County for funding of this program, \$65,000 total for this project. The project is to put a gap medication coverage program in place for those released from jail so people can get their medications while getting access to supportive outpatient treatment facilities. Once in place, we can see how this affects recidivism.

A five day Crisis Intervention Training will begin at the DM Policy Academy on Monday. He also submitted an article about Crisis Intervention Training that was written by NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill).

Post-booking jail diversion stats were submitted for July and August. There were 52 bookings in August with 47 of those connected in our system. Year to date 94 bookings and 87 people connected to our system. Credit for time served and linking to existing services are the top legal outcomes for people. Also, probation linked back to services. This speaks to the relationship between mental health and correctional services. Aggravated misdemeanor has the highest number of days served. There were 30 people served post discharge community support.

Tom asked if there are plans to expand the CIT training to other jurisdictions. The state is doing a study on possibly offering training statewide. The training will help law enforcement to identify mental health issues more quickly. The mobile crisis unit could get more calls as the result of the increased recognition.

An audience member thanked the CJCC committee for their input, time and energy they have put into the mental health issues and all the work that has gone into looking at, and addressing, this issue.

Legislative Agenda Update – Gary Sherzan (handout)

Gary went over the items for upcoming legislative action and seeking approval from CJCC to submit:

1. 812 Legislation – this is a change for the Code of Iowa regarding persons found incompetent to stand trial being sent to state institutions. Gary is meeting on the 24th with Department of Corrections and Social Services about this. Some go to Oakdale and Cherokee. We may be able to correct this through those discussions rather than doing legislative changes.
2. 805 Citation Issuance – change would allow Detention Officers to issue citations in the jail under the supervision of the Sheriff or his designee.
3. Pretrial Services Data Collection – we need a system to collect data, for everyone to share. Some of this takes legislative action; some does not but might cost money. Sheriff mentioned he would also need access to this information. Everyone the CJCC represents should have access to the information.
4. Mental Health One Stop Unit - \$375,000 proposal to the State to fund this.

Tony Tatman and Kerry Scoutman spoke on the proposal for a one stop shop. It would offer opportunities to treat and supervise offenders with mental health issues, offer the facility into the community and look at other agencies (Broadlawns, Vets, etc) to help. Additional staff would be needed to offer full services to all. This approach could serve in a compassionate way recognizing needs and attempt to reduce recidivism. This would be Polk County centered but Fifth Judicial would see to the operations. Sally said this is going to a vote tomorrow by the Board of Corrections to try and get it into the Governor's budget. Sheriff cautioned that if mobile crisis works out of the new facility they need to be integrated with law enforcement, or we lose law enforcement. John asked how many would be served. There are approximately 300 offenders in the mental health unit now (male and female) and they anticipate the numbers going up. They have implemented the Iowa mental health screening tool with all offenders. This is piloted in the courthouse B40. We have seen through the screening tool that we are recognizing more offenders on the front end. We would hope to increase to 400 with this proposal.

Lynn Ferrell commented on the 812 Legislation that the language needs to be tweaked to include those waiting to be found competent. How much are we taking advantage of those locally that can be evaluated? There was a change in the law a few years ago and these changes haven't been made locally.

Sally stated that the more you start watering down the system you start stretching your resources to the point of what you are trying to do. DOC has pulled out more and more officers and now has monstrous caseloads. Other jurisdictions have licensed prisons and added community based corrections. We can't reinvest because we've already reinvested. We have already triaged. That doesn't mean we can't be creative and think of better way to do things. We have less people going to prison. The judicial system is busy. Community reinvestment doesn't mean that in Iowa.

Judge Gamble requested that in light of severe budget cuts over the last several years that there is a sentence in the document to help work with the legislature and Supreme Court.

23 Hour Crisis Center

Earl Kelly, Eyerly Ball stated that he supports what Chief McCarthy has pointed out. Eyerly Ball operate the mobile crisis team. Somehow we need to work at coordinating services as they develop. It is easy to create a silo; we are serving 5,000 people in this area. Gary Sherzan stated that this is just to start the conversation and get something down on paper and receive approval from the CJCC that this is the direction they want to move in. The 23 Hour Crisis Center would be included in Phase two. Lynn Ferrell stated that the 23 hour crisis piece is supposed to be funded by the state through mental health redesign. This is one of the core services that will come in. This piece would position us well for that funding when the state makes it available. Sheriff McCarthy stated that it is critically important that we are careful to integrate everyone into the process so we are all on the same page. Collaboration among the different agencies is the key.

CJCC approved Gary to move forward on the Legislative proposals presented.

Meeting adjourned.