

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)
May 6, 2009 Minutes
8:00 a.m.
Convention Complex

CJCC Members Present: Judge Arthur Gamble, Tom Hockensmith, Angela Connolly, Valorie Wilson, John Sarcone, Bill McCarthy, Michelle Dix (for Sally Kreamer).

CJCC Members Absent: Sally Kreamer.

Others present: Sue Elliott, Captain Donna Brooks, E.J. Giovannetti, Ron Olson, Bill Vaughn, Lynn Ferrell, Dave Higdon, Cynthia Steidl, Rox Laird, Jeff Riese, Anne Sheeley, Tania Porter.

Approval of April 9, 2009 minutes

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

Jail Diversion Program Update – Lynn Ferrell/Dave Higdon (handout)

Dave Higdon presented a handout of model that has been adopted for the diversion program through the jail. The pilot program was funded for FY 09/10. Staff was hired and trained and the program became operational last October. It takes about two years to reach the full potential of the program.

Currently, 20% of persons in the jail have mental illness. Treatment is the best first step, law enforcement and initial hearings are the 2nd steps. Work is being done to identify persons with mental illness in the jail. Angela asked if most of the people are in our system. Dave said yes. Others are in court and if they are released there is follow-up. Lynn Ferrell said if they're not in the system, they are on a waiting list.

There are only two staff to deal with this program and they are located in the jail. The focus is on the persons currently in jail. The intent is to serve the person for a transitional time and not replace their mental health case manager. The program needs more personnel, but they are encouraged by the success so far. Angela mentioned that Judge Price thought this was a great program. Val asked how we know if there is a case manager. There is a system/database in place to track that and they cross check with the Sheriff's Office. Dave mentioned the decrease in grants received as funds have been shifted to focus on chemical dependency. He is not sure of what grants will be available in the future.

Mobile Crisis Unit-Mental Health Update-Cynthia Steidl (handout)

The current funding of \$400,000 for this program will end June 30, 2009. There are two scenarios that are possible regarding State Emergency Services and the \$1.5 million that will be divided over a two year period (see handout).

Lynn Ferrell stated that Steve Day will look at the design of mobile crisis and state RFP to identify critical features and make sure critical items don't get dropped by the state and the program is compromised.

Supervisor Hockensmith asked about the process in the field when mobile crisis is called by law enforcement. What criteria does law enforcement use to make the determination on severe behaviors or someone acting strange? What is the screening process?

Sheriff McCarthy stated that we did not get caught into a set of guidelines. Officers know who falls within categories there are many repeat calls. They monitor the radio and know when they are needed.

Jail Precautions for H1N1-Tania Porter, Prison Health Services

Screenings are being done for anyone who comes into the Jail. Questions are asked (i.e. fever, symptoms, etc) and then it is determined to isolate if necessary. This was started immediately on April 29th. Sheriff McCarthy met with the County Administrator and Board Chair regarding alternative plans. Judge Gamble asked what happens if there is a suspect case? They are put in an isolation room with secured airflow, a swab test is done to test for H1N1 and we work with Polk County Health to obtain the Tamiflu drug. The judges would then have to determine if they want them to come into the courtroom. The Sheriff will notify the jail court judge on a case-by-case basis.

Web Conferencing-Captain Brooks

There has been a delay with ICN (Iowa Communications Network) so no work has been or will be started until May 8th. The equipment is being installed at the Jail. ICN is doing upgrades and that is the delay. There is no timeframe at this point.

Open Discussion

John Sarcone said he noticed that on the weekly jail report the numbers have stayed low.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4th.