

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

February 25, 2010

8:00 a.m.

Convention Complex

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

Others present: Sue Elliott, Dave Higdon, Major Donna Brooks, Michael O'Meara, E.J. Giovannetti, Judge Moisan, Tony Jefferson, Mayaresh Mahatme, I.T. staff, Michael Polich, Tom Hockensmith (arrived after start of meeting), Supervisor E.J. Giovannetti, Dillon Kraft, Lt. Tim Krum, Judge Colin Witt, Jan Sears.

Approval of the December 3, 2009 minutes

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

Selection of Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

Bill McCarthy nominated Angela Connolly as Chairperson and Judge Gamble as Vice-Chairperson for the coming year, Seconded by Mauro.

Jail Court Visit 12-7-09 – Supervisor Connolly

Supervisor Connolly and Dave Higdon, Polk County Health Services, went to visit Jail Court on December 7th. It is a small space in the new jail where Jail Court proceedings happen. Everyone should go and see it. Supervisor Connolly stated that the reason she went was to see how the judge handles the inmates. Angela commended Judge Witt for a great job of listening to the clients especially with translation issues, mental disabilities, special needs, etc. A separate mental health court would be great. Sheriff McCarthy stated that it is a difficult environment and agreed with Angela that Judge Witt is doing a great job. John Sarcone mentioned how the criminal system does a good job with good people that work in the system. Angela noticed the inmates had no one in the room with them. The public defender doesn't get assigned until after the initial appearance. Dave Higdon stated that if there is a need for a defense attorney they are brought in. They are there for the inmates afterwards. Judge Price is now the judge doing presiding over jail court. Judge Witt served for six months.

Judge Witt stated that the public defender wasn't in the courtroom the day Supervisor Connolly visited. The Public Defender is available by at least a phone call. The Public Defender took on significant number of caseload and the sooner they can meet with the Public Defender the better. It is better to meet with the investigator immediately more connection, fairness and receiving an attorney. Bond decisions are based on recommendation on safety concerns. If the choice is to live under a bridge or to stay a few extra days in jail until an appropriate facility is found for them. 20 – 40 new people every week. We need to make sure that the population does not come back week after week.

Supervisor Connolly stated that's why we started jail diversion to manage to know where they can go. The process works well and we couldn't do it without Tim and Kurt. A lot of these people don't have family and have lost their friends and lost their options. They are working with a difficult clientele.

In-Jail Treatment Program Funding Update-Michael Polich, CEO, United Community Services

Michael Polich gave an update about the program in its seventh year and very successful. He also agreed with everyone about jail court. The bad news is there is no funding to continue providing outcome measures (five year interviews). 96% of clients that have been out for 18 months are still employed. There is a completion rate of 82.5% for the in jail treatment program, 97.56% retention rate (stay in treatment) and 96.07% completion rate. There have been 263 clients seen since October 1, 2009. The women's part had to be phased out due to funding and space issues. There has been a problem with communication so Michael gave new phones numbers to contact. Kim Roberts will be the contact person for questions/concerns.

The Sheriff, Board of Supervisors and the State are looking for ways to pay for this. Several grants are pending. This is a successful program and they are trying to keep it funded. Eventually there could be possible expansion in the jail. The UCS transitional building had to be closed. They have placed those persons elsewhere. Judge Gamble expressed frustration with the lack of treatment for female offenders. Sheriff said there might be space available in west wing for females and they will explore this. Funding for women is an issue. Supervisor Giovannetti has been working on obtaining grants. Judge Moisan asked about communication after treatment is done. Kim Roberts will be in charge of that. Sally Kreamer said the corrections budget could be in trouble, but will look at options for follow up if there are some. There are currently no alternative programs for women, but looking at collaborating with the House of Mercy on this. Out-patient treatment is available, but not at the jail. Housing is still the biggest issue. They are looking at exploring some classes for the women. Angela asked how many women can participate. The ideal size would be 12-24 in a group. Sally said numbers are higher in their facility with substance/sexual/etc. abuse. Angela asked why we can't serve women. We cannot use federal block grant funds to treat incarcerated people. We need a waiver, and space, to use that funding to treat individuals. Polk County is not funding this right now with dollars, only with in-kind services (staff, etc). There is no money in Sheriff's budget this year or next for this program. Judge Gamble asked about getting the waiver. It will come from Iowa Department of Public Health and there hasn't been a decision made yet. Sally said if they get it, everyone else will want it (i.e. licensed substance abuse program facilities). Tom Hockensmith asked about staffing levels for drug treatment beds. The difference is staffing for drug treatment pods in the jail versus the other pods. There is enough staff for men, not enough for women. The women's drug treatment program needs separate space. Sheriff McCarthy stated that the drug program for women puts a hardship on women within the general population. The West Wing was certified last week to walk into that may provide some space.

I-Leads Committee Update – Jan Sears, Sheriff's Office

Jan presented power point on the jail operations and statistical analysis initiatives to the Board (handout). She will continue to gather and present information to the Board each month. Average length of stay is 22 days. Weekly jail status report available on the website. The highest point population is 972 for January. Average Daily Population is 863 for January. The monthly low was 822. Mental Health Report – 84 out of 152 males suffered from depression in January.

Supervisor Connolly stated that we should already know if an inmate has mental illness. Jan stated that there is a report that prints out every day. Sheriff McCarthy stated that when he and Supervisors Hockensmith and Mauro went to Florida and looked at the data, we have not met every one of their capabilities and this report exceeds what they are doing at Hillsborough County.

Jan Sears stated that the Sheriff's goal is to identify the special needs population in jail this year. Five reports are posted on the Sheriff's website. Mental Health focus continues. More detailed population analysis, automating reports, identifying special needs, and chronic illness. We are working with Terri Henkels and Linda Ford on the integration of medical statistics and demographic information regarding diabetes, drug and alcohol abuse and gathering for mental health inmates.

Jail Updates – Major Donna Brooks, Sheriff's Office

The State jail inspections went well. There was a water supply issue. The Engineer is working on an off valve which will correct this. The west wing was approved.

Open discussion:

Angela asked how the court furloughs are affecting the jail. Judge Gamble said with the furloughs and the reduction in workforce mean less hours the Clerk of Court can work on weekends. Weekend jail court has one four hour shift, one day. There are 10 furlough days that jail court is closed. A schedule has been worked out for this. The works stacks up when court is closed. He does feel things are going ok. There is a very small spike in jail population after furlough days, although spring and summer months might cause this to go up (i.e. an extra day in jail). It is being managed the best it can right now.

Sally Kreamer stated that the reorganization bill regarding span of control if approved, cuts supervisor and the numbers will go through the roof. There is no way supervisors can gate keep. There is an amendment to not have public safety as part of the bill. Judge Moison stated that they see people probation pretrial release essential. If we have to cut staff the jail numbers will be a problem. Sally Kreamer stated that this will increase the number of people interviewed. Major Brooks stated that the Public Defender has access but can't print the intake report. Sally Kreamer stated that there is a push to not supervise serious misdemeanors and we lose one more option for jail diversion. Sheriff McCarthy stated that the numbers have been good. ICE immigration has promised that another Postville won't happen again anywhere in the country. ICE is looking to change the focus to undocumented committing crimes versus undocumented.

We will try and schedule a time for a conference call regarding the Jail Diversion program we reviewed in San Antonio. We could bring the individual in charge of the program up here along with the Chief Judge. It is interesting to see this program that is a model for the country.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2010 at 8:00 a.m., in Room 5 at HyVee Hall.