

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)**

**June 3, 2010**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Hy-Vee Hall**

CJCC Members Present: Bill McCarthy, John Sarcone, Tom Hockensmith, Angela Connolly, Judge Gamble, Sally Kreamer, Valorie Wilson.

Others present: Nancy Robinson, Anne Sheeley, Dave Higdon, Major Donna Brooks, Jan Sears, Michael O'Meara, Jeff Riese, Terri Sommerlot, Michelle Dix

I. Approval of the April 29, 2010 minutes

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

II. I-Leads Committee Update – Jan Sears (Handout/Powerpoint)

Jan gave an update on the jail operations and statistical analysis initiatives (see handout). She reviewed the monthly reports sent out. As we have discussed before, changes from one month to the other is not necessarily a trend. We want to make sure we document these changes in our statistics over time to give us an idea that the initiatives that are in place are doing what we want them to do. One or two months at a time aren't enough to do that.

Current inmate population is 918 in the facility, 129 females as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. The May population of females was 148 (there are 160 beds). Tom asked if it wasn't over 1,000 previously. Jan stated our population for the facility has been under 1,000 for the last few months but it is slowly climbing back up for the summer months.

Nine people came in with just a parole violation this month. This number is down. Sally mentioned that overall parole numbers are down. She said there is some transition at the parole board and that could be why. Probation is also down some. Thirty-five percent left the facility due to completion of a sentence and another 19% because they received credit for time served. The average length of stay is down by a few days. The alternative program is running higher and electronic monitoring is full. U.S. Marshall, ICE, immigration is down now but staying at 4%.

Angela asked about citation releases. Major Brooks stated that it is 3 approved and 331 disapproved. Angela asked what is the reason for 331 not released? Major Brooks stated that if the street officers are doing their job, they would provide a citation on the street instead of bringing them to jail. Angela asked if they were counted in the report. Major Brooks stated that they are not. If they do end up in jail, we review to see if they meet our criteria. Sheriff McCarthy stated that the first review is on the street so we don't have much to pick from by the time they get to us.

In April, 18% of persons booked were identified with mental health issues (depression is number one issue). There is a higher number of females with mental health issues than men, mostly depression. The average wait/stay for other facilities was 42 in April; June is under 25 days (for Ft. DSM). Numbers are currently down everywhere. This could be the initiatives through the Sheriff's Office. The I-Leads Committee will work on historical data and trends, expand the library, more focus on mental health. In August there will be six months worth of data collected. They will work with Principle Health Services (PHS) to make a database of specific statistics (i.e. medical stats and demographic information). Valorie asked about HIPAA issues. Individuals have signed waivers (nothing has personal information on it). The Sheriff mentioned that this could be accessed by the officers on the streets in the future.

Angela stated that it is a lot of information and will be interesting to see the actual trends.

### III. Cooperative Initiatives 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and Polk County Sheriff's Office – Nancy Robinson and Michelle Dix

Some initiatives have been in place and some are just beginning. Presentence investigations (PSI) have been in place for awhile. Another idea that is not in place yet is to partner with the jail to do in-jail programming. This will help offenders start out with their treatment needs. The problem is with the recent budget cuts and shortage of staff, we have not been able to pull that off. We are partnering with the jail to find resources and grants to be able to do that with.

We are looking at the jail to help identify offenders who have substance abuse treatment needs with the appropriate in-jail treatment program that will also help with our wait list for our residential program. Sally stated that this will help us instead of the offender needing the whole 90- 120 days out at the Fort, if they have already got their treatment done at the jail, and then when they get to the Fort they already have their treatment done. If they are sitting in jail waiting for a bed at the Fort to open up, and we have room on the treatment side, we can get that treatment done if they are stable and they are low enough risk.

Angela asked if the treatment beds were full all the time. Major Brooks stated that they were not. Sally stated that is what we looked at and we saw that there were available beds. This helps our waiting list at the Fort. Jan stated that Marie is looking for grants to obtain funding for the return of the female in-jail treatment. Judge Gamble asked how many of the male in custody drug treatment beds are available. Major Brooks stated 64. Judge Gamble asked that are not being used? Major Brooks stated that the number varies but we have never had 64. Gamble stated that he thought that there was a waiting list. If there is not, we need to know that. Valorie stated that her clients always had to wait to get in.

Jan stated that part of that is the female pod, the bulk of the money we are looking at is to reactivate the female pod. Angela asked didn't they just ask the board to expand the program? Why would we want to expand it if it isn't full? Tom stated, on the women's side, it wasn't working very well because they didn't have a full pod? So we are not doing the female drug treatment right now. Major Brooks stated that there are more males than females so with the small amount of females there was an issue with confidentiality.

Recently in place is the front end assessment/screening of offenders on the waiting list for residential. This has been in place for a month now and has had a huge impact. The waiting list is the lowest it's ever been, 4 months. Judge Gamble asked about waiting time in jail (2 months or 20 days). Sally said 2 months is their guess on how long they wait. Will work on getting an actual number from the jail of how many are waiting. Valorie asked if front end assessments are the right candidates. This speeds up the process and the time spent at Ft. DSM. The idea is to expand the day reporting program. Identify offenders at the front end to see if they can be moved directly out to day reporting. This would take some policy change. The services could be structured. Valorie asked if the recommendations made are appropriate for Ft. DSM or is there anything else they can offer. It would be helpful to have a couple alternatives besides Ft. DSM. Sally stated that before they would come in and they are waiting for their assessment and they can't job seek until they have that assessment and they may wait one to two weeks where they are sitting at the facility accumulating rent and not looking for jobs or working so now that's all done so they can hit the street running when they get to the facility. Before we didn't want to let them job seek until we knew they were o.k. to job seek because we didn't know anything about them. We didn't want to give them a free pass to roam around Des Moines for four hours looking for a job when we didn't know anything about them. Angela stated so that is all taking place ahead of time in the jail before they even get out there. Valorie stated even if they are not in jail, they could be out of custody, they still have to do a front end assessment.

The SWAP Program (Sheriff's Office) would expand if there is more staff. The Violator Program is closed. We could see a spike in prison/jail. An idea is to have 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial develop their own violator program. This would take resources (beds, staff, etc). Nancy spoke on probation violators and said they are working with Sheriff's staff to break those down (waiting for hearing or serving sentence). There is a PO at the jail to help resolved those issues. Donna said this position is critical to the jail. If they weren't there, the jail would fill up quickly with probation violators.

Sally said we have a validated risk assessment on sex offenders. Lots of low risk offenders are at Ft. DSM, with eight moving out next month. Currently there are 29 at the facility and 9 leaving in June. We were in the 50s when we had the 2,000 foot rule. Of the 29, there are only 4 out of 29 that were moderate risk that were in the facility. Do we get high risk sex offenders? Yes we do, but the perception that the Fort is full with them is just not true.

The Intensive Pre-Trial Release program is funded by the Sheriff's Office (see handout). Terri Sommerlot checks lists each morning to see who can be released, with services and on pre-trial release or intensive pre-trial release. She's been doing this for 12 years. Judges will place a No Bond restriction on probation violators and she cannot get those released. Judge Gamble said she can go directly to the judge and ask. Terri explained what process she uses to get pre-trial release: will they show up in court? Will they not engage in more criminal behavior? She looks at structure in their lives (work, home, school), substance abuse issues, mental health issues, etc.

Sally mentioned they received a grant renewal for overtime for youthful offenders to monitor. The grant is for another year. It is a gang grant that we received so now we can have people go out on Friday and Saturday night without worrying about it. Angela asked how long the grant was for. Sally stated another year and we filed for a hardship so they waived our match. It gives us more time on the streets to look at those high risk young offenders.

Valorie asked on some cases you said that you call the victim, on what type of cases would you make that decision? Terri responded that we try and do that on all domestic assaults. We don't always have the contact information and that is difficult. I know when we go to a bond review, the County Attorney that has the case; they are calling the victim on a willful injury or something like that. Almost all domestic assaults we ask the defendant for the victim's phone number. We want to contact him or her before we do anything. Valorie asked do you find that the majority of these people are o.k. with release. Terri stated yes.

Angela asked if the bracelet issue would be something for the Sheriff's SWAP program. Major Brooks stated what we would like to do in the future, if we had more staff is when they go to the Fort, and they behave, they take them out on a bracelet instead of someone who is waiting for the Fort and take someone who won't qualify for any of our programs out to the Fort so that we leave them with someone they don't have to put out there anymore, it's good for them and us. There are currently 49 people in the in-custody drug treatment program. We have been at our max for the last three or four months.

#### IV. Open Discussion

Tom stated that there seems to be some confusion in the law enforcement community about juvenile offenders and the county's role or the county's position as far as taking them to our detention facility, when we can and when we can't. We need some ballpark knowledge and clarification on that. Angela stated that ever since the last Evelyn Davis Park incident, that following week, they said we don't take our kids to Meyer Hall. Brian Boyer did a story on Channel 13 that tried to explain all of that that it isn't Polk County that is denying access to Meyer Hall. It is the whole process with the state funding; there are a lot of reasons why they aren't going.

Tom stated that from what he understands, the state juvenile court services set the criteria that they use to determine whether or not they can go to Meyer Hall. They used to have somebody full time on staff at intake at the detention facility and then they cut back and now there is no one there. The officer on the street has to make a phone call and go through the litany of questions that the officer has to go through to determine whether or not they can take them. It has become very convoluted and why we have to go through all that process I'm not sure. John Mauro has the same issue in his district we are both asked what is the deal and we are told that these kids can't be taken to detention.

Judge Gamble stated that he doesn't think it is accurate that anyone has been told that they can't take kids to detention. Judge Gamble stated that kids are also taken to detention and ask their parents to come get them. We are attempting to address that with a felony intake group. It's the community frustration stuff not the crime that kicks them from one direction to the other. Judge Gamble would like

this on for discussion at another CJCC meeting (juvenile issues) with Marilyn Lantz and Brian Boyer speaking.

V. Next Meeting

8 a.m., Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at HyVee Hall, Room 6.

Meeting adjourned.