

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)**  
**December 10, 2015**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**VM-CCCU-CC**

**CJCC Members Present (9):** Angela Connolly, Tom Hockensmith, Judge Gamble, John Sarcone, Sheriff McCarthy, Dana Wingert, Susie Osby, Cory Williams, Valorie Wilson, Chad Jensen.

**CJCC Coordinator (1):** Gary Sherzan.

**Others Present:** Sarah Boese, Scott Willsey, Dillon Kraft, Clifford Leonard, Nick Lemmo, Jim Cornick, Joe Nemmers, Nancy Robinson, Bob Glass, Marty Ryan, Stephanie Fawkes-Lee, Annie Uetz, Arnold Woods, Teresa Bomhoff, Anne Sheeley, Ralph Marasco, Tammy Hoyman, Shaun Evers, Kendra Hicks, Ahmadu Baba-Singhri

**Approval of the October 8, 2015, Minutes**

Moved by Hockensmith, Seconded by McCarthy to approve the October 8, 2015, meeting minutes.

**I-Leads Committee Update—Frank Marasco (handout)**

**In-Facility Population**—As of Monday, December 7, 2015, there were 923 inmates. **In-Custody**—952.

Accounting for the variance is people out for treatment, electronic monitoring and 12 juveniles boarded out. Frank continues to work on some of the new statistics and slides discussed at the October meeting, including a breakdown of charges at booking by race and ethnicity, the percentage of bookings by race and ethnicity versus the Polk County census data, and the recidivism rate by race and ethnicity.

Some of the race and ethnicity data and corresponding charts are included in today's report:

**Local Male Inmates by Race/Ethnicity (by offense at Booking)**—Asian-245; Black-2,974; Hispanic-914; Indian-39; Unknown-6; White-7,373. Total—11,552.

**Local Female Inmates by Race/Ethnicity (by offense at Booking)**—Asian-55; Black-682; Hispanic-151; Indian-14; Unknown-3; White-2,891. Total—3,796.

An individual that works closely with the Burmese and Bhutanese population for the state asked what percentage of the jail population they made up. The Asian designation includes people from all countries in Asia (i.e., Burma, Bhutan, China, India, Japan, etc.); it is not broken down by country.

Frank mentioned the many programs that are available to help refugees bridge the gap in the cultural and societal differences in our country and theirs to hopefully prevent them from entering the criminal justice system, and to reduce recidivism when they do.

**Local Inmates At Release With Average Length of Stay-Males** (in total days for all types of offenses)—Asian-17; Black-27; Hispanic-31; Indian-21; Unknown-14; White-20.

**Local Inmates At Release With Average Length of Stay-Females** (in total days for all types of offenses)—Asian-11; Black-12; Hispanic-16; Indian-13; Unknown-5; White-14.

They are working on breaking it down by specific offense to determine if that accounts for longer ALOS.

**Polk County Jail Bookings by Agency**--Gary Sherzan called attention to this slide to show that the number of bookings was down from 16,934 in 2014 to 15,889 in 2015, a difference of -6.17%. He feels that speaks highly of the job the different agencies are doing.

**Jail Diversion, Crisis Observatin Center update—Annie Uetz, Polk County Health Services (handout)**

**Persons Served by Jail Diversion**—From July 1, 2015, through October 31, 2015, there were 96 people served by jail diversion.

**Number of Bookings by Status**—In October, there were more people not connected to the system than there were in many previous months. Of course, the goal is to get more people connected to mental health services in Polk County.

**Community Support**—42 people were served (i.e. getting to appointments, getting medications, getting connected to services, etc.

**Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT)**—53% of people the MCRT responded to were treated in the field; only 1% went to jail. Cost avoidance for July-October 2015—247 people treated in the field would have cost: \$706,420 if taken to jail; \$247,000 if taken to ER; \$988,000 if taken to hospital. The 112 taken to the hospital for treatment would have cost \$320,320 if taken to jail.

**Crisis Observation Center**-- In October, an average of 3.42 people were in observation. There were 106 admissions; up from 91 in September. The majority of the people (93, or 27%) came in from community programs; next was walk-ins from the community (90, or 26%). As for where they went from the COC, 38 or 23% of people went to the hospital; the majority (102 or 42%) went home. When asked where they would have gone if the COC had not been available, 80% said they would have gone to the hospital.

COC Cost Avoidance for July-October 2015—157 people treated at COC would have cost: \$157,000 if they had gone to ER; \$628,000 if admitted to hospital. If the 2 people brought in by police would have been taken to jail, the cost would have been \$5,720.

Supervisor Connolly asked if other metro police departments were bringing people to the COC? Annie answered that they could begin tracking that. Tom Hockensmith asked if other agencies were aware of the COC? Scott and Joe have continued to market to hospitals, clinics, police departments, etc. Sheriff McCarthy suggested that repeat visits be made to the agencies due to personnel changes, and just as a reminder to those that may have forgotten about the COC. And, although Dave Higdon has 'moved on', the Sheriff wanted to give him a pat on the back for being a central figure in the mental health community.

**Pretrial Release—Teri Sommerlot, Fifth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services (handout)**

In November, there were 260 defendants out in the lowest level of supervision for 1-30 days, for a potential savings of 5,600 jail bed days. In the highest level of supervision, there were 43 defendants out for 1-30 days, for a potential savings of 840 jail bed days. There were 20 revocations.

Gary Sherzan called attention to the fact that 28% of eligible defendants were interviewed, an increase of 4% over September.

**Bridges Substance Abuse Treatment Program and St. Gregory Update--**

(Tom Jackowski is traveling in Texas, meeting with CJCC Boards in 3 counties that are interested in bringing a substance abuse treatment program like Bridges to their counties. John Conway, Bridges Chief Operating Officer, presented the update).

There are currently 171 clients enrolled in Bridges; an additional 25 have been added in the last 2 months; 4 have been discharged. Rather than focusing on client enrollment numbers, etc., John will be giving more information about why Bridges does what they do. The average jail census shows that 2.4 million people are incarcerated nationwide—1.65 million in state and federal prisons, and 750,000 in jails. Roughly 12M come thru jail annually, and although 65% to 75% meet DSM-5 criteria for substance dependence, only 10% receive treatment services. Bridges knows they need to fill in the gap, and eventually take it nationally.

As a nation, for every dollar spent on addiction, only 2 cents is spent on prevention and treatment; 98 cents is spent on what is referred to as 'shoveling up the wreckage', that being the consequences of addiction, the cost of the criminal justice system and incarceration, the co-morbidity costs for treatment of an addict with other underlying health conditions, etc. The cost to the country annually is \$550 billion.

There are many complicated barriers for treating a substance abuser being released from jail—physical, cognitive, long-term damage, criminal thinking, etc.—are all barriers. Also, many of Bridges' patients are chronically homeless (currently about 7%) some with such poor relationships with family that their mailing address can't be used. Bridges clients carry an average of \$14,000 in debt when released from jail. This is a major concern because most have poor earning potential. Nationally only 30% of people have full-time employment after one year of being released from jail; studies show locally that number is 16%.

Transportation is an issue that is constantly being dealt with. Also, a lack of internal motivation is a challenge, and it's difficult to change that. Something that is not well known is that many clients have a long history of trauma, as they were victims of substance abuse before they were offenders, and that requires a wide range of services to address those issues.

One of the challenges for Bridges is that, although they have treatment options (i.e. 30-day Inpatient programs, Community Outpatient programs, self-help, transitional living, etc.) some aspects of that delivery system are fractured in that there isn't one program that addresses all needs. Bridges has resources to help with individual obstacles, like transition to supportive housing, job placement, financial education, etc., but the client essentially has to make up their own plan to overcome each of their individual obstacles. Many current and former clients ask what they can do to help others coming through the program be successful. John asked them to tell their stories, and he showed two video testimonials of former clients sharing their experiences and successes.

As mentioned above, people have \$14,000 in debt on average when released from jail, and that can have a devastating effect on them, especially those that are low income. Many sit in jail because they can't afford to make their bond payment, which only increases the amount owed for their jail stay. John would like to have input from CJCC on a program they are looking at where Bridges would help pay an individuals' bond so they could get out of jail and into treatment sooner. They would help with risk assessments to determine non-violent, low risk offenders and Bridges would pay their bond, possibly saving 10-20 days of jail fees. Valorie Wilson asked if they have helped anyone post bond yet. They have helped one person as part of a pilot. Valorie suggested rather than going thru a bondsman that they contact a lawyer who could ask for a bond review and ask that Bridges pay 10% of the bond to the Clerk of Court. Then they would get all of their money back instead of it going to a bondsman.

John Sarcone asked if posting bond could be setting themselves up for some potential conflict of interest?

John Conway stated they would welcome any input that could reduce or eliminate that possibility. Their goal is to get them out of jail before they accumulate any more debt, and get their treatment started sooner.

Judge Gamble asked if Bridges employs any of their clients? They have employed some thru a trial program. It isn't necessarily long term, but rather to give them some employment experience.

### **Policy Changes for Pretrial Release Interviews – Gary Sherzan**

Gary directed the committee to page 13 of the Jail Operations and Statistical Analysis Initiatives handout.

**Current In-Facility ADP – Current Judicial Status** – As of 12/7, 64% of the ADP were pending charges; 12% had been convicted and were sentenced to PCJ (after having served time in jail awaiting trial); 10.77% were Federal detainees; 7.80% were awaiting State facility; 2.0% (correction to handout) awaiting Oakdale; 1.32% awaiting sentencing; 0.11% awaiting other County (Iowa); 0.11% ICE Hold; 0.44% awaiting 'Out of State'.

### **2015 Releases -- Average Length of Stay in Days**

Other: 35; Sentenced to Prison: 68; Pre-Trial Release: 4; Judicial Order for Release: 19;  
Fort Des Moines: 88; Citation Release: 0; Credit for Time Served: 19; Completed Jail Sentence: 28;  
Bridges of Iowa: 98; Posted Bond: 3.

In 2014, the Average Length of Stay in Days was 19; in 2015 it was 21.

Going back to the 64% of the In-Facility ADP that have charges currently pending, Gary asks “What are we going to do?” The National Average is between 60% and 70%. According to all the literature Gary has read, nationally the trend is toward assessing everyone at booking and determining who should stay and who should be released. Our system needs to be risk-based, not charge-based, and changes need to be made on a long term basis to do away with money bonds. As for a risk assessment tool, the one developed by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation is not available for our use at this time, but this is the way Gary feels we need to be going with the pretrial release program.

Supervisor Connolly asked how we get there? There would need to be legislative changes; possibly a statute is needed to allow the courts to hold someone based on risk. Gary will be speaking to the new incoming Director of Community Based Corrections, Jerry Evans.

Supervisor Hockensmith asked if the Laura and John Arnold Foundation has a patent on the risk assessment tool they developed? The Foundation owns it, so until they are willing to give it to us, we are unable to utilize it.

Sheriff McCarthy said he received a phone call recently from a wife who was concerned about her husband being released and the impact that could have on their children. He wondered, before releasing someone based on an assessment, if they also assess the family situation and consider the effect it may have on them. He feels we shouldn't develop such faith in the risk assessment that we think it will cover the spectrum, because generally it doesn't. Gary said the risk assessment is intended to be a guide to provide information to the court.

### **Open Discussion**

Supervisor Connolly discussed ‘The Stepping Up National Summit: Reducing the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails’. Competitive applications are being accepted for the summit being held April 17-19, 2016, that will bring together county elected officials and criminal justice and behavioral health leaders to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in U.S. jails. Polk County has been encouraged to apply to attend the summit. Stepping Up, due to the generous support of the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, will sponsor up to five team members from each selected site to participate.

Supervisor Hockensmith announced that the new Director of Community Based Corrections will be Jerry Evans, due to begin the first of the year.

### **Next Meeting**

TBD

Meeting adjourned 9:00 a.m.