

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

December 6, 2018

8:00 a.m.

VMCCCU-CC

CJCC Members Present: Angela Connolly, Tom Hockensmith, John Sarcone, Judge Gamble, Valorie Wilson, Jerry Evans, Joe Simon (for Sheriff McCarthy), Dana Wingert, Cory Williams.

CJCC Members Absent: Sheriff McCarthy, Susie Osby, Chad Jensen.

CJCC Coordinator: Gary Sherzan.

Others Present: Sarah Boese, Clifford Leonard, Max Knauer, Mike Huppert, Mike Savata, Kenny Nulph, Marty Ryan, Alex Jordahl, Teresa Baumhoff, Christopher Patterson, Annie Uetz, Bob Glass, Greg Bellville, Tom Jackowski, Pat Coughlin, Dee Martin, Betty Anderson, James Cornick, Dan McBee, Makai Echer, Joe Schaffer, Darius Potts, Stacy Curtis, Tera Clement, Torry Simmons, Kyle Conway.

Approval of September 27, 2018, Meeting Minutes:

Moved by _____ Sarcone _____ Seconded by _____ Williams _____ to approve the September 27, 2018, CJCC Meeting Minutes.

Jail Report – Frank Marasco, Polk County Sheriff’s Office (Frank not present--see handout)

Cory Williams confirmed Angela Connolly’s statement that the inmate population numbers are down, adding that is typical for this time of year. Tom Hockensmith asked about the Detention Officer positions that the Board of Supervisors approved filling. Cory said there were 12 hired from the last testing who will begin on December 19th. They have another testing this Saturday, December 8th, with over 300 applicants.

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

The first chart in the Pretrial Services handout shows the ‘Average Number of PSA’s completed by day for August through November’, and are directly related to the lower number of inmates in the Jail Report. From January 16, 2018, through November 30, 2018, a total of 8406 PSA’s have been completed. For the same time period, 4259 were provided to the Court (even-numbered booking ID’s only).

Judicial Decision Compared to PSA Recommendation (1/16/18 – 11/30/18) – Since implementation of the PSA, the Court has approved some level of pretrial supervision in about 44% of the cases for which a PSA is provided. Monetary bonds are still being imposed in 36% of all cases in which a PSA is provided.

Distribution of Pretrial Supervision (as of 11/30/18) – 414 defendants being actively supervised by pretrial services. They continue to operate the traditional pretrial programs – Pretrial Release (PTR); Release with Services (RWS); Intensive Pretrial Release (IPTR) and approximately 32% of those currently on pretrial supervision are in this group.

- Approximately 68% of those currently under pretrial supervision are being supervised on a pretrial monitoring (PM) level.
- Lowest risk levels – PM1 and traditional PTR – constitute about 42%; primarily court reminders.
- Higher risk levels – PM4, Maximum Conditions & IPTR – about 18%; includes weekly face-to-face contacts, home visits, court reminders and use of electronic monitoring when warranted or ordered.

- Mid-range – PM2 – at 18%; lower risk level supervision; includes one meeting a month and court reminders and PM3 & RWS at 23%; face-to-face contact every other week and court reminders. (These statistics are only for individuals for which the judge has received a PSA, however, PSA's are done on everyone at their Initial Appearance)

*Angela Connolly asked Jerry Evans if there has been any word on legislation regarding the PSA?

Jerry replied that there has not, but he attended a statewide stakeholders meeting a couple of weeks ago; everyone is in a holding pattern while they wait to see what the Governor's Office is going to do.

Discussions at the meeting included Harvard's completion of the initial analysis of the PSA. The amount of data they were able to extract to prepare a report to send to the legislature in support of the program is very limited, but it is in the works. They looked at how the PSA was being implemented in each of the four pilot districts; Jerry thinks the Fifth District has best utilized the tool as it was intended, in terms of structure. Teri Sommerlot talked about the PM levels (supervision levels based on a persons' risk); it was discussed whether or not the supervision standards were too high. The group decided not to change the way things are being done until after the 18-month study tracking outcomes is over. The stakeholders will continue to meet and converse until they hear from the Governor's Office to find out what the next step is.

Jail Diversion, Crisis Observation Center (COC) update – Annie Uetz, Polk County Health Services (handout)

Annie referred CJCC members and meeting attendees to the handout for Jail Diversion and COC updates so she could discuss some of the things PCHS has been doing over the last few months.

Approximately a week ago, 96 additional law enforcement officers completed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy; of those 96, 14 were with the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Annie would like to thank NAMI of Central Iowa, Broadlawns, the Des Moines Police Department, the Ankeny Police Department, the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Polk County Veterans Administration, Heart of Iowa Region, and CISM for volunteering to come out and help with the training.

The Ankeny Police Department has received a grant through the Safety and Justice Challenge, and officers who haven't yet had CIT training (about 45 of them) will begin in January. There will be one training per month for six months, and it will be opened up to anyone who wants to attend.

They began doing '911 Dispatcher Training' at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy with the help of NAMI of Greater Des Moines.

In October, a group from Polk County attended the 'Iowa Stepping Up Summit' where they discussed different ways to reduce the number of people that are in jail and are suffering from mental illness.

In November, Polk County hosted the 'Stepping Up Peer Exchange', a one-and-a-half-day event that brought 30 county leaders from across the country to visit Polk County. They learned about all the great services we have in place here, including the Mobile Crisis Team, Pretrial Release, Post-Booking Jail Diversion, CIT training, screening and assessment at the jail, and mental health services at the jail. They also learned about our community-based services, and toured the Crisis Observation Center, Urgent Care, and SafeNetRx.

The thing Annie learned most is how much coordination and collaboration there is between the different systems in Polk County compared to other areas. Attendees were very impressed by that, having not had the same kind of interactions, if any, with their other departments and local entities. They were also impressed by how involved and compassionate DMPD Police Chief Dana Wingert is about the work being done here.

Angela suggested the possibility of hiring a full-time coordinator to oversee all the different programs.

Bridges Substance Abuse Treatment Program Update – Tom Jackowski, JD, CEO, Bridges

Tom announced that after 22 years in his position he will begin working at the national level, but will still be staying in this area. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for the support he has received over the years, and has enjoyed working with everyone. Pat Coughlin will be taking over Tom's duties and will give today's update.

The numbers for October and November were good – 16 admissions in October, and 21 in November—up considerably from past months. December looks like it's on track to be a good month, as well. There is still a waiting list of 23 people who have been approved for treatment, but are waiting for court dates, etc.

The true wait time on Bridges end is 3-4 weeks. They are in the process of hiring two new counselors, but that is taking longer than anticipated, then once hired there is six weeks of counselor training.

Pat submitted Bridges budget to the Board that would add a couple more counselors and a few line staff, but the budget is a \$1.4 million deficit, so the ability to keep admitting people at the same pace in 2019 will depend on their ability to raise that money. They are looking at a couple of grants, some traditional fundraisers, and partnerships with stakeholders that are invested in what Bridges is doing at the jail.

Tom Hockensmith asked how many are currently in treatment at the jail? There are 37 men; doesn't include 11 women who are housed at Vine Street; the total number in the program is 92; 160 beds at the jail. Pat has met with officials from Iowa Total Care, the new Managed Care Organization (MCO) in Iowa, a subsidiary of Centene. Their attorney is reviewing the first of the contracts submitted.

Engagement Center – Angela Connolly, Polk County Board of Supervisors

An Engagement/Sobering Center is one priority that is being worked on for the upcoming year. They've been meeting with several partners, including Bridges, Prelude, Primary Health Care, and Broadlawns, and may be bringing law enforcement into their meetings; they are also collaborating with the opioid task force. They've checked out a few buildings but haven't come up with much there yet.

Angela will continue to give updates on the progress.

Pretrial Risk Assessment Tool Update – Jerry Evans, 5th Judicial Department of Corrections

This topic was addressed earlier in the meeting (*Refer to Page 2).

Citation Release – Gary Sherzan, Polk County CJCC Coordinator

The issuing of citations in lieu of arrest, which is allowable per Iowa Code §805, has been an ongoing topic. In looking further into it, Gary has found that, just as anything in the criminal justice system, there are no simple answers. The officer doesn't just issue the citation and let the person go—they may have to wait for someone to pick them up who will be responsible for their safety, such as in the case of an OWI. In smaller towns that probably isn't an issue, but in Des Moines the officer could have 40 or 50 calls waiting. In short, Gary has found a number of issues that need to be addressed to make it more convenient, i.e., easier, simpler, quicker, for citations to be issued. He recommends putting a group together to study the process, and determine if there are ways to make it less time-consuming.

Before opening the meeting to Public Comments, Angela Connolly announced that Sheriff McCarthy will be retiring at the end of December. She commented on the stellar career he's had as Sheriff, and as Des Moines' Police Chief. He is known around the country, and the compassion he brings to CJCC will be missed, especially as an advocate in the area of mental health.

Angela then went on to announce that Judge Gamble is also retiring. He has been a fair and honest judge that has done a lot for the citizens of Polk County. He's been on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council since it began. Regardless of what the Board of Supervisors came to him with, he always put forth his best effort to see it followed through. He will be greatly missed, especially by the Board.

Judge Gamble expressed his appreciation for the Board's support of the courts, as well as thanking them for the nice facilities in the Justice Center ("It's clean and bright and smells good"), and he believes the Criminal Courts Building will be a game changer for the community. He feels CJCC needs to be better about touting all of their achievements over the years, listing a number of the programs and services that have been put in place. Especially when compared to other jurisdictions that don't have these, what Polk County and the CJCC have accomplished is huge.

Judge Gamble will be succeeded by Judge Michael Huppert.

Public Comments –

Marty Ryan shared his thoughts on Governor Reynolds' action on the PSA where she item vetoed the language that would prevent the use of PSA's from continuing passed December 31, 2018. By putting in a new effective date, she actually created law, which isn't her job but rather the Legislature's. In his opinion, what she did was illegal, and wonders if some kind of injunction might be in order.

John Sarcone thanked Judge Gamble for his service. He has worked with the judge for 28 years, and he could always count on him to follow the law, to treat people fairly, and not be afraid to think outside of the box.

On Sheriff Bill McCarthy, who John has worked with for over 28 years, he said he's always known him to be a solid man with good judgement; one that really cares about people, and about the community. He's a gem that's going to be hard to replace.

He went on to say that what comes out of the CJCC is that they also care about people, working to make lives better, both for victims and for people in jail, regardless of the reason they are there.

Next meeting date TBD.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 a.m.