

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

CJCC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Administrative Building, Lower Level Conference Room
220 N. Main
April 13, -7:30 a.m.

Members Attending: Archie Brown (Circuit Court Chief Judge), Lloyd Powell (Public Defender), Dan Minzey (Sheriff), Brian Mackie (County Prosecutor), J. Cedric Simpson (District Court Presiding Judge), Bob Guenzel (County Administrator)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Scott Patton (CJCC Staff), Kenita Montgomery (CJCC Intern), David Behen (Co-Deputy County Administrator), Kirk Filsinger (Jail Commander), Herb Mahony (Undersheriff)

Meeting Convened: 7:36 a.m.

Steering Committee Chair J. Cedric Simpson chaired the meeting.

Supporting Documents

Attendees were given the following documents:

- Draft CJCC Retreat Agenda/Plan Outline

I. Boarding-Out Discussion

Herb Mahony briefed the group on the latest developments in terms of the County's boarding out policy. David Behen reported that the many stakeholders expressed appreciation for the efficiency of the process. David Behen indicated that the group would like to bring the boarding-out discussion in front of the CJCC in May and then to the BOC in June.

Kirk Filsinger reported that the jail released 12 inmates yesterday as a result of Section 7 of the jail overcrowding statute. The population is now at 357 inmates. Kirk Filsinger indicated that the jail will be going into section 8 of the statute soon. Kirk Filsinger offered that even if the County reinstated boarding-out, there is not enough space for the amount of inmates they need to release to get out of overcrowding. Kirk Filsinger indicated that without a big influx of inmates under section 8, the problem may correct itself around early to mid May. This estimate is based on the condition that the population remains relatively static.

Bob Guenzel inquired as to what exactly was the policy under section 8 and who does the jail accept? Dan Minzey replied that this includes the most severe offenses, such as capital offenders. However, the sheriff has discretion to accept who a judge recommends.

Archie Brown indicated that he and his colleagues have discussed the pretrial offender population. Archie Brown stated that he intended to confer with both the public defender and prosecutor to create some sort of bond review system. J. Cedric Simpson emergency bond procedure is already set up, but the use of this has fallen off. Dan Minzey indicated that there will be an official notice to come out today.

II. CJCC Retreat

Scott Patton presented a few brief items regarding the CJCC Retreat. Scott Patton indicated that he was seeking feedback from the body regarding the direction of the retreat. Scott Patton (referring to handouts) stated that the packet was a summary document that gives the overall approach and the details of the retreat.

Bob Guenzel offered that it would be helpful if the Full Council heard updates regarding the CJCC work, but updates should be brief and control for minimal discussion. It would be helpful for the group to hear the updates.

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Scott Patton stated that the retreat would be in three parts: 1) overview, 2) breakout sessions, and 3) wrap-up. J. Cedric Simpson would give the overview of the CJCC's progress in the broad context, with Scott Patton providing a few talking points

During the breakout sessions, the three facilitators would lay the groundwork and goals of the groups. This would be a fluid process, so people would have the freedom to move from group to group. With each breakout session, there are two things to accomplish: 1) bring things up to current reality/update data 2) then ask the question of what other gaps exist? Once recommendations are made from the committees, the body must figure out a way how to take it to the appropriate authority levels. Scott Patton stated that he views the Continuum of Sanctions group as one that would be an ongoing committee throughout the 2007.

Archie Brown asked would the Continuum of Sanctions project be a CJCC document and is the CJCC looking for approval from the different system players? Scott Patton replied that the decision around funding or advancing any of these sanctions is outside the purview of the CJCC; the goal is just to bring things up with the appropriate authorities. Archie Brown indicated that he believed the BOC would want an updated version of this.

Scott Patton reported that the second group would be a retrospective and prospective approach to policy decisions that have occurred in the justice system. This group would be facilitated by Dan Dwyer and John Shea. The group will put up a large timeline and do a brainstorming exercise to look out past issues that have impacted out justice system (i.e. prison closings, sentencing guideline changes, elections, etc.). Next, the group will discuss the question of what may or may not be coming (potential closings, MPRI, etc.) that the CJCC needs to be aware of and if it needs to take some action. Scott Patton indicated that believes that this might be an hour long discussion.

Brian Mackie suggested that some of these discussion points be placed be in the overview. Scott Patton asked if Brian Mackie would sit down with him to help guide the talking points for the overview. Archie Brown offered that the County already has a chart of the history, so the time may be better spent looking forward than looking back. Also, in terms of developing a policy paper of recommendations to the State, this might be a discussion the whole CJCC might want to discuss. Bob Guenzel expressed concern with the CJCC taking formal policy positions, and offered that the County's position on various issues should come from the BOC, especially if there are very contentious issues.

Discussion ensued about the third breakout group. Scott Patton indicated that the third group is the Information Sharing and Integration committee. There are two purposes: 1) reframe the context of why the group exists and get feedback on the goals and other issues the group should consider and 2) examine draft data reports and ask what conclusions can be reached and what additional questions does the data raise.

Archie Brown offered that the CJCC does not do a good job touting its successes, particularly with improvements in data systems. It may be of value to get the information out to let the public know of such a success.

J. Cedric Simpson expressed that it is crucial to place the CJCC's accomplishments in context of where the system was. Scott Patton explained that public information was one of the action plan points last year, but no action was taken. If the body wants too include this as a CJCC priority, it can be discussed in the wrap-up. Bob Guenzel stated that the CJCC has to be clear on who its audience is. Archie Brown asked if anyone from the media would be attending the retreat. Scott Patton replied that he did not believe anyone was attending but could send email invites to a few media sources.

Scott Patton stated that following the breakout sessions, each group would give a brief report to the entire body. Then, the hope is to form committees on the issues that were identified, once the issues have been prioritized. Scott Patton stated that he would form talking points about the County budget process, as well.

J. Cedric Simpson offered that the body should ensure there is not too much redundancy with committees; thus, not forming new committees for issues that current committees can handle; a handout of the current committee might be of value. Archie Brown suggested that the committee discussion might need to be an

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agenda item for the next CJCC meeting, as it may warrant a larger discussion than permitted in the wrap up.

J. Cedric Simpson stated that people transitioning from groups throughout the sessions might interrupt the flow of the discussions. Archie Brown offered that there could be an announcement regarding this matter to ensure minimal disruption. Brian Mackie offered that there could potentially be trouble with the facilities with regards to the breakout section.

III. Other Business

Brian Mackie reported the State of Michigan will be going back to the halfway house system, and a Washtenaw County halfway house will be located in Flint. There will 72 inmates housed there. Bob Guenzel asked what type of individuals will be housed there Brian Mackie replied that it will be offenders that have passed their first parole day and are too much of a risk to just be paroled. Archie Brown asked how long will the parolees be housed there. Brian Mackie replied that he was unsure of the duration.

Adjourned 8:20 a.m.

Next Steering Committee meeting 5/8/07.