

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

CJCC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Administrative Building, Lower Level Conference Room
220 N. Main
March 9, 2007 -7:30 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Brian Mackie (County Prosecutor)

Others Present: Scott Patton (CJCC Staff), Delphia Simpson (Public Defender's Office), Barbara Levin Bergman (CCAB Chair), Kenita Montgomery (CJCC Intern), Steve Hiller (Prosecutor's Office), John Shea (Attorney, Bar Association Representative), Kirk Filsinger (Jail Commander)

Meeting Convened: 7:37 a.m.

CJCC Chair J. Cedric Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:37am.

Supporting Documents

Attendees were given the following documents:

- Draft Full Council Agenda
- Draft CJCC Retreat Agenda
- Jail Population Data

I. CJCC Retreat Proposal

Scott Patton briefed the group on the results of the retreat subcommittee meeting last week. Scott Patton indicated that the committee was able to compile a tentative agenda, which he has already distributed to the Steering Committee and public member, Barbara Fuller. Scott Patton stated that there are two opposing schools of thought on the prospective framework of the retreat:

- Small committee/group work to discuss various issues,
- A larger group discussion to discuss the mission of the CJCC

Scott Patton offered that the group could reconcile the views by adding "revisit the CJCC mission" as an agenda item. Scott Patton reported that the BOC expressed an interest in seeing the CJCC discuss crime prevention strategies. Scott stated that this could be a potential agenda item/break-out topic.

Archie Brown stated that given the time constraint, it may not possible to address so many issues.

John Shea expressed that the point of the CJCC is not to solve problem, but to brainstorm and to identify areas that the group should work on over the course of the next year.

Scott Patton stated that the meeting could commence with a brief recap past CJCC objectives, and then the group will divide into self-selecting breakout groups. Bob Guenzel offered that in light of the time restraints, he views a brief look at CJCC history, then diving into discussion groups to create a work plan for the next year as the more favorable option.

Archie Brown inquired about the level of media involvement should there be during the retreat. Archie Brown reported that he had been communicating with a reporter and that there will be a story in the Ann Arbor Observer about the CJCC in the near future.

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Barbara Levin Bergman offered that it may be of value to discuss the impending prison closures by the state, and how the County should respond as community (both fiscally and with services).

John Shea offered that the four discussion points on the tentative retreat agenda seemed comprehensive and encompassed all the issues that the group is discussing. John Shea offered that it may be of value to have a consensus on various issues, in case the County needed to explain these matters (the County's needs) to the public.

J. Cedric Simpson asked if this should be a goal of the retreat, in light of the purpose of the meeting. Given the limited time of the retreat, this may be an issue to assign to a subcommittee.

John Shea offered that the goal of the retreat is not to resolve any of these issues, but to just brainstorm about issues that have impacted the justice system one way or another. Then the group can take these ideas and develop a position paper or a further plan of action.

Delphia Simpson stated that crime prevention would be an issue of interest to the Public Defender's office and that they'd like to see it on the retreat agenda.

Bob Guenzel offered that this issue falls into policing domain, which is generally uncharted terrain for the CJCC. Bob Guenzel stated that he is not against the CJCC discussing this matter, but he believes it would take a tremendous amount of resources to do so. Bob Guenzel offered that it may not be the most effective use of time to tackle this matter at the retreat.

Barbara Levin Bergman offered that eventually, the group will have to explore the literature to see the direction it should take in approaching the public for a human services millage that aligns with some of the CJCC objectives. However, this may not be a matter for the retreat.

John Shea reported that the retreat subcommittee discussed the media attending the retreat. John Shea offered that the group should not take special steps to encourage media participation.

Bob Guenzel reported that the Ann Arbor News was present at the last CJCC retreat. Bob Guenzel expressed disappointment in how the media appears to only cover the negative aspects of the criminal justice system. Bob Guenzel offered that it may be of value to have the media present during the retreat to show the public how the CJCC is working together.

Archie Brown offered that from the standpoint of good government, a major CJCC success was getting the millage on the ballot. Archie Brown expressed that the group has been modest with touting its success, but should start employing some method to show the good things that the group has done and how far it's come (i.e. an Op-Ed piece). Archie Brown stated that this may not be something to discuss at the retreat. However, the CJCC may want to think about creating a subcommittee to work on the public relations; to build a rapport with the news and let them know what the CJCC is doing. Archie Brown stated that he'd be willing to work with Scott Patton on this issue.

John Shea stated that one thing the group should discuss over the course of the next year is how the County's system will be affected by the various policies that the Governor has passed or proposed.

Lloyd Powell stated that it is important that the CJCC stays on task. This includes maximizing public safety in the County, while making sure that everyone contributes equally and keeping offenders in humane conditions.

Scott Patton asked for guidance in terms of next steps. Scott Patton stated that he will refine the retreat agenda based on the today's suggestions, but needs a clear idea of who should attend.

Discussion ensued about the retreat's attendance. John Shea offered that inviting MDOC might give the group insight on the magnitude of impending State releases. The group agreed to invite MDOC.

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Archie Brown asked the groups thoughts on inviting township supervisors, mayors, and police chiefs.

Dan Minzey expressed wariness about the body getting too big, and the agenda becoming too ambitious. Furthermore, non-CJCC participants may come with their own agendas. This may cause the group to get off topic and not use the time efficiently. Dan Minzey stated that many of these issues warrant their own time and presentations. The group should perhaps set up separate meetings to discuss those things.

Bob Guenzel stated that it might also be of value to meet with these groups after the retreat, when the CJCC has a clear plan of action and can ask for more focused insight/advice.

Bob Guenzel asked Scott Patton his ideas in terms of moderating the retreat. Scott Patton stated that one member of the CJCC should to moderate/facilitate the larger discussion (kick off and wrap up), and he'd provide staff support to record the small group discussions. Bob Guenzel asked if the group needed outside support. Scott Patton said no, but indicated that he had called Jim Robertson to invite him. The call had not been returned yet. Dan Minzey- might pick a topic and have

Further discussion about attendance ensued. The group agreed to keep attendance at a minimum, but to invite BOC and the judiciary as a courtesy. John Shea asked for clarification on the MDOC invitation. Dan Minzey stated that the group could utilize MDOC at a later date. The group will post the retreat as a public meeting.

Steve Hiller asked if the group could get information from MDOC prior to the retreat if the consensus is not to invite them. John Shea stated that he would email Dan Dwyer about it.

Scott Patton indicated that the retreat is tentative scheduled on April 20th, 8:00-11:00. The group agreed the time should be extended to noon, given the agenda.

11. Jail Population Analyst

Scott Patton briefed the committee on the recent Jail Population Analyst interviews the three candidates the Steering Committee had selected. Scott Patton indicated that of the three candidates, one candidate stood out, although the phone interview did not go as well as planned. Scott Patton stated that the candidate appeared very knowledgeable, but may need some guidance on the technical side of the position. Scott Patton asked for clarity in terms of next step of the process.

Bob Guenzel expressed that Bob _____ appears to be the most qualified because of his experience (extensive experience in the criminal justice system, being a jail commander, works with the NIC team advisors, officer, and work with Community Corrections), given the job description. Bob Guenzel stated that the candidate was disappointing in regards to the information and data side. Bob Guenzel offered that since we did not interact with the candidate in person, he should visit the County. Bob Guenzel stated that there was confusion on terms of the candidate's prior engagement. Bob Guenzel asked if the County was going to need this person fulltime. Scott Patton and Bob Guenzel agreed that there should be some discussion of his role in terms of duties and expectations. Scott Patton suggested that the Steering Committee invites Bob _____ here and ask for his insight on what he believes his responsibilities will be.

Bob asked for input for the rest of the group and discussion ensued. Dan Minzey offered that it would be of value to bring the candidate for a face-to-face interaction. Bob Guenzel stated that this would give the County more time to think of how we organized things. Scott Patton said that there could be two visit options: 1)Bob _____ can have one-on-one's with individual members of the Steering Committee or 2) have him talk to the collective body. Following the talks, Bob would then be taken to the different facilities. The group agreed a practical next step would be to bring the candidate to the location.

Barbara Levin Bergman asked if the candidate knows how to work with data. Bob Guenzel stated yes, but the candidate will need some support with getting the data.

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J. Cedric Simpson stated that there needs to be some clarity on exactly where the County is in terms of data; the type of data that the County would need Bob _____ help with.

Barbara Levin Bergman asked if it would be helpful to interview the second tier of candidates.

Bob Guenzel stated that his preference would be to speak with the candidate in person first, and then work from there.

III. Dataspace Project/CJCC reports

Scott gave a brief update on the progress of the Data Definitions Committee. Scott Patton stated that the goal of Dataspace project was taking data and automating it. Scott Patton reported that J. Cedric Simpson is serving in an advisory role for the projects. Scott Patton extended the invitation to other group members that might be interested in assisting with this project.

John Shea asked if the committee was getting reports from contractor this week. Scott Patton replied that the committee received drafts and those will be given to J. Cedric Simpson this week. Scott Patton said the reports will go before the committee once there is more direction.

Further discussion ensued. The question was raised of whether or not the committee still needs to address definition/terminology differences. Kirk- data is correct, but labeling is wrong. Also, the goal is to not do things manually.

V. Full Council Agenda/Other Business

Bob Guenzel asked if would be of value to have a report on the boarding-out status. Bob Guenzel indicated that a small group has been working on a draft of a boarding-out policy, and the group has a timeline in terms of drafting it, reporting it, and getting feedback from the CJCC. Bob Guenzel stated that Jeff Irwin or David Behen could give a brief report on this, so this could be an agenda item. Scott Patton asked if Bob Guenzel preferred have a memo instead of a report. Bob Guenzel indicated that he preferred a report.

The question was raised if Alan Jackson-will be reporting on the work he has done. Scott Patton expressed that a report would come in the form of a written document.

Scott Patton suggested that the recent jail population data be added too the end of the agenda. Scott Patton stated that the data revealed some stark conclusions and the larger group may have questions about it. Discussion ensued about the jail population data. Scott Patton highlighted several points. They included:

- Average length of stay has declined
- Felony vs. misdemeanor population- proportionally, the misdemeanor population has been cut in half over the course of the month.
- Sentence vs. pretrial population- as of February 14th, sentenced population dropped to an all-time low of only 24% of the inmate population. This is important.

Scott Patton stated that these findings warrant discussion, but is hesitant about placing it on the agenda given how full the agenda already is.

John Shea asked if it would be possible to get sentence vs. pretrial data broken up by felonies and misdemeanors.

Scott Patton stated that this is one of the reports that the Dataspace is working on with the Data Definitions Committee.

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Barbara Levin Bergman asked if there a way of knowing issuing agency when talking about warrant pick ups. Also, how many warrants is Washtenaw County picking up for crimes in other counties? Kirk Filsinger said that these things are tracked and other counties pick up their warrants relatively fast.

J. Cedric Simpson stated that this item should be added to the agenda for the sake of discussion.

John Shea asked if the Sheriff preferred to lead the discussion on the data. Dan Mizney stated that the graphs are self explanatory. Scott Patton offered that that many group members may not be able to infer the importance of these graphs. The data may need some explanation.

Bob Guenzel asked if April 20th was the definite date for the retreat. Bob Guenzel stated that hey may have a conflicting engagement. Scott Patton inquired if the group should change the retreat date. Bob Guenzel stated that if necessary, he would split his time between the two obligations. Scott Patton said he would look on the calendar to find a viable alternative to April 20th.

Adjourned 8:43 a.m

Next Steering Committee meeting 4/13/07.