

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

CJCC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Administrative Building, Lower Level Conference Room
220 N. Main

December 8, 2006 -7:30 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Dan Minzey (Sheriff),

Others Present: Scott Patton (CJCC Staff), Kerry Sheldon (Management Analyst), Kenita Montgomery (CJCC Staff)

Meeting Convened: 7:43 a.m.

Steering Committee Chair Archie Brown chaired the meeting.

Supporting Documents

Attendees were given the following supporting documents:

- Washtenaw County Jail Overcrowding Issues and Actions Power Point
- Jail Overcrowding Statistical Data
- Full Council Agenda

I. Jail Overcrowding Documents

Scott Patton informed the Steering Committee that the data before them were the most recent statistics on the jail overcrowding trends. Scott Patton stated that the data had been sent to him by Rick Visel on November 7th. Scott Patton stated that he brought the data to the CJCC for analysis.

Bob Guenzel stated that he'd attempted to explain the jail overcrowding situation to Irv Eisner of the Ann Arbors News, but feels some confusion may have persisted.

Archie Brown reported that the data indicates a decline in misdemeanor offenders by as much as 20 beds, however felonies have increased. Also, the average length of stay for offenders has decreased.

Brian Mackie inquired as to whether the NIC could provide comparative data of jail trends of the surrounding counties for the last 10 years.

Bob Guenzel reported that several police agencies have expressed concerned about the closed-door policy that the jail is currently employing; specifically, there has been concerns of selective admissions. Bob Guenzel inquired as to how the CJCC could obtain data on this issue.

Archie Brown reported that a 15th District Court judge reported having an offender refused by the jail, as well. Archie Brown stated that he would have Dan Dwyer probe the situation for further details. He also stated that he would ask whether J. Cedric Simpson had encountered similar occurrences.

Scott Patton offered that J. Cedric Simpson may have some insight into the matter, based on the arraignment patterns.

Scott Patton reported that jail overcrowding was declared over on October 5th, although the jail population still surpassed the buildings capacity. After such, the misdemeanor arrests rose by forty-two.

Lloyd Powell indicated that regardless of the gravity of a family quarrel, it is automatically classified as a domestic violence offense; thus, requiring detainment.

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Bob Guenzel briefed the committee on the jail overcrowding power point that was present to the Ypsilanti City Council Wednesday night. Bob Guenzel indicated that there has been tremendous pressure from the City of Ypsilanti to resolve to jail management situation. Bob Guenzel offered that the before the County reinstates the boarding-out policy, explore other venues first: 1) exercising the Sheriff's statutory obligation under section 7 and 2) utilizing the Jail Population Manager position to improve the management of the jail.

Bob Guenzel reported that the situation could begin to be resolved as early as next Wednesday (Judicial authority could preempt the Sheriff's decision, and call for the proper exercise of the statute). Bob Guenzel stated that the Sheriff indicated that he would properly exercise the statute if a judge authorizes it.

Bob Guenzel reported that the BOC passed a motion on Wednesday night to reinstate boarding out (of 20 beds), if sheriff exercises his authority under section 7. Bob Guenzel offered that the BOC has no confidence in the current management of the jail, and will not implement the boarding out policy until the jail is effectively managed.

Bob Guenzel stated that Commissioner Peterson offered to personally escort the Sheriff to the next CJCC meeting.

Bob Guenzel stated that the County Police Chief got upset about the misrepresentation of Phase 1 of the County Space Plan in the Ann Arbor News.

Brian Mackie inquired as to whether anyone else had heard of a similar situation in other counties.

Brian Mackie also reported that in special cases, an arresting agency can call prosecutor-to help get their offenders admitted into the jail.

J. Cedric Simpson expressed that if the County were to reinstate boarding-out, it should be done in manner that allows for due process (ensuring that offenders aren't boarded out, and then not brought back in time for their hearing. J. Cedric Simpson offered that this is the main concern of the judiciary, and that this matter should be made this very clear to the sheriff.

Archie Brown stated that the CJCC should know the current position of the BOC on this matter.

Bob Guenzel stated that the BOC would just like to see the Sheriff exercise his authority under the statute first to see if it changes anything.

Brian Mackie stated that Bob Guenzel should give the presentation on boarding out to the Full Council, but he may first need to flesh out more in depth what exactly boarding entails.

Archie Brown stated that from the Court's perspective, boarding out could potentially interfere with programming that might help reduce a sentence. This is a matter to consider.

Bob Guenzel stated that he and the BOC would consider these matters as they fleshed out the strategy and intangibles about boarding out.

II. Sheriff's Response

Scott distributed a copy of the Sheriff's response to Archie Brown's letter. There was confusion about whether or not the entire CJCC received the letter.

Archie Brown indicated that this matter would be of little interest to discuss at the Full Council meeting if Sheriff does not attend.

V. Full Council Agenda/Other Business

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Bob Guenzel nominated J. Cedric Simpson for 2007 CJCC Chair and that traditionally, the new chair of the BOC served as the CJCC vice chair.

Scott Patton stated that he would add Jeff Irwin to the CJCC distribution list.

Archie Brown suggested that leadership be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Archie Brown inquired about what exactly David Behen would be reporting on in his committee update.

Scott Patton indicated that the committee would be meeting with Dataspace today to enter into a contract for 3month project to increase the accessibility of offender data.

Archie Brown inquired about whether or not there would be any discuss about Enact and the JIS statewide server. Archie Brown reported that JIS was very efficient for data entry, however, not easily navigable. Archie Brown indicated that the issue is now whether money can be gathered from the core users to update the system.

Scott Patton informed the group that Search.com was visiting in January. Scott stated that Search would take a system wide look at the County's data systems and processes and make recommendations about vision and action steps that can be taken. Scott stated that JIS would be included in this process.

Archie Brown inquired about whether there was any value in discussing Jim Roberson becoming involved with the CJCC on a consultant basis again?

Bob Guenzel inquired as to whether Jerry Clayton was still doing data work for the County.

Scott Patton stated that he would contact both Jerry Clayton and Jim _____ as a follow-up to the meeting.

Scott Patton inquired as to whether J. Cedric Simpson wanted to brief the Full Council on the Pretrial Services Committee progress.

Scott Patton also asked about J. Cedric Simpson's perception on whether or not some police agencies have an easier time getting offenders into jails.

J. Cedric Simpson stated that there were significant other problems with getting individuals into the jail. J. Cedric Simpson expressed that that it does not seem that admission is based on agencies, but it seems that it's operated by an officer basis: hence, it depends on the officer who calls, and officer who answers the call.

J. Cedric Simpson stated that although does not like making contingency plans based on mismanagement of jail, the 14A District Court is considering on instituting some sort of "night court" to arraign in the evening. J. Cedric Simpson stated that while this may be a significant time commitment, it is important that the police agencies have somewhere bring offenders in front of.

Bob Guenzel stated that the County wants to be aggressive about getting the bond through without haste.

Scott Patton offered that the last issue, assuming that there is no signature effort on the bond, is project oversight. Scott Patton stated that there has been a Project Oversight Committee established for this matter.

Lloyd Powell offered expressed his appreciation for the work that Delphia Simpson is doing in his office.

Adjourned 8:29 a.m.

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Next Steering Committee meeting 1/12/07.