

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

CJCC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Administrative Building, Lower Level Conference Room
220 N. Main

September 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),

Members Absent: Lloyd Powell (Public Defender), Dan Minzey (Sheriff),

Others Present: Scott Patton (CJCC Staff), Delphia Simpson (Public Defender's Office), Barbara Levin Bergman (CCAB Chair), Kerry Sheldon (Management Analyst)

Meeting Convened: 7:40 a.m.

Steering Committee Chair Archie Brown chaired the meeting.

Supporting Documents

Attendees were not given any supporting documents at this time.

I. Jail Population Manager Next Steps

Scott Patton informed the Steering Committee that the position received the approval of the Board of Commissioners at their September 6th meeting. The major next steps for that included the development of a Memorandum of Understanding and to post the position. Bob Guenzel inquired about where the position would be located. Patton responded that the individual would spend the majority of time within the jail but could have an office located elsewhere. Options available for consideration include the Sheriff's Office, Community Corrections, the LLRC, and the former HVA building. Patton indicated that Facilities is aware of the issue but had been asked not to research a desirable location until the Board approved the position. Issues related to office location, access to information, and levels of authority would be included in the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Steering Committee directed Patton to post the position in order to recruit candidates but that the Memorandum of Understanding should be signed by parties prior to the hiring of a candidate.

II. Pretrial Program Evaluation to BOC

Scott Patton informed the Steering Committee that a question had been raised at a Board meeting related to the pretrial program. Barbara Bergman clarified that the issue that the Board would like addressed is whether the program adds value to the justice system. J Cedric Simpson responded that the program has been only partially implemented and that he and the Prosecutor have agreed to send out notices to appear on a three week cycle. This is scheduled to begin on October 1st. He advised a report to be scheduled after this date.

Brian Mackie cautioned that the value of the program should not be interpreted exclusively within the context of the jail population, as there are other benefits that occur. These impacts may improve public safety. Archie Brown agreed by noting that having verified information when he receives bond motions allows for a more informed decision.

Bob Guenzel asked Patton to inquire with Community Corrections about measures that are being used as a part of the State grant. Patton agreed to do so and respond to the Steering Committee with what he uncovers.

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III. Alternative Sanctions Project

Scott Patton informed the Committee that part of the Board's space planning process is to review alternatives to incarceration and understand which alternatives might be utilized in order to reduce space needed in the jail. He has met with jail staff, Community Corrections, and plans to meet with 14A District Court and Probation as well. The intent is to demonstrate the capacity for each step identified in the "Continuum of Sanctions" chart that was included as a part of the Administrator's Recommendations.

Bob Guenzel inquired about how mental health diversion proposals fit into this effort. Patton responded that the proposals would enhance a few different levels of the continuum. The Steering Committee advised that "alternative sanctions project" is a misleading title for this effort and a better term is "alternatives to incarceration report."

V. Full Council Agenda/Other Business

The Steering Committee reviewed the full agenda and decided to dedicate time to the MPRI discussion and asked that that item be discussed first. They also inquired about the agenda item identified "Apply Overcrowding Policies and Practices Everyday" as to who might present on that item. Patton responded that it was an item that received support at the retreat and the Sheriff's staff was identified as the accountable party. Patton agreed to phone the Undersheriff and determine whether that was an item they wished to present and if not, he would remove it from the agenda.

Adjourned 8:27 a.m.

Next Steering Committee meeting 10/13/06.