

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2005

200 North Main Lower Level Conference Room

Ann Arbor, MI

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Archie Brown (Circuit Court Chief Judge), J. Cedric Simpson (District Court Presiding Judge), Glenn Cotton (Attorney, Public Representative), Lloyd Powell (Public Defender/Defense Attorney), Paul Bunten (Chief of Police, City of Saline), Barbara Levin Bergman (Community Corrections Advisory Board Chair), Dan Minzey (County Sheriff), Barbara Ryan Fuller (Public Representative), Bob Guenzel (County Administrator), Lawrence Kestenbaum (Clerk/Register), Kathy Reynolds (Executive Director, WCHO), Wesley Prater (Board of Commissioners Chair), Brian Mackie (County Prosecutor)

Members Absent: John Shea (Attorney, Bar Association Representative), Patrick Hughes (Department of Corrections Probation), William McFarlane (Township Supervisor, Superior Charter Township), Dan Dwyer (Trial Court Administrator)

Others Present: Scott Patton (CJCC Staff), George Siasoco (CJCC Intern), Karen Edman (Chief Deputy Clerk/Register), Gary Greenfield (Corrections Lieutenant), Julie Chaffee (Director of Community Corrections), Kerry Sheldon (Management Analyst), Delphia Simpson (Public Defender Manager)

Convened: 7:41 a.m.

I. Supporting Documents and Public Participation

Attendees were given the following supporting documents:

- CJCC Full Council Agenda
- Minutes from the January 21, 2005 CJCC meeting
- CJCC Meeting Schedule for 2005 (Draft)
- “Reasons Why Arrests Have Decreased and Jail is Overcrowded” Handout
- “Vote Yes on Proposal A” Campaign Promotional Handouts

No Public Participation.

II. Approval of January 21, 2005 CCJC Meeting Minutes

The motion to accept the minutes was made by Bob Guenzel, supported by Paul Bunten, and approved unanimously by CJCC members.

III. Public Engagement Briefing

Archie Brown recognized the efforts of members through the public engagement campaign over the past few months. He indicated the presence of a protest campaign that encouraged voters to “Vote No on A”. Bob Guenzel noted that the signs posted by these protesters were illegally placed on railroad bridges and should be removed.

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Bob Guenzel reported that the public engagement efforts have gone as well as could be expected. It has educated the public on the issues regarding public safety and justice. It has also drawn members together as a collaborative council. CJCC members indicated that presentations to the Kiwanis Club, Milan City Council, and downtown Rotary Club went very well. Bob Guenzel reported that he and Julie Chaffee will be on a call-in radio talk show on WEMU at noon today to talk about the millage proposal.

Bob Guenzel also reported that he would be appearing at a WAAM radio interview on Saturday, February 19th, which should close the public engagement efforts. The *Ann Arbor News* will also print out one more article related to the proposal before February 22nd.

Barbara Ryan Fuller also mentioned that Leah Gunn will be collecting election results from polling stations on February 22nd. She encouraged members who were interested in helping out to contact Leah Gunn. She also reported positive feedback on the proposal from the township dailies, including letters of support in the York Township area. Bob Guenzel invited members to gather at Argierro's restaurant after the polls close to monitor results.

IV. CJCC Six-Month Calendar

Scott Patton reported on the CJCC's future meetings through the full council, inmate reintegration, and data subsystems committees. The draft calendar presents the interrelated nature of these forums, their agendas, key outcomes, when these conversations will take place, and when the Board of Commissioners will be updated.

Bob Guenzel indicated that whether the millage passes or not, the smaller project team will oversee the planning/construction and implement the budget policies developed by the Board of Commissioners with input from the CJCC. Gordon Burger (Director of Planning and Budget) will draft a request for proposal for the project team leader position. Discussions are underway on whether to use the Building Authority for the construction phase. He anticipated that the CJCC will be very involved in the process in the coming years.

V. CJCC Retreat

Scott Patton reported that the half-day CJCC retreat is scheduled for March 18, 2005 (7:30-11:30 a.m., Lower Level Conference Room, 200 N. Main, Ann Arbor). The agenda will focus on reviewing the CJCC's accomplishments over the previous year, conversations around what change has the CJCC done in terms of community, internal operations, financial perspective, and human resource/organizational perspective. This meeting will reconfirm priorities that have been reestablished around inmate reintegration and information systems integration, as well as other initiatives.

Scott Patton will send out the agenda one week prior to the meeting for members' review. All CJCC members are invited to attend, as well as any other participants that members feel could contribute to these conversations. Jim Robertson will be facilitating the meeting.

VI. Arrest Rate Information

Julie Chaffee referred members to the "Reasons Why Arrests Have Decreased and Jail is Overcrowded" Handout. She noted a few significant points: 1) the use of "arrests" or "types of offenses" instead of "crime rate", 2) cause of reduction in arrests, 3) types of offenses that have seen reductions, 4) rationale for an overcrowded county jail despite fewer arrests made since 1998.

VII. Subcommittee Updates

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Scott Patton reported that the data systems integration subcommittee meeting went very well. He noted the short term goal of putting together a monthly report for the CJCC and long term goal of integration of the data systems in the criminal justice system. The group decided on the 25-30 data points that may assist in the CJCC's policy development, identified the source of this data, and the facility of researching this information. Another discussion point was the appearance of the report, and tracking trends. He noted that the project will be a work in progress, on which the CJCC will have input and opportunities to review and clarify.

Scott Patton also updated members on the first inmate reintegration subcommittee meeting. He said that the state is currently managing a prisoner reentry initiative, with a focus on reducing recidivism. Some elements of this initiative can be replicated in Washtenaw County. He explained that transition accountability plans, which track inmate reintegration from jail to human services agencies that deal with employment, housing and life skills, would be applicable in the county. The model also takes into account strengths of the inmates such as ties to the community and church-based ties, which may help in the reintegration.

Bob Guenzel reported that Phil Farrell, leader of the Ministerial Alliance, would be very interested in these efforts to reintegrate individuals back into the community and offer support for those with families at risk. Julie Chaffee reported on possible funding opportunities linked to a pilot program launched by the state. Moreover, the state will be transferring inmates from prison to a transitory prison/half-way house located closer to their communities, in preparation for release. Discussion ensued on what the state/county supports in terms of housing, especially for those with a criminal/prison record and the safety issues involved.

VIII. Pretrial Services

Archie Brown proposed the formation of a subcommittee to deal with issues regarding pretrial services. He noted that criticism has been made of the arbitrariness of bond decisions, which is a result of the limited information presented to a judge or magistrate at the first arraignment hearing. He indicated that this issue could be addressed by developing a pretrial services unit such as the Oakland County model.

Archie Brown added that the Oakland County unit has personnel working during non-regular business hours doing interviews, getting information together for a report for arraignments the next morning. This unit would present this information for specific cases that would be eligible for some intensive investigation on the appropriate bond. Judges would make more informed decisions on how easy bonds can be posted in order to release individuals to their connections within the community. While there would be associated costs, grant opportunities can be explored.

J Cedric Simpson noted that in the absence of more information on each case, judges tend to lean towards a more conservative judgment on setting bonds. He reiterated the importance of establishing this type of unit sooner rather than later. However, the technical aspects of these discussions should take into account the discretionary powers of the magistrate in these proceedings. Barbara Levin Bergman indicated that there should be a broad consensus and participation from various constituents in this unit.

Archie Brown encouraged members interested in participating in this subcommittee, as well as other appropriate parties, to submit their names to Scott Patton.

IX. Domestic Violence

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Brian Mackie reported that \$700,000 five-year grant serving efforts to reduce domestic violence is coming to end in August 2005 and will not be repeated. Two separate applications of \$400,000 each over two years are being processed. Unless funding continues, he indicated that domestic violence prosecutions will diminish as the numbers of dedicated probation officers are reduced. Bob Guenzel suggested that the CJCC could provide input into this funding issue during pending budget discussions with the Board of Commissioners. Barbara Ryan Fuller noted that private resources, through donations, may be available for initiatives to address the budget shortfall from the expiration of the current grant, and limited public funding.

J Cedric Simpson indicated that prosecution of domestic violence offenders is hindered by sporadic and inconsistent information. Domestic violence offenders who are classed as felons have to also be incorporated into this standardization process. Currently, third time offenders may receive less restrictions than a first time offender.

X. Other Items

At the previous CJCC meeting, Gordon Burger shared a process through which CJCC issues can be aligned with the County Planning Process. The first step in that process is a presentation to the Board of Commissioners on justice-related issues. Scott Patton will put together a draft presentation – the outline of which is consistent with other presentations that the Board has already received but most of the content is taken from other CJCC presentations. He requested that members review this document and return comments or suggestions.

Adjourned 8:55 a.m.

Next Criminal Justice Collaborative Committee meeting will be on 3/18/05, **7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**, at 200 North Main Lower Level Conference Room.