

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

CJCC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Administrative Building, Lower Level Conference Room
220 N. Main
July 14, 2006 -7:30 a.m.

Members Attending: Archie Brown (Circuit Court Chief Judge), Lloyd Powell (Public Defender), Dan Minzey (Sheriff), Brian Mackie (County Prosecutor)

Members Absent: J Cedric Simpson (District Court Presiding Judge),
Bob Guenzel (County Administrator),

Others Present: Scott Patton (CJCC Staff), Sheila Blakney (Senior Assistant, Public Defender), Barbara Levin Bergman (CCAB Chair), Delphia Simpson

Meeting Convened: 7:38 a.m.

Steering Committee Chair Archie Brown chaired the meeting.

Supporting Documents

Attendees were given the following documents:

- Draft Full Council Agenda

I. Data Integration Update

Scott Patton presented three brief items regarding the data integration update. First, Scott notified the steering committee that the IT division is entering into a contract with a local organization called Data Space. The purpose of this contract is two-fold:

- 1) To produce the reports that the CJCC has been requesting around various data elements.
- 2) To facilitate the synchronization of the jail and court databases.

Scott explained that this endeavor is not complete systems integration and that the system is not changing servers, but just a shift toward increasing the information available. Scott reported that the CJCC decided to contract with Data Space based on their previous work with Oakland County on a similar project. Scott also advised that group that it may be worthwhile to speak with Oakland County colleagues to gain insight on potential barriers or benefits. Scott informed the group that the CJCC will have Data Space present a demonstration for the Sharing and Integration committee, as well as any CJCC participant that is interested.

Scott then reported to the group that the CJCC will be collaborating with a national non-for-profit called Search.Com that specializes in data integration around the justice system. This organization will be used to aid the county in the long-term goal of vertical integration within the system.

Barbara Levin Bergman expressed concern about the interests of Community Corrections being served during this integration. Scott explained that Community Corrections has been very active in the planning process, and that their concerns will be reflected in the final project.

Scott then reported that IT department has been working with the Sheriff on automating the banding system. Scott explained that this automation will not transfigure the banding system, altogether. Judges will receive a product similar to the current one. Scott stated that the work behind creating the banding list will be different as well as accessibility of the list.

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Scott informed the group that the CJCC is looking for a project champion (someone at the elected level) to take the lead on the various items dealing with data integration.

II. Action Plan Update

1. Jail Population Manager

Scott Patton reported that Bob Guenzel requested that the CJCC expedite the development of a position description for a Jail Population Manager. Scott said that he would be researching other position descriptions from around the country to get a sense of a viable description. Scott indicated that he intends to meld his external research with CJCC internal discussions to procure a position description.

Archie Brown inquired what would be the benefit of the person in this position, and would they have the responsibility for the data integration part of this system as well? Scott replied that these are items, along with others, that will require group discussion to arrive at a group consensus. Scott also indicated that there will be a memo of understanding that outlines guidelines in terms of authority that everyone would sign off on.

2. Earned Release

Scott Patton reported that the Sheriff's department is putting together a proposal and has established a committee to enhance the County's earned release program. Scott stated that the committee met earlier in the week. Sheila Blakney stated that she attended the meeting and was quite impressed with the detail and thoroughness of the proposal thus far.

Discussion ensued about the proper terminology regarding the program. Dan Minzey advised that internally, the program is called inmate management.

Archie Brown expressed that one of the significant issues is the concern that the judges will somehow alter their sentencing. Archie Brown indicated that this program will not cause the judges to somehow frontload the sentencing, however.

Further discussion ensued about eligibility requirements for earned release. Archie Brown inquired whether or not the district judges would release domestic violence offenders.

Sheila Blakney explained that she did not think that practice a blanket condemnation. Moreover, since earned release is employed as an inmate management tool, judges are considering it now.

Brian Mackie stated that there needs to be a concerted effort to track the recidivism of those that earn release.

Further discussion about eligibility requirements ensued. Sheila Blakney expressed concerns with the fact that some offenders may be excluded from various stated funded programs. This, in turn, may delay a release due to failure to complete these programs. Sheila stated that inmates should not be penalized for not participating in programs that they weren't eligible for.

3. Action Plan Revisited

Scott Patton informed the committee that considerable progress is being made in most areas of the action plan. Scott then requested clarification on several action plan steps, and whether or not further CJCC assistance was needed, such as including bonds in the bench warrant.

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Archie Brown, speaking on behalf of the circuit court, expressed that this may be a practice that has to implemented on case-by-case basis due to the variety of bench warrants. Archie Brown also stated that there was no assistance needed from the CJCC at this time, and that the Courts are applying overcrowding practices and policies daily.

III. MPRI

Brian Mackie expressed concern about the general lack of awareness about MPRI, and suggested that the CJCC takes strides in raising awareness. Mackie also indicated that there are several points of contention regarding MPRI.

Further discussion ensued regarding MPRI. Barbara Levin Bergman reported that a faith-based initiative with goals similar to those of MPRI already exists. She offered that there be an attempt at cooperation between the two programs, but only if the faith-based initiative does not exercise discriminatory practices. Barbara Levin Bergman requested to be put on record as stating that she will not condone County contracts or programming, regardless how laudable, that do not provide equal access to all. If people are excluded on any level, the County has no business participating.

Scott Patton indicated that he was unaware of the faith based community action board, but he would acquire additional information about it. Scott recommended that this issue be further discussed during that August meeting.

V. Full Council Agenda/Other Business

Scott Patton reported that Deb Pippins will be discussing jail diversion. Space plan discussion will be the major agenda item. The key issues will be dealing with jail expansion and 14A District Court.

In the interest of time, Scott Patton stated that he will prepare a memo on committee updates.

Adjourned 8:50 a.m.

Next Steering Committee meeting 8/11/06.