

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

CJCC Cull Council Minutes

**May 18, 2007
LLRC- Room A
Ann Arbor, MI
7:30am – 9:00am**

Members Present: Dan Dwyer (Trial Court Administrator), Jeff Irwin (Board of Commissioners, Chair), Brian Mackie (County Prosecutor), Archie Brown (Circuit Court Chief Judge), Bob Guenzel (County Administrator), Ann Mattson (15th District Court Chief Judge), Barbara Ryan Fuller (Public Representative), J. Cedric Simpson (14A District Court Chief Judge), John Shea (Attorney, Bar Association Representative), Lawrence Kestenbaum (Clerk/Register), Robert Brackenbury (Public Representative), Mike Moran (Ann Arbor Township Supervisor), Paul Bunten (Chief of Police, City of Saline)

Members Absent: Kathy Reynolds (Executive Director, WCHO), Patrick Hughes (Department of Corrections Probation), Charles Pope (Magistrate-14B District Court), Barbara Levin Bergman (Community Corrections Advisory Chair), Lloyd Powell (Public Defender/Defense Attorney), Dan Minzey (County Sheriff)

Others Present: Kenita Montgomery (CJCC Intern), Kirk Filsinger (Jail Commander), Delphia Simpson (Public Defender's Office), Scott Patton (CJCC Staff), Mark Creekmore (CIT), Michelle Rose-Armstrong (CIT)

Call to Order

CJCC Chair J. Cedric Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:40am.

I. Approval of Minutes

Scott Patton indicated that Robert Brackenbury sent out corrections to the minutes via email. The motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2007, CJCC Full Council meeting was made by Barbara Fuller, seconded by Paul Bunten; unanimously approved by CJCC members.

II. Public Participation

None.

III. CJCC Updates

Public Safety and Justice Project Oversight Committee

Jim Zwolensky briefed the group of the three components of the County Space Plan. He indicated that there has been tremendous progress with the 14A1 District Court, the jail, and the Saline Court, and projects are right on schedule.

Jim Zwolensky then asked group to refer to handout for a summary of the process. He indicated that various firms that collaborated together for the design of the jail. Jim Zwolensky stated that over the past two weeks, two small groups met to discuss in detail both the jail and district court master plans. A design team was also brought on board to get a written report on mechanical and technical problems and to create a detailed report prioritizing the various issues. The next phase is to finalize the space plan and then use that document as a road map for creating the floor plans.

Barbara Fuller expressed that the last jail millage was debated in part because the Washtenaw County residents did not understand the problems of/necessity for a new district court. Barbara Fuller offered that there is a great deal going on that is invisible to the tax payers. Therefore, the County should establish a rapport with the press to help communicate the tax payers the gravity of the situation.

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Jim Zwolensky indicated that he presented the Project Management Guidelines to the POC that included a communication diagram. Initially, there will information posted on e-Central, and the plan is to ultimately post information on e-Washtenaw to communicate with County residents.

J. Cedric Simpson echoed Barbara Fuller sentiments, and offered that unless individuals in these buildings have to use the services, it does not resonate about how grave the situation is. Bob Brackenbury offered that the Ann Arbor Observer would be a good medium source for this. Barbara Fuller indicated that she and Scott Patton will meet to discuss a communication action plan.

Jim Zwolensky reported that CDPA architects were hired to complete the Saline Court project. He will be meeting with court administration for more feedback regarding that project. Jim Zwolensky indicated that the budgets for these projects are fixed, and project scope will be completed with the available funds. Jim Zwolensky reported that the final meeting for project feedback is scheduled for Friday, May 25th.

John Shea asked what kind of involvement the Bar Association has on conference room availability to deal with clients. J. Cedric Simpson indicated that this is an issue he has considered, and in each plan there have been conference room availability from the beginning. Jim Zwolensky stated that he still intends to meet with the Prosecutor's office, Public Defenders, and will add the private bar association to the list.

Mike Moran asked if there has been public report identifying the deficiencies within the system. Scott Patton indicated the County already has the data and capacity to generate the reports, but must be better at communicating it to the public.

Crisis Intervention Team

Mark Creekmore explained that over the last 4-5 years, there has been a national movement to provide training to police and community to prevent the unnecessary arrests of people with mental illnesses. Mark Creekmore explained that largely, it is a county by county effort, but there is a national conference during August in Memphis. Mark Creekmore stated that this is part of the sequential intercept model; a jail diversion tactic toward the front end. Currently, CIS is working to expand to 3 other counties and seek further funding from private foundations. Michigan is behind in the development of this.

Mark Creekmore reported that thus far, roughly 17 officers in Washtenaw County have been trained. The problem is that there is a 40 hour training process, and it is difficult to pay for backfill of law enforcement officers.

John Shea asked if the program has a budget, and what does it fund. Mark Creekmore reported that the program currently has an annual budget of \$190,000 for 4 counties. This would fund one coordinator for each county, who would be responsible for tracking of cases. Bob Brackenbury offered that officers could be given training up front at the police academy.

Barbara Fuller asked if the CIT would need a letter of support from this group. Barbara Fuller also suggested that both Veterans Affairs and the JHET Foundation might be other avenues for help. Barbara Fuller also indicated that CIT should establish a relationship with someone in the media to inform the public about the program. Mark Creekmore indicated that he had a form letter and a training schedule that he would email to the CJCC via Scott Patton. Also, if people were interested in being on the CIT distribution list, they should email Mark Creekmore.

Commissioner Presentation

J. Cedric Simpson reported that the BOC presentation went well, and commissioners had very few questions. The BOC understood where the CJCC is headed, understood the goals, and will keep these things in mind when moving forward. The presentation is on the County's website.

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IV. Retreat Follow-Up

J. Cedric Simpson referred group to CJCC goals that resulted from the retreat. J. Cedric Simpson asked the body if they thought that these are the goals that the CJCC should pursue, even if the body does not meet them all.

Ann Mattson stated that with regards to goal #5, she is in the process of collecting data on programs that Probation employs as alternatives to jail. This discussion was expanded to the alternative sanctions group during the retreat.

Scott Patton suggested that the body entertains a motion to adopt these goals as the official goals of the CJCC over the course of the next year. A motion was made by Bob Brackenbury to adopt the goals, seconded by Paul Bunten, and unanimously approved by the CJCC.

Scott Patton asked for feedback on what the body's next steps should be with regards to the goals. Scott Patton offered that there are already several standing committees looking into these issues.

Brian Mackie asked how do does the body go about fleshing these things about. Scott Patton offered that the body works to identify gaps in data and do analysis to fill gaps, as well as dollar figures.

Scott Patton reported that the goals were presented to the BOC last week, and the BOC was asked to consider these matters during the County budget planning process.

J. Cedric Simpson offered CJCC is involved primarily through programming, presentations, and recommendations, since it does not have the authority to appropriate dollars. John Shea offered that the CJCC state its goals in a way that says the body monitors and recommends, instead of a way that may mislead the public to believing it controls these things.

VI. MPRI

Brian Mackie indicated that the CJCC should monitor closely the MPRI because of the potential impact it could have on Washtenaw County. Brian Mackie stated that he will distribute presentation synopsis next meeting. Brian Mackie indicated that the MPRI was under-funded from the onset, and funding is consistently cut. That State wants the counties provide services, but the State is not providing enough money to provide these things. Furthermore, 73 offenders released by the State will be coming to Washtenaw County and will be in community placement programs. This is a population that needs a tremendous amount of services, and Washtenaw County (and other counties) is getting pressured to absorb the blows from the cuts in the state budget.

Mike Moran asked if it was a practice of the jail to destroy identification of those transported to the jail. Kirk Filsinger replied that this was never a practice of the jail. Discussion ensued about identification problems that arise with offenders.

J. Cedric Simpson stated that it might be of value to have bi-monthly reports on the matter, so the body can make an assessment on where the County needs to head with this process. Archie Brown offered that it is critical to have the updates, so there can be pushback from bodies like the CJCC. It might be of value to recommend to the BOC that the County takes a formal position on the matter later down the line.

Delphia Simpson expressed that these problems are also unfair to the individuals; offenders leave jail believing they will receive services, and actually get nothing.

Barbara Fuller offered that the County looks at places that already exist to house offenders, such as abandoned hotels.

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VII. New Business

A brief presentation was given on the new County directory. Larry Kestenbaum indicated that the directory was not paid for by the County, but by advertisements. Please contact him with any corrections, errors, or potential advertisers.

Mike Moran offered that the body work on the wording of the CJCC goals, and come back next meeting with a motion for the goal's approval.

VIII. Adjournment

J. Cedric Simpson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:07.

Next meeting

The next CJCC Full Council meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 15, 2007, 7:30am at the LLRC, Room A.