

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

**CJCC Full Council Minutes
February 20, 2009
200 N. Main, Lower Level
Ann Arbor, MI
7:30-9:00a**

Members Present: Dan Dwyer (Trial Court Administrator), Patrick Hughes (Department of Corrections Probation), Michael Moran (Ann Arbor Township Supervisor), Rolland Sizemore (Chair, County Board of Commissioners), Lloyd Powell (Public Defender), Jerry Clayton (County Sheriff), John Shea (Attorney, Bar Association Representative), Kirk Tabbey (14-A District Court Chief Judge), Brian Mackie (County Prosecutor), Charles Pope (14-B District Court Judge), Barbara Levin Bergman (Community Corrections Advisory Chair), David Swartz (Circuit Court Chief Judge), Robert Guenzel (County Administrator), Matt Harshberger (Chief of Police, City of Ypsilanti), Libby Hines (15th District Court Chief Judge Pro Tempore), Michael Fried (Public Representative), Robert Brackenbury (Public Representative)

Members Absent: Lawrence Kestenbaum (Clerk/Register), Donna Sabourin (CSTS Director)

Others Present: Scott Patton (Assistant to the County Administrator for Public Safety), Steve Hiller (County Prosecutor), Sheila Blakney (Public Defender's Office), Delphia Simpson (Public Defender's Office), Jack Overhiser (Support Services), Julie Chaffee (Community Corrections Director), Kyle DeBord (Administration Intern)

Call to Order

Chair Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:35a.

I. Introductions

II. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2008 CJCC Full Council meeting was made by Moran, seconded by Bergman; all in favor

III. Public Participation

None.

IV. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Guenzel presented that at the CJCC Steering Committee meeting the week prior it was discussed to nominate Shea as Chair, Clayton as Vice-Chair. Bergman seconded. All in favor

V. 2009 Calendar Adoption

Bergman wanted to know if the committee could meet monthly or at least reserve the right to do so. Shea agreed. It was decided that for now to keep the proposed meeting schedule.

The question arose as to whether the 200 N. Main location was preferred over the LRC. It was determined that given the current condition of the LRC, the meetings should continue at the current location. Guenzel moved to adopt the calendar. All in favor.

VI. **County Budget Update**

Guenzel stated that the Board of Commissioners saw a presentation on the budget on Feb. 4 and budget revenues on Feb. 18. He would like to use the CJCC to get feedback on public safety issues. The context of the budget problem isn't limited to Washtenaw County but is nationwide. The major issue is the loss of property tax as property taxes make up about 70% of county budget. Some short-term and structural changes have been implemented (such as transfer of the Library for Blind and Physically Disabled). County is hoping for the best, planning for the worst. 60% of the budget goes to personnel costs.

Indicators of long-term impact, which have been used in the past, are no longer useful. Best case scenario is an \$18 million deficit by 2011; worst case is \$28 million deficit by 2011. Board of Commissioners decided to plan for worst case scenario and is looking at all options to cover shortfall. Moran noted that property values fall fast but inquired about whether they recover as fast? Guenzel stated that as property values rise they will be capped by Proposal A. Bergman stated that allocations to outside agencies are a safety net that will be considered by the BOC. She also would like the public to know these allocations.

Fried asked about impact of the stimulus package. Guenzel replied that some dollars will help supplant some General Fund obligation and that any anticipated stimulus dollars were not built into budget projections.

Clayton stated that the total investment in police services goes against total expenditures, not just police services contract. He added that it will be important to identify offenders who can pay some to offset costs.

Guenzel stated that while the Ann Arbor News has reported that possibilities exist to raise the millage rate, the BOC didn't want to do that and there hasn't been much luck with millage increases historically. County must reduce the cost of doing business.

Sizemore stated the budget is in trouble. All departments will be looked at by BOC and administration. He warned that there will be cuts. Administration has been instructed to have recommendations to commissioners by June. He asked CJCC members to direct any questions to Bob Guenzel.

It was suggested to move item 8(Blueprint for a Safer Michigan, Mackie) later on the agenda, in place of item 7 (State Updates, Patton)

VII. **State Updates**

Shea commented on the memo circulated by Patton containing committee updates. Fried asked what the CJCC goals were for 2009. Shea responded that they would be worked on in the next 30-60 days.

Patton referred to two documents from the Council of State Governments to the group and one from the Michigan Department of Corrections:

- (1) Analyses of Crime, Community Corrections, and Sentencing Policies.
- (2) Policy Options to Deter Crime, Lower Recidivism, and Reduce Spending on Corrections
- (3) MDOC Executive Budget Recommendations

Patton gave a summary of each (on file) and identified major findings and conclusions. Mackie discussed the findings and recommendations of the reports. Shea advised to not rely too heavily on the statistics. But that there is something for everyone in the reports. Mackie agreed, stating that the report is still valuable. He offered some reasons as to why data was flawed. He also stated Michigan has fewer police officers on the street today than after Sept. 11, 2001.

VIII. **Blueprint for a Safer Michigan**

Mackie stated that prosecutors state-wide wrote the *Blueprint for a Safer Michigan*. Blueprint was an attempt to get a structure in place so as to better understand where long-term planning is necessary. He added that the county has a strong Public Defender system.

Shea asked if Mackie has ideas on how Blueprint can be applied locally. Mackie said it helps them think about what we're already doing. There is a need to discuss Juvenile Justice more. He advised that the CJCC should look at the entire picture. Judge Tabbey said the Blueprint is full of good ideas and options and that it helps to illustrate how non-mandated services support mandated services. Shea said Michigan Dept. of Corrections has a wealth of county statistics and asked if Mackie could get the county-by-county data that underlies the Council of State Governments study. Mackie noted the difficulty in comparisons.

IX. **Adjournment**

Shea adjourned the meeting at 9:06a

Next Meeting:

The next CJCC Full Council meeting is scheduled for Friday April 17, 2009, 7:30a, at 200 N. Main, Lower Level Conference Room