

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council (Inmate Reintegration Subcommittee)

Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2005

220 N. Main, Lower Level Conference Room

Ann Arbor, MI

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Scott Patton (CJCC Staff), Ruth Shabazz (Shelter Association of Washtenaw County), Ruby Smith (ETCS Community Programs), Barbara Levin Bergman Community Corrections Board Advisory Chair), Deb Pippins (Supervisor Project Outreach, CSTS), Kirk Filsinger (Jail Commander), George Siasoco (CJCC Intern), Julie M. Chaffee (Director, Community Corrections), Delphia Simpson (Public Defender Manager), Sheila Blakney (Senior Assistant, Public Defender), Gary Greenfield (Corrections Lieutenant), Karen Korte (Corrections Lieutenant), Rick Visel (Director, Correctional Services)

Convened: 2:00 p.m.

I. Sheriff's Report

Kirk Filsinger clarified that the Sheriff's Department's plan for inmate reintegration, presented at the previous meeting, was meant to serve as discussion points to gain input from the subcommittee, rather than a completed proposal. He stressed the importance of cooperation within the public safety and justice system in order to achieve success with these programs. He reported that his staff is continuing to look at best practice models which can be mirrored in the county. They will be ready to share some of these at the next meeting.

Kirk Filsinger also noted that that while they have identified some potential sources of funding, his staff has not currently initiated steps to secure these sources. Barbara Levin Bergman advised that the Sheriff's Department should not seek these sources out, and continue to work with the Department of Community Corrections as a cohesive group to prevent a duplication of effort.

Discussion ensued on the importance of continued communications between the two departments, the definition of roles, and the integration of the jail proposals into a larger inmate reintegration program that already exists. Sheila Blakney agreed with Julie Chaffee that the county already has implemented some of these, just not very efficiently. To initiate a holistic discussion of inmate reintegration, Julie Chaffee suggested use of the third page of Joe DeGraff's public safety and justice systems map. Scott Patton will send out to members a link to the public website which has this systems map.

II. Charter

Scott Patton indicated that the purpose of the charter is to define the scope, roles and responsibilities of the various subcommittees of the CJCC. He will then set up a timeline which will show each group's charge and outcomes and how these align with the goals of the CJCC on a timely basis.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the proposed charter, and the composition of the group. Commenting on Section 3.1, Barbara Levin Bergman advised that the committee should not operate on a consensus model. Scott Patton clarified when a consensus cannot be reached, the chairperson can: 1) call for a vote, 2) invoke Roberts Rules of Order. Members agreed that while multiple persons from a department may participate at the meetings, only one person will vote to represent the department or agency (e.g., Sheriff's Department, Prosecutor's Office, etc.)

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Julie Chaffee advised that membership should mirror the state representation for inmate reintegration, which would ensure a sound basis for future addition or elimination of departmental representation. Discussion ensued on who should represent human services, mental health services, labor services, public defender, and faith-based groups. Members referred several candidates who expressed an interest in collaborating on inmate services and reintegration. Members agreed that invitations should be extended to the Ministerial Alliance, Friends Services, and other faith-based groups. Ruth Shabazz advised adding representatives from the state entitlement programs and substance abuse treatment. Kirk Filsinger advised that input from the judicial bench should also be included. Members agreed that Steven Hiller should be invited to represent the Prosecutor's Office.

Scott Patton will draft text for an advertisement calling for members representing: 1) substance abuse treatment 2) faith-based community. He will forward this to Barbara Levin Bergman for her approval for printing. The subcommittee will review resumes from interested candidates, and refer them to the CJCC for appointment. Members agreed that new appointments would be for six months to one year.

George Siasoco and Scott Patton will make the following changes to the charter and forward the revised document to members:

- Sec. 1.3, "To recommend to the CJCC how best to reduce recidivism by identifying and/or removing barriers that prevent offenders from successfully transitioning from judicial supervision to being productive members of society"
- Add bylaw on amending the charter: "CJCC Inmate Reintegration Subcommittee can amend the charter at any time. Once amended, the CJCC Steering Committee will be notified."

Members agreed that the subcommittee will make final recommendations within 12 to 18 months to the CJCC, with preliminary recommendations submitted within six months.

III. State MPRI

Scott Patton noted that the state's efforts at reducing recidivism through prisoner reintegration have some overlap with the county's efforts with local inmate reintegration, in terms of personnel. He asked members to recommend strategies for achieving efficiencies.

Julie Chaffee recommended that the county simply duplicate the initiatives and programs that the state develops, with some adjustment for length of time the county has to work with inmates and connections with the community. Members noted the importance of grant and county funding in order to achieve proper success with these revised programs.

Discussion ensued on how success will be determined. Julie Chaffee said that outcomes can be measured through the JPIS reports, and quarterly evaluation of policy and impact on jail populations, or number of successful transitions through employment.

IV. Funding Follow-up

Deb Pippins reported that meetings are underway to discuss progress on the CMC proposal before the deadline. If approved, the proposal will increase funding for mental health diversion programs, with an emphasis on the assertive community treatment (ACT) component. She added that the proposal includes the hiring of staff for inmate assessment in the jail. Scott Patton reported that Archie Brown (Circuit Court Chief Judge) is currently drafting a letter in support of this proposal.

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Deb Pippins noted that if the grant is not approved, the text from this proposal could be used again for other grant applications. Barbara Levin Bergman complimented Deb Pippins and Donna Sabourin (Director, CSTS) on all the work they have made towards completion of the proposal. Deb Pippins indicated that the county will receive results of the proposal in a few months after submission.

Adjourned: 3:30 p.m.

Next Inmate Reintegration Subcommittee meeting will be on 6/03/05, **12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, at Annex First Floor Conference Room.