

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2006

200 North Main Lower Level Conference Room

Ann Arbor, MI

7:30am – 9:00am

Members Present: Dan Dwyer (Trial Court Administrator), Wesley Prater (Board of Commissioners, Chair), Patrick Hughes (Department of Corrections Probation), Brian Mackie (County Prosecutor), Barbara Levin Bergman (Community Corrections Advisory Chair), Lloyd Powell (Public Defender/Defense Attorney), Kathy Reynolds (Executive Director, WCHO), Dan Minzey (County Sheriff), Archie Brown (Circuit Court Chief Judge), Bob Guenzel (County Administrator), Mike Moran (Ann Arbor Township Supervisor)

Members Absent: Lawrence Kestenbaum (Clerk/Register), Barbara Ryan Fuller (Public Representative), John Shea (Attorney, Bar Association Representative), J. Cedric Simpson (14A District Court Chief Judge), Paul Bunten (Chief of Police, City of Saline),

Others Present: Julie Chaffee (Director, Community Corrections), Scott Patton (CJCC Staff), Karen Korte (Sheriff's Department), Delphia Simpson (Public Defender Manager), Sheila Blakney (Senior Assistant, Public Defender), Bob Davidow (Public Representative), Rick Visel (Director, Correctional Services), Ann Mattson (15th District Court Chief Judge), Kenita Montgomery (CJCC Intern),

Call to Order

In the absence of CJCC Chair Archie Brown, Commissioner Wes Prater called the meeting to order at 7:40am.

I. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2006, CJCC Full Council meeting was made by Wesley Prater, seconded by Bob Guenzel; approved by CJCC members.

II. Public Participation

None.

III. Mental Health Resolution

Deb Pippins and Donna Sabourin presented a slide show to the council on CSTS/PORT Jail Diversion and Jail Services. The slideshow is available on line for further reference. Throughout the presentation several significant points were established. They include:

- Over 700,000 adults with serious mental illnesses are booked into US jails each year.
- WC Jail averages 365 inmates per day, and 1/3 have mental health needs
- There are three sequential intercepts for change that help identify individuals as early as possible in their interactions with the justice system.
- Treatment in lieu of Jail is preferable for a number of individuals with a mental illness
- Individuals with mental illness are significantly overrepresented in the criminal justice system.
- Individuals with significant mental health needs often benefit from involvement with the criminal justice system
- Conversely: Individual unnecessarily end up in the criminal justice system when as a result in part of not receiving appropriate mental health treatment.
- The goal is to use both systems correctly and appropriately to assure quality treatment services and public and personal safety.

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- Although occurrences of violence by mentally ill can be tragic and get dramatic coverage, the majority of individuals with a mental illness are not violent and need our protection and support.

Discussion ensued following the presentation. Several questions were raised by the council members. They include:

Herb Mahony inquired as to whether data on the follow-up evaluations once an individual has screened positive existed. Deb Pippins explained that this is data that CSTS is currently trying to collect. Of all of the people that are screened, over half has no medical insurance.

Bob Guenzel inquired about how many staff positions were funded by the CSTS/PORT pending grants, and what other services will the grants provide. Deb replied that only 1 and ½ of PORT's 2 1/2 positions are funded by the grant, and it is hopeful that these will be continued. Deb also stated that the grants could potentially provide support for police training.

Brian Mackie expressed a concern with formula used to calculate jail bed days saved. Brian offered that a more accurate measure is whether or not judges are altering their sentencing practices.

Scott Patton inquired about releasing information to the public. Deb Pippins indicated that the data was not yet ready for public consumption.

IV. Committee Update- Written (Memo)

Scott Patton explained that although the CJCC normally receives verbal committee and action plan updates, the steering committee advised a written update in the interest of saving time. Scott then opened the floor for any particular questions that the group had.

Mike Fried inquired as to whether anyone has looked into grant funds for information gathering. Herb Mahony offered that he has not seen anything that was a grants dealing with corrections is an untapped resource that should be explored. Scott Patton stated that he would look into this.

Herb Mahony then offered a clarification on action plan lock up point. Herb indicated that not all agencies have a lock-up facility.

Discussion ensued about the action plan. Herb Mahony expressed concern about including the Probation Department as a partner in several of the steps. Per his recommendation, probation was added as an accountability partner for the appropriate step.

Scott Patton stated that if anyone else had further questions or concerns regarding the memo, to please call him.

V. County Space Planning Engagement

Mary O'Hare presented a slide show to the council on the Washtenaw County Space Plan. The slideshow is available on line for further reference. Mary indicated that it is now time to revisit the 20 year Space Plan, and that the County was looking for input from three sources: 1)expert opinion 2)stakeholders/partner input and 3) the public perspective. Mary then posed several questions to the group relating to the jail and the courts space planning process.

Jail Expansion:

Mary O'Hare ask the group two questions regarding the jail: Should there be a Jail Expansion? If so, how large should it be expanded?

The group offered several suggestions. They include:

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Dan Dwyer indicated that he believed that it might be more pragmatic and cost effective to build a new jail rather than rebuild the current one. Dan stated that he believes the jail should be as big as the original millage bond stipulated.

Sheila Blakney expressed concerns regarding the funding and packaging of jail expansion. Sheila offered that it might be a shrewd move to separate the mental health component from the jail expansion proposal. Julie Chaffee shared this sentiment, and suggested that the probation residential center be a separate initiative as well.

Lloyd Powell proposed that when presenting things to the public they may sell better if packaged together.

District Court Discussion:

Mary O'Hare then inquired about what developments they would expect to see with the court expansion.

Herb Mahony offered that is most important for the court to be accessible, safe, and conducive to conducting business in a manner that doesn't put victims and offenders in conflict with one another. Herb stated that this is quite intimidating to victims, and the two need to be segregated.

Sheila Blakney suggested that there needs to be a secure facility for the judges. Sheila also offered that there should be a space that has adequate space for things like dispute resolution. Currently, there is a great deal of office sharing to handle this type of business, and this sharing has a tremendous impact in delaying the process, like preliminary exams, disruption, cost issues, for everyone involved. Sheila also offered that there is value in making the court aesthetically pleasing.

Judge Mattson offered that, overall, facilities are very poor from a professional standpoint. If the County is going to continue to conduct preliminary exams at the 14A-1 District Court, there needs to be a designated a space for the offices that come to visit. Magistrates often have to use libraries to conduct their business.

Julie Chaffee expressed concerns regarding the traffic flow patterns throughout the Court hallways. The district court serves a number of functions, but they all are accessed through the same entrance. Julie stated that this serves as a security risk, and that some areas should be separated.

Juvenile Detention Center:

Mary O'Hare then inquired about whether or not the group believed that the Juvenile Division of the Family Court should be centrally located with other areas of Family Court? If not, where should it be located?

Dan Dwyer stated that he believes that JDC should be located downtown with the circuit court. There is tremendous benefit to be gained by centralizing. Dan indicated that he recognizes that there is a legitimate issue with parking, so that is another issue that needs to be addressed. Dan stated that the JDC will have to be put on a separate floor from the adult division.

Mary O'Hare then asked how should the existing trial court building be improved? Dan Dwyer offered that there should be a secure prisoner entrance into the building (such as secure back hallway). He stated that the general public should never see an inmate walk through a hallway. Also, there is a severe lack of meeting space. Often time, attorney discussions have to happen in the hallway. Dan also stated that there should be efforts made to relocate MDOC Probation.

Sheila Blakney stated that she agreed with Dan in terms of the logistics and efficiencies of centralization. Yet, she'd be opposed to more things being at the services center because of how many services are already offered there. There should be things at the service center that will support/facilitate alternatives to incarceration. Sheila stated that the resources are already far stretched, and she doesn't believe that there will be enough room for expansion.

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Brian Mackie stated that he believes that it is getting too expensive to renovate the old facility and that the County should just build on a new place altogether.

Lloyd Powell echoed this sentiment and stated that it would be more expensive to try to concentrate everything downtown.

Archie Brown stated that for the sake of efficiency, all the circuit courts should be in the same location.

Sactions: What type of sanctions would be on the list should be funded to reduce the jail population?

Julie Chaffee reported that since Community Corrections has expanded eligibility, there has been a substantial increase in the number of people referred to them. Community Corrections has virtually outgrown its facility. A probation residential center is one alternative that needs to be seriously considered, especially given the number of mental health offenders.

Judge Mattson proposed looking into a work release program. In many cases, this is self supporting. Julie echoed this, and suggested that transportation be looked at this for this alternative sanction.

Sheila Blakney stated that based on programs that are offered by Community Corrections to facilitate the rehabilitation of a person, it would be more effective to offer all the services in one facility, but Community Corrections doesn't have the space to do so. This should be considered in the space plan.

Funding:

Mary O'Hare stated that there has been tremendous feedback in terms of how to fund these projects. Mary stated that when discussing these issues with the public, it is clear about the general lack of knowledge.

Wes Prater stated funding should come from existing funds, however there is still going to be opposition. Wes indicated that he doesn't believe that the county is going to get a county wide millage on these issues.

Herb Mahony replied that there may not be organized opposition, and that it may at least be worthwhile to ask the public for the funds again. Herb also offered that it may be shrewd to keep the initiatives separate to gain support. Lumping things together opens room from opposition.

Dan Dwyer indicated that he does not think a tax will pass as long as the operating cost is placed in the millage.

Kathy Reynolds suggested a human service millage.

Dan Dwyer stated that the effect of not funding these proposed building initiatives will be an inmate lawsuit about conditions at the jail, or somebody seriously getting hurt or killed, due to the lack of security in the courthouses in terms of inmate transitioning.

Lloyd Powell and Dan Minzey both offered that the public needs to understand that the magnitude of the problem and accept their responsibility for ensuring their own safety.

Kathy Reynolds stated that two new initiatives on the ballot this fall may prove problematic for the space plan, and that these should be taken into consideration.

VI. Adjournment

Archie Brown moved for adjournment at 9:17 am.

Next meeting

The next CJCC Full Council meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 18, 2006, 7:30am at 200 N. Main.