

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

Pre-trial Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2006

LLRC Conference Room B

Ann Arbor, MI

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: J. Cedric Simpson (District Court Presiding Judge) ,Scott Patton (CJCC Staff), Mike Gatti (Magistrate), Steve Hiller (Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor), Julie Chaffee (Community Corrections Director), Charlie Pope (14B District Court Magistrate)

Members Absent: Sheila Blakney (Senior Assistant, Public Defender), Mark Ptaszek (14A District Court Administrator)

Others Present: Kenita Montgomery (CJCC Staff), Renee Wilson (Community Corrections Staff)

Meeting Began: 1:40 p.m.

Pre-Trial Committee Chair J. Cedric Simpson chaired the meeting.

Supporting Documents

No supporting documents were presented in this meeting.

I. CJCC Retreat Summary

Scott gave a brief overview of the results from the CJCC retreat as it relates to the pretrial committee. Results were compiled and forwarded on the steering committee. Scott relayed that the major pretrial program recommendation was essentially that the program was a strength that the CJCC identified. But the CJCC did note that it might be better utilized if it were expanded.

II. Bonds

Judge Simpson reported that several points of consideration have come out of the CJCC regarding bonds, especially regarding PR bonds, and tracking of bonds. First quarter felony cases were compiled, and analyzed to see if the appropriate bonds had been set, and how many offenders actually posted bonds. Of 700 people that were arraigned, over 50% posted bond prior to preliminary exams (only for felony cases). When you exclude certain violent offenses (armed robbery, kidnapping, etc.) where those people would not usually receive a PR bond, the numbers increase about 5%.

Judge Simpson suggests that the Pretrial committee be used as the forum to analyze the data. He will forward on this info he compiled once he verifies it.

III. 15th District Court Forms

Scott Patton identified that the issue appears to be that arraignments for 15th District Court occur at 9:00 am, which does not allow sufficient time for the pretrial staff to verify information. Scott raised the question of whether there was anything that can be done to enhance the process.

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

Julie Chaffee suggested that it is essentially a timing issue and that moving the time up could help. In many cases, the time of arraignment conflicts with business hours, making it impossible to verify offender information. A number of things have been attempted to “tweak the system,” but to no avail.

Judge Simpson agreed that it was solely an issue of timing, thus making this the issue to address.

Julie reported that she had spoken with Judge Hines, and Judge Madson, and that they felt that it was more important to work on the felony arraignment process, to get the information early. Julie said that she would pass on Judge Madson’s e-mail to the rest of the group.

Mike Gotti said that he would go back and speak to the judges to get their opinion on the matter, and Julie stated that she would assist him in this process.

IV. Community Corrections grant

Julie Chaffee reported that the grant is due to the state May 31, 2006, and that the Pretrial component of the grant basically went in as it did the previous year.

Scott Patton asked if there was any anticipation on particular grant items, particularly the probation residential center.

Julie reported that CC doubled their bed request from 18 to 36, but believes receiving 20 is more likely.

V. Evaluation Process

Scott reported that there are two parts to the pretrial program: 1) the Community Corrections grant 2) The funds that the Board of Commissioners has dedicated. This was to be a pilot program that would be reported back to the BOC in six months. Scott asked the group about what the best approach might be to conduct this evaluation and report to the BOC. The committee agreed that qualitative data would be an effective way to communicate the value of the program.

Judge Simpson detailed several benefits of the program and cautioned that the Pretrial program ought not be connected in any way to concerns related to the jail population. Scott offered to draft recommendations for Judge Simpson’s review prior to it going to the committee for further review and comment.

Second key element in terms of timing for the evaluation to go back to the board is how things are financed. Scott reported that the resolution enabling the funding identified that Ann Arbor City and Ypsilanti Township would be asked to help fund the program. Julie clarified that the state-funded community corrections staff conduct all of the interviews for 14-B and 15th District Courts, and are not funded by the BOC.

VI. Other Process Issues (LEIN)

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

Julie stated that she asked that this item be put in the agenda because she believes it can get results. Essentially, the problem is access, and there being only one terminal that can give a hard copy of LEINs. Community Corrections is LEIN-certified, and that they want to be able to run LEINs so that they can verify info as they review it. Julie said that this would be an enhancement to the process.

Scott stated that Julie's concerns would be noted in the minutes, and that he would speak to Jail staff about the issue.

Adjourned 2:33 p.m.

Next Pre-Trial Committee meeting TBA.