



**Minutes of the Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Monday, January 24, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairwoman Dr. Elba Garcia, Dallas County Commissioner, District 4. She opened the meeting thanking immediate past chair Commissioner Mike Cantrell for his leadership of CJAB since its inception in 2008.

The first item of business was the approval of four new members to CJAB: Dallas County Clerk John Warren, Dallas County District Clerk Gary Fitzsimmons, Dallas City Councilwoman Delia Jasso, and Dr. Terry Smith, Director of the Dallas County Juvenile Department. Dr. Michael Noyes, CJAB Vice-Chair, explained the need for the continued evolution of CJAB, which included the addition of the clerks and the other two members who were filling vacancies. Charles Terrell moved approval of the additions. Chief Mitch Bates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dr. Noyes also introduced the creation of a standing Justice of the Peace committee that would specifically meet the needs of those judges. A recent lunch meeting revealed the nuances of their piece of the justice system and how none of the current CJAB committees address their issues. Councilwoman Jasso moved approval of forming the committee. Ron Stretcher seconded the motion and it was approved.

Dr. Garcia asked everyone present to introduce themselves. (Member attendance and sign-in sheet attached.)

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Mr. Fitzsimmons on the District Clerk's office. Mr. Fitzsimmons explained his plan for reorganizing the secondary clerks in each court by creating a clerk pool on the eighth floor of the Crowley Court building. He also briefly discussed WorkFlow implementation and the roll-out of the Adult Case Management System.

Next were the Standing Committee reports. Mr. Stretcher provided the Corrections Committee report and discussed the daily jail population. He reviewed the county's Criminal Justice forum on January 7, 2011.

In the Law Enforcement Committee report, Chief Bates agreed to schedule a meeting to discuss the looming issue of inter-city transports for FY 2012.

In the Pre-Trial/Diversion committee, Mr. Stretcher announced some preliminary numbers relating to cuts to the NorthSTAR system for the next biennium. He will provide more information as it becomes available from the state.

Raquel "Rockie" Jones represented Kevin Brooks for the Prosecution committee. She also discussed the Criminal Justice forum and how the District Attorney's office has reiterated its willingness to work with each department to manage the jail population. The forum revealed the lack of opportunities for exchanges between prosecutors and defense lawyers about system-specific issues. This committee could fill that void. Mr. Brooks will still chair that committee. A meeting will be set with him, Lynn Richardson (chief Public Defender), the local defense bar, a CSCD (Adult Probation) Representative, and CJAB staff to establish priorities. Dr. Noyes presented the idea of changing the name of this committee to "Jurisprudence" to more properly reflect the involvement of the defense attorneys in the system, and specifically, CJAB.

Judge Robert Burns represented Judge Don Adams at the meeting. The Courts Committee had no formal report.

(Prior to the Re-Entry Committee's report, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins entered the room at approximately 2:10 p.m., establishing a quorum of the Commissioners Court at the CJAB meeting. It was noted on the record the meeting had been legally posted.)

Charles Terrell of Safer Dallas, Better Dallas announced the addition of Christina Melton Crain as the new co-chair of the Re-Entry Committee. Ms. Melton-Crain brings a wealth of knowledge to Dallas One-stop Optimized Re-Entry System (DOORS) as the former chair of Texas Board of Pardons and Parole. She is assisting DOORS with its 501(c)3. In 2010, DOORS served 231 clients and only five recidivated.

Dr. Garcia welcomed Councilwoman Jasso to CJAB to serve as the Public Policy chair. As Vice-Chair of the City of Dallas Public Safety Committee, Councilwoman Jasso will provide a unique perspective on the issues CJAB should be following.

Dr. Terry Snow Smith was introduced as the new Director of the Dallas County Juvenile Department. Dr. Smith will present updates on the Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS) and the coordination of activities with the Letot Foundation.

Bill Brown from Dallas County IT department presented the progress on the Electronic Book-in System which greatly reduces repetitive steps throughout the justice system. Commissioner Cantrell explained the correlation between Mr. Fitzsimmons' earlier presentation and this system. Information filed from squad car will go all the way through the system and can be utilized by the clerks in the court. Keystrokes will be saved at every level.

There was no action taken on the items on the agenda regarding the CATS Unit or the mental health legislation.

Dr. Garcia and Dr. Noyes concluded the meeting with a special presentation to Commissioner Cantrell. The plaque recognized his outstanding leadership and valuable role in the establishment of CJAB.

Councilwoman Jasso moved to adjourn the meeting. Paul Blocker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.