



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
General Membership Minutes for Monday, September 17, 2012**

Welcome & Introductions, Commissioner Garcia called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. The Commissioner asked that everyone in attendance introduce themselves.

Membership & Infrastructure:

Dr. Michael Noyes announced to the membership the appointment of Chief Sidney Fuller, Farmers Branch PD, and Chief Ed Morris, Balch Springs PD, to represent Road and Bridge District 2 & 3 respectively.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the CJAB Executive Committee meeting held on May 21, 2012 were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and approved.

Presentation:

There were no presentations for this meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

Corrections (Jail Population); Pre-Trial/Diversion, Etho Pugh

Etho Pugh, Jail Population Coordinator reported that the stats/reports have been made a part of the packet for this meeting. He gave a brief overview of the highlights from each of the handouts. Etho reported that the County's jail population on this date is 6,333. He stated that this is down from the monthly average for the month of September 2011 which was 6,353. He also focused on the cost savings to the County through the Alternative Sentencing Program (ASP). He reported that through the use of the electric monitoring program as an alternative to incarceration, the County saved 1,964 jail bed days, at \$53.13 a day, totaling \$104,347.32 for the month of August 2012. Another highlight was in the State Hospital movement. The current number of clients waiting for a bed is thirty (30). Ron Stretcher commented that this is as low as it has been in years. He also acknowledged the Parole Department for working hard to move the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) inmates in a timely fashion to keep that population count down.

Law Enforcement: Ron Stretcher

In Chief Spivey's absence, Ron Stretcher reported that during the committee's last meeting on August 29, 2012 one of the main topics was the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and the Sheriff's Department. The first year of this MOU for transporting inmates from the local municipalities to Dallas County jail has come to an end. The LEAs reported that it has been a great success and they have been pleased with how it has been going. They did express some concern that moving forward the shared cost be calculated by actual inmate movement as opposed to estimated usage. Ryan Brown with Dallas County's Budget Department stated that his office is already working with the Sheriff's Department to get an accurate account to plug into the FY2014 MOU renewal.

Jurisprudence, David Alex

Commissioner Garcia reported that David Alex has appointed Ellyce Lindberg, Assistant District Attorney, to succeed him as chair of the Jurisprudence Subcommittee. Ellyce expressed her appreciation for the appointment and stated that she will schedule a meeting of the committee soon to begin addressing issues of concern.

Courts, Judge Robert Burns

Judge Burns reported that everything is going well for the judiciary and there is no specific report.

Re-Entry, Christina Melton-Crain

Christina Melton-Crain reported that the committee met on August 2, 2012 and the topic of discussion was in regard to identifying employers willing to hire ex-offenders and creating a user list for reentry agencies to refer from. There was also discussion about developing a reentry resource website. Also, a new attendee at the meeting was Al Richard from InterComm Services Center of The Way Back House, Inc. to discuss the initiative they have available for ex-offenders reentering the community. Christina also reported on a Re-entry Symposium that DOORS will be hosting in February 2013, and some upcoming training in the next couple of months.

Public Policy, Duane Steele

Duane Steele reported that Councilmember Jasso would not be in attendance at this meeting, but that the committee did meet on July 31, 2012 and the minutes from that meeting were added to the packet. He added that the committee did work on preparing an agenda sensitive to the concerns of CJAB that will be added to the City of Dallas and Dallas County's individual legislative agenda items that will be presented to the respective Council and Court for approval. Craig Pardue, Dallas County's Assistant Administrator, reported that one of the top items on the proposed agenda was in regard to TDCJ's duty to accept an inmate transfer when a defendant appeals his TDCJ sentence. Ron Stretcher clarified that this is a very important issue because appeals last up to two years or more and if the inmate remains in the County jail the cost is on the County.

Ron reported that the items that CJAB will be pushing and/or in support of are outlined in the minutes from the July 31, 2012 Public Policy meeting. Craig Pardue will include these items in the packet that he will present to Commissioners Court. Commissioner Garcia emphasized that the items listed by the Public Policy Committee represent the concerns of CJAB. Lynn Richardson, Dallas County Public Defender expressed her concern that the Public Defender's Office (PD) would like to have a voice in the items that will be presented to Commissioners Court. Commissioner Garcia encouraged Ms. Richardson to have representation from the PD's Office at future Public Policy meetings so they will have that input. Commissioner Garcia also encouraged any other municipalities represented at the meeting to become involved in the Public Policy committee meetings to share their agenda items and stand in support of the items that make the list for CJAB.

Justice of Peace, Judge Steve Seider

Judge Seider reported that the Justice of the Peace (JP) subcommittee met in June 2012. He stated that Judge Valencia Nash and Judge Katy Hubener along with himself were elected to represent the other Justice of the Peace. Judge Seider reported that the JPs did conduct the DART Community Court on August 25, 2012 at the Stew Pot. He stated that he, Judge Jasso, and Judge Ellis conducted over 200 hearings that day in conjunction with Dallas area lawyers. Those found guilty were assessed community service hours and were supervised and able to perform it on the spot. By holding this special community court it gave individuals with DART tickets who have been unable to appear in the various outlying JP courts the opportunity to clear up their warrants, allowing them to get licenses and ID's reinstated.

Judge Seider also reported that the courts will be granted a waiver from the Office of Court Administration for another year pending the implementation of the new Court Management System. He stated that it has been over six months since a vendor was identified and he is not sure what the holdup is. Ryan Brown indicated that he believes the holdup is related to some concerns about the contract being explored by the District Attorney's Office. Commissioner Garcia suggested that a meeting be scheduled to address this issue and get some resolution.

Judge Seider cited another concern the JP's are having with Jury Services getting jurors to the JP courts on Monday's and Tuesday's until 1:30 or 2:00 PM. Ryan Brown explained that they are still working on the jury books to attempt to route jurors closer to their precinct. He anticipates there should be a resolution to this issue by early November.

The last item on the JP's agenda was in regard to an order signed by Judge Kristin Wade requiring the JP Courts to provide complaints or request complaints on Class C appeal cases. The order also requires the courts to retain copies of all cases going to the Court of Appeals. Judge Seider stated this will become a cost and storage issue for the JP courts. Ryan Brown stated that he would look

into the issue of making a duplicate file. Judge Seider also strongly iterated that he does not believe it is legally correct to require the court to file for or request a complaint on a case on appeal.

Juvenile Justice, John Heath

John Heath, Assistant Director of Juvenile Services, reported in the absence of Dr. Terry Smith. He stated that the Juvenile Justice subcommittee met on September 7, 2012 and the minutes were an addition to the packet for today's meeting. Mr. Heath stated that some of the items discussed were the appointment of Dallas County's former Juvenile Department Director, Mr. Mike Griffiths, as the Executive Director of the newly formed Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). Ground breaking has taken place for the new girl's residential treatment center located at Letot Center. The Diversionary Male Court (DMC) will be opening up soon. Another topic of discussion at the meeting was in regard to the development of an Education Advocacy Unit to assist youth and their families who are transitioning back into the public school system from a juvenile facility. The goal of this unit is to make the transition smooth and successful.

Action Item

Commissioner Garcia presented a recommendation to approve a Letter of Support to Michael Griffiths, Executive Director of the new Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). The letter also includes several items of concern that are important to the Dallas County Juvenile Department and other Juvenile Departments around the State.

A motion was made to send a letter of support to Michael Griffiths, and authorize Commissioner Garcia and Dr. Noyes to sign on behalf of the committee. The motion was seconded and approved.

Bail Bond Task Force, Commissioner Garcia

Commissioner Garcia reported that a status report was prepared for this meeting and was made available to the committee. Mr. Stretcher reported that the committee is very close to having some data from Dallas County's IT Department to help support the efforts that have been made. Gary Fitzsimmons, Dallas County's District Clerk, stated that his department should have their reports within the next couple of days to show the increase in revenue by month. He added that the District Clerks will soon begin pursuing pre-trial (PT) and personal recognizance (PR) bonds. Also, a list of attorney's that write bonds that are in arrears has been generated and will be forwarded to the Judiciary to determine if they should be allowed to write additional bonds. John Warren, Dallas County's County Clerk reported that his monthly revenue report should also be available within the next few days.

Commissioner Garcia acknowledged the CJAB power point presentation that was presented in Commissioner's Court on September 11, 2012. She thanked all of the committees for their tireless efforts, Mr. Steele for the preparation of the

power point, and Mr. Stretcher for narrating the presentation during Commissioner's Court.

Fair Defense, Dr. Michael Noyes

Dr. Noyes reported that the newly formed committee has met on three occasions. The committee has begun reviewing the various attributes of the Fair Defense Act, and exploring some of the challenges experienced by the system in assuring that indigent defendants are appointed counsel within the guidelines of the statute. The committee will meet several more times in an effort to follow the process to identify the areas where the most challenges occur, and to develop a strategic plan to overcome those challenges. Upon development of the plan of action, the committee will prepare a recommendation to present to CJAB.

Serial Inebriate Program (SIP), Dr. Melanie Lippmann

Dr. Lippmann presented an updated SIP Pathway which was made a part of the packet. Dr. Lippmann stated that one of the updates to the pathway is that multiple entry points have been identified. She reported that the list of the top 200 utilizers of the system has been shared with the SIP committee members and vetted to determine where the individuals have crossed. The results of that vetting found that the jail and the emergency rooms (ER) have seen the most activity. She gave a brief overview of the program and stated that the group has also begun working with Turtle Creek Manor residential services, who is currently operating a program funded through a SAMHSA grant. The collaboration with Turtle Creek Manor will provide a great avenue for the residential treatment and transitional housing component of the pathway for up to three months. The City of Dallas has a permanent supportive housing program known as Gateway Housing. This permanent housing through Gateway would be the carrot for the clients that chose to participate and follow through in the program. Mr. Stretcher added that this pilot program has been added to the DSRIP for the 1115 Waiver in hopes of obtaining revenue to establish an ongoing program. He anticipates the first SIP participants to be identified and referred to Turtle Creek very soon. Staff members from the Pre-Trial and Mental Health units have already begun the process of identifying potential candidates.

Project Updates

- ACMS/AIS project - Mr. Stretcher reported that the project is moving along well, and the prosecutor module should begin rolling out in January 2012. Ellyce Lindberg and Jill Reese added that this is a multi-county project and is a work in progress.

Announcements

Please routinely visit the CJAB Webpage for a schedule of events, agendas, and minutes to the meetings @ <http://www.dallascounty.org/departments/cjab>.

The next CJAB General Membership meeting will be November 19, 2012.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourned the meeting; it was seconded and passed at 2:40 PM.