



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
Executive Committee Minutes for Monday, May 21, 2012**

**Welcome & Introductions**, Commissioner Garcia called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM. The Commissioner asked that everyone in attendance introduce themselves.

**Membership & Infrastructure:**

Dr. Michael Noyes informed the committee that Chief Mitch Bates tendered his resignation as chair of CJAB's Law Enforcement subcommittee. He further reported that on April 24, 2012 Commissioners Court recognized Chief Bates for his service to this committee.

Dr. Noyes encouraged the members to routinely visit the CJAB Webpage for a schedule of events, agendas, and minutes to the meetings @ <http://www.dallascounty.org/department/cjab>.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on March 19, 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), 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 6,201. He stated that this is down from the monthly average for the month of May 2011 which was 6,687.

**Pre-Trial/Diversion, Ron Stretcher**

Ron Stretcher, Dallas County's Criminal Justice Director reported that a significant highlight is that the wait time to get inmates with competency issues to the State Hospital is down. Currently, there are only 40 individuals waiting in comparison to over 100 six or seven months ago. He stated that the hospitals have helped by making more beds available, and that the department is working well with the outpatient competency programs. He also highlighted that the jail

medical staff are doing a better job of identifying individuals in the jail that are stabilized and no longer requiring hospitalization.

### **Jurisprudence, David Alex**

Commissioner Garcia extended congratulations to David Alex, and the District Attorney's office, for receiving an award for their support concerning animal rights issues from the Metroplex Animal Coalition. She thanked him for advocating for those who are unable to speak for themselves.

David Alex reported that the jurisprudence committee has not met since the last CJAB meeting and therefore no update was given.

### **Courts, Judge Robert Burns**

Commissioner Garcia reported that Judge Burns was starting a trial this week and could not be in attendance.

### **Re-Entry, Maria Brown**

Maria Brown, Program Manager for Corporation for Supportive Housing reported in Christina Melton-Crain's absence. She advised the committee that the minutes from the last Re-Entry subcommittee meeting held on March 8, 2012 were made a part of the packet for today's meeting. She stated that the committee focused on three goals for 2012 which are housing, employment, and public education/relations. These three goals have been tasked out to subgroups of the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2012. Maria encouraged anyone interested in participating and supporting this subcommittee to attend.

### **Announcements**

Ron Stretcher updated the committee on the progress of the Serial Inebriate Program (SIP) presented to CJAB by Dr. Lippmann at the last meeting. He stated that a small group met and discussed developing a pilot program, and making SIP a subcommittee of CJAB. This program will begin to address this population of the top 20 or 30 utilizers of the system by identifying them, and offering a detox program through Homeward Bound, and additional service such as motivational counseling, transitional living, job training, and case management. There will be a meeting in a couple of weeks to begin mapping out this pilot program. Sheriff Valdez requested that a copy of the SIP power point presentation be emailed to the entire committee.

Duane Steele was tasked with sending it out to the committee, and making sure it is available on the website.

Ron also reported that the Greater Dallas Public Policy Alliance for Housing is scheduled to meet on May 22, 2012 to discuss including the County in their plan of action. Ron stated that information regarding this meeting is forthcoming.

### **Public Policy,**

Commissioner Garcia reported that Council Woman Jasso and Lieutenant Tittle are both out of town and would not be in attendance. Dr. Noyes reported that the Public Policy subcommittee is reviewing the agenda items that have been forwarded to them. The proposed agenda will be forwarded to the committee for review and approval by late summer. An approved CJAB agenda packet will be drafted by August 2012 for the January 2013 legislature session.

### **Justice of Peace, Judge Steve Seider**

Judge Seider reported that Justice of the Peace subcommittee met on April 13, 2012. He stated that Judge Valencia Nash and Judge Katy Hubener along with himself were elected to represent the committee. Items being addressed are as follows:

- Appeals are being returned to the court. Discussions have begun with Commissioners Cantrell and Price, and a meeting has been scheduled with Judge Kristin Wade to discuss this issue.
- The issue concerning legislation that passed (SB469) involving the North Texas Toll Authority (NTTA) requiring the court of local jurisdiction to collect unpaid tolls, administration fees, and third-party collection service fees and send them to the authority prior to collecting court cost and fines is being addressed. He reported that the JP's have met with the Civil District Attorney (DA) Gordon Hikel to draft an inter-local agreement to be used by the four counties affected, and are now looking at some legislation to correct this issue.
- The JP courts have been experiencing a problem getting jurors out to their courts on Monday's and Tuesday's before 1:30 PM. This is being addressed through Commissioners Court.
- The new court management system (CMS) has passed the load test. They are hopeful that it will be coming on line soon. Collections within the JP courts are also being vetted for inefficiencies and compliance.
- The exemption to the Office of Court Administration (OCA) requirements ends in August 2012. The JP courts are planning to reapply for the annual exception pending the rollout of the new CMS.
- The DART community court will be held on Saturday July 21, 2012 at the Stew Pot to address those individuals who cannot make it to court. If found guilty, they will be sentenced and ordered to perform community service hours on the spot.

Commissioner Garcia acknowledged the efforts being made by the Justice of the Peace committee and thanked Judge Seider for his leadership.

### **Juvenile Justice, Dr. Terry Smith**

Dr. Smith, Director of Juvenile Services reported that the Juvenile Justice subcommittee did meet on May 11, 2012. Dr. Smith stated that some of the items discussed were continued collaboration with DOORS and the City of Dallas's iMOM program. She added that they sent a representative to San Francisco to

visit their reentry program. Also, on the agenda was discussion about achieving compliance with DPS reporting and maintaining the required 90% completeness. The Juvenile Department is continuing to work with the iMOM program and DOORS to address the youth that are coming out of placement and transitioning into adulthood.

### **Bail Bond Task Force, Commissioner Garcia**

Commissioner Garcia reported that the four positions requested by the District Attorney's office have been approved and individuals hired. She stated that they have already started moving some of the bond forfeiture cases. There has also been a pilot program to implement a 21 day grace period before a NISI is signed for failure to appear. The committee will meet in the next few weeks to assess how the initiatives are going. Judge Seider inquired as to if it would be possible to add the JP courts in the bond forfeiture process. Commissioner Garcia responded that she will bring it to the committee's attention.

### **Action Items**

Dr. Noyes presented a nomination for Chief Jim Spivey to be considered for the position of chair to the LEA subcommittee. Dr. Noyes opened the floor to any additional nominations, hearing none:

A motion was made to accept Chief Spivey's nomination, and vote him Chair of the LEA Subcommittee of CJAB. The motion was seconded and approved.

Ron Stretcher was asked to update the committee on the Fair Defense Act (SB7) in Judge Terry McVea's absence. Ron reviewed the information provided in the agenda packet for today's meeting. He stated that processes are in place to address inmates brought to the jail, but there are still some challenges with the jurisdictions that are not using the Video Arraignment option. Commissioner Garcia suggested initiating a pilot to address the most appropriate method to handle this. Dr. Noyes requested that a standing committee be established to begin reviewing this process. David Alex suggested that the Public Defender's office be strongly involved in this committee. Judge Seider suggested that there be a standing order that the Public Defender's office be the initial appointment source for individuals arraigned at the Police stations. Duane Steele added that the issue has been, when an arraignment is done in a Police substation by a magistrate and the defendant has indicated that he/she would like counsel appointed, the only paperwork being sent to the Sheriff's Intake office is the election form. This causes a problem because this is not enough information to create a profile in AIS. It has been suggested that instead of only sending the election form, that all of the paperwork needed for an arraignment (IE: affidavit, probable cause, and warrant) along with the election form must be provided. At this point a profile can be created in AIS and the inmate can be assigned a court so the court's coordinator can assign counsel. Judge Seider suggested that it may be difficult to get the magistrates to agree to the additional requirements. Dr. Noyes reiterated his request that a subcommittee be established.

A motion was made to establish the Fair Defense subcommittee of CJAB that will be chaired by Dr. Noyes. The motion was seconded and approved.

### **Announcements**

Commissioner Garcia indicated that she has been honored to sit as chair of CJAB. She would like to prepare a briefing/ presentation to Commissioners Court to highlight the accomplishments of CJAB, and its subcommittees. Commissioner Garcia asked if there were where any objections to this suggestion. Hearing no objections, Commissioner Garcia charged the subcommittee chairs to submit the accomplishments they would like to be presented.

Commissioner Garcia informed the committee that Commissioners Court will be in recess during the month of July and recommended that the July 16, 2012 CJAB General Membership meeting be cancelled. She suggested that the September 17, 2012 meeting be considered a General Membership meeting. There were no objections.

The next CJAB General Membership meeting will be September 17, 2012.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourned the meeting; it was seconded and passed at 2:21 PM.