



## **Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board Executive Committee Minutes for Monday, January 23, 2012**

**Welcome & Introductions**, Commissioner Garcia called the meeting to order at 1:45 PM. The Commissioner asked that everyone in attendance introduce themselves.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2011 CJAB General Membership meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

### **Membership & Infrastructure:**

Dr. Michael Noyes informed the committee that the CJAB Webpage is up to date and encouraged everyone to visit it for a schedule of events, agendas, and minutes to the meetings. He also suggested that past presentation documents and power points be added to the information available on the webpage. Commissioner Garcia added that a "Year in Review" should be compiled to reflect the work that this committee has done and also displayed on the webpage. <http://www.dallascounty.org/department/cjab>

A motion was made to add the presentations, and the "Year in Review" to the webpage. The motion was seconded and approved.

Dr. Noyes requested that the subcommittees submit a meeting schedule for 2012 and suggested that the meetings should be scheduled quarterly.

### **Presentation:**

There were no presentations for this meeting.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

#### **Corrections (Jail Population), Ron Stretcher**

Ron reported that the stats/reports have been made a part of the packet for this meeting. Ron stated that on December 31, 2011 the jail population reached a low of 5683, but is starting to rise. Ron stated that he is not sure which of many factors drive the low population just prior to the holidays, but added that one of the charts included in the packet shows the relationship between the jail pop and the number of pre-trial felons in custody. Bookings remain down as seen on page 9 of the packet. Ron gave an update on the Alternative Sentencing and Bond Release program stating that the census has gone from 55 to around 70. He stated that the Judges have been using the program more frequently.

### **Law Enforcement, Chief Robert Brown**

Chief Robert Brown of Duncanville Police Department gave the report in Chief Mitch Bates' absence. Chief Brown reported that the Law Enforcement subcommittee met on January 5, 2012. He stated that a presentation was conducted by William (Bill) Brown with Dallas County's IT department in regard to the Dallas County Incident Module (DCIM). Chief Brown stated that according Mr. Brown the module should be fully active soon. Commissioner Garcia asked if the committee discussed the serial inebriate program. Chief Brown replied that the topic was not discussed, but indicated that he would relay to Chief Bates the request from CJAB to have this item added to the next LEA committee agenda.

### **Jurisprudence, David Alex**

Mr. Alex, Assistant District Attorney, reported that the Jurisprudence subcommittee has not formally met since September 8, 2011, but is continuing to work on the issue concerning timely disposition of pending misdemeanor cases after the disposition of a defendant's primary felony case. Mr. Alex also reported that the committee is interested in including members of the Hispanic and Black Defense Bar Associations at the meetings. He expressed how beneficial it was having Bill Faye from the Dallas Defense Bar, and how equally beneficial it would be to have the voice of the aforementioned groups at the meetings.

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

Judge Burns reported that the District Court Judges have expressed some concerns that defendants being released under section 12.44(a) of the Texas Penal Code, are returning with similar charges. He suggested that in light of the low enrollment in the Divert programs, the judges may start using those options before considering 12.44's for those that have underlying treatment needs. David Alex responded that the District Attorney's office is aware of this concern, and has begun addressing this issue by working with Divert Intake to help evaluate the most appropriate action for a defendant based on their needs.

### **Re-Entry, Dr. Michael Noyes**

Dr. Noyes gave the report in Christina Melton Crain's absence. The Council is moving forward in setting its 2012 meeting schedule with the first meeting to take place in February and subsequent meetings to follow quarterly and as needed. The various council subcommittees will meet in between regularly scheduled quarterly meetings. This is where the work of the Council will occur. Issues that the subcommittees will be tackling include: housing, employment, and educating the community at-large to better understand and commit to reentry. If you are interested in helping and/or have comments or information to share, please contact the committee Chair Christina Melton Crain at 214/215-8152, or by email at [cmc@att.blackberry.net](mailto:cmc@att.blackberry.net).

### **Public Policy, Ron Stretcher**

Ron reported in Councilwomen Delia Jasso's absence. He stated that the committee will schedule a meeting in the next 30 days or so to begin preparation for the next legislative session.

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

Judge Seider submitted a report outlining the issues being addressed by the Justice of the Peace subcommittee. He reported that in regard to the new court management system (CMS) a vendor has been selected and the contract is being drafted. Judge Seider stated that there are discussions to determine how far back the data should be captured, how to deal with the 200,000 plus active warrants, and how to best utilize the minimal warrant office staff going forward. He reported that another issue is with 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. He has met with the District Attorney (DA) and NTTA to address this issue. A meeting has been scheduled for next week with the four counties affected. Another issue being discussed is the matter of letters being sent out by the law firm used by the County to defendants demanding payment to the law firm, threatening warrants, and possibly withholding portions paid for their fees prior to sending them to the court on cases that haven't been adjudicated. There is some concern about the legal and ethical aspect of these letters. The committee is continuing to work on OMNI, Scofflaw, and Class C jail policies. Judge Seider stated that there have been some concerns with the redistricting process. He stated that one issue is that there is no power in one of the buildings being used for storage. Commissioner Garcia responded that there will be some discussions with the County Judge in regard to these matters.

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

Dr. Smith, Director of Juvenile Services reported that the Juvenile Justice subcommittee did meet on January 20, 2012, and has a quarterly meeting schedule printed. She stated that they did have representation at the last Re-entry Council meeting and members of that subcommittee were also present at the Juvenile Justice meeting. Dr. Smith directed the committee to page 21 of the agenda packet for this meeting which outlined the discussion items from the subcommittee's meeting. Focusing on the highlights, Dr. Smith informed the committee about the start of the new ESTEEM Court which will begin this Wednesday January 25, 2012, at the Letot Center. The court will focus on girls that have been involved in trafficking, prostitution, and sexual assault. She added that they will also be working with the iMOM program to see if some of the 17 year old female population can benefit from that program. Also discussed was the DMC Court for African American and Hispanic males.

Dr. Smith expressed some strong concern in regard to Senate Bill 1106 Sec. 58.0052. Interagency sharing of non-educational records (IE: "personal health information"). She stated that Parkland Hospital has been withholding vital

medical information required for the courts. Commissioner Garcia offered to submit a letter to help support the committee's concerns. Ron advised the committee about the attorney consultation scheduled for January 27, 2012 with attorney Pamela Beach to address this very issue.

Dr. Smith continued her report stating that they are looking to get an additional Functional Family Therapy (FFT) staff member to work with the ESTEEM and DMC courts. She added that a major focus for the Juvenile department is on diversion. She concluded with a request for someone from the Law Enforcement subcommittee to join the Juvenile Justice subcommittee.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Noyes asked Ron to give a brief update on the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) issue. Ron reported that the Governor's Office Criminal Justice Division has released a letter indicating that if arrest/disposition data reporting is not at 90% average between 2006-2010, counties and municipalities will no longer be eligible for grant funding such as the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). He stated that the averages were 90% in 06, 84% in 07-08, 80% in 09, and 68% for 2010. He stated that some cases may still be open but for the ones that have errors, IT is working to make the necessary corrections, and he is confident this will be corrected by August of 2012. Dr. Noyes suggested that the Law Enforcement subcommittee be tasked with this as an agenda item. Duane Steele will make sure Chief Bates is made aware of the task. Dr. Noyes mentioned several grants that will be affected by this restriction for noncompliance, and stressed the urgency of this issue.

Commissioner Garcia informed the committee that the next CJAB General Membership meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2012.

### **Adjournment**

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