



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, November 19, 2012**

**Welcome & Introductions**, Commissioner Garcia called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM. The Commissioner asked that everyone in attendance introduce themselves.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB Executive Committee meeting held on September 17, 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.

**Membership & Infrastructure:**

Duane Steele, CJAB Coordinator, expressed his appreciation to the committee, specifically the chairpersons for their cooperation and help over the past year in coordination of the various subcommittee meetings. He stated that this has been a very productive year and he is looking forward to 2013. Mr. Steele acknowledged the members that submitted notice of their absence for this meeting. Commissioner Garcia thanked Mr. Steele and the committee as a whole for all they have done to make this a successful year.

**Presentation:**

There were no presentations for this meeting.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Corrections (Jail Population): Pre-Trial/Diversion, Ron Stretcher**

Ron Stretcher, Dallas County's Criminal Justice Director, noted that the packet included information from the last Jail Population meeting. He stated that there is some concern about the fact that the jail population is not decreasing as it typically would be during this time of the year. He cited an increase of about 25 bookings a day from the same time last year as being one of the contributing factors. He gave kudos to State Parole for monitoring the number of defendants they have in jail serving parole violations only. One area that has been challenging is waiting on treatment beds. This population has continued to increase, as treatment facility availability has continued to decrease. Mr. Stretcher stated that in some cases the wait time has been up to six months. This has caused action for his department to begin looking at alternatives to having defendants wait in jail, such as utilizing the electronic monitoring (ELM) and bond supervision programs while awaiting placement. The Alternative Sentencing Bond Supervision programs is doing well, and gaining support from the Judges.

**Law Enforcement: Chief Jim Spivey**

Chief Spivey reported that this committee met in conjunction with the CJAB Jurisprudence Committee on November 15, 2012 to discuss the issues surrounding forensic evidence. He stated that the cost of gathering large amounts of DNA and transcripts from interviews is increasing. He stated that the dialog was very good in determining the type of evidence that would be needed to assist the District Attorney in preparing a better prosecutable package. . Chief Spivey stated that the transportation MOU agreement has been working well for his department and some of the other LEA's that were in attendance. The Dallas County Incident Module (DCIM) is moving forward, but he would like to see more activity with this project as he believes it will really help with the transfer of forensic evidence through electronic filing. Chief Spivey stated that the joint committee meeting was very productive and they will be scheduling a follow-up meeting soon. Sheriff Valdez reported that her department has completed an updated report on each Law Enforcement Agency's (LEA's) use of the transportation agreement. This report will be electronically distributed within the next day or so. Ryan Brown, Dallas County's Budget Officer, reiterated that the current MOU is for two years and will not be adjusted until FY2014.

**Jurisprudence: Ellyce Lindberg**

Ellyce Lindberg echoed Chief Spivey's report on the meeting of the joint committees. She added that the Jurisprudence Committee also held an Ad Hoc meeting to discuss outstanding Class A, B, and C, warrants in Dallas County. Moving forward, the committee will be meeting with the County Criminal Court Judges to discuss recommendations on how to move the misdemeanor cases more efficiently.

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

Mr. Stretcher reported that there continues to be good results in moving individuals to the State Hospitals. As of last week there were 41 waiting compared to this time last year when there were about 125 waiting. He stated that this is an indication of the progress that has been made. Page 15 of the packet highlights the Monthly NorthStar Intakes. These are individuals that have been booked into the County Jail that have had some type of mental health issues. Currently, the average matches for the month of October is 21%. This shows a tremendous increase from 2007 when the average of NorthStar clients booked in to the jail for that entire year was 7%. Finally, Mr. Stretcher reported on the Multi-Bookin NorthStar Tracking. He stated that the focus is on those individuals that have been booked in 4 or more times in the past year, which is about 280. He added that if we can begin to identify the "Frequent Flyers", we can start to give those individuals a little more attention.

**Re-Entry: Duane Steele**

Duane Steele reported in Christina Crain's absence. He stated that the committee met on November 9, 2012. Mr. Steele reported that in an effort to build a stronger re-entry network, the committee has begun to identify and invite new members representing agencies offering re-entry services in the Dallas County area. This will allow the various agencies to work more in tandem with

one another to develop a truly collaborative re-entry effort. Agencies in attendance at the November meeting included The Way Back House, featuring their Intercomm Services Boot Camp, and the City of Dallas, with their Imom and Finding North programs. The Juvenile Department talked about programs at the Youth Village like Patience, Responsibility, Empathy and Partnership (P.R.E.P.) Dog Training, and Café Momentum. Also represented in the Re-entry Committee meeting was Lynn Richardson, the County's Public Defender discussing the addition of two mental health attorney positions to her office. Mr. Steele also reported on an upcoming Re-entry Symposium hosted by DOORS in February 2013, and some training opportunities over the next couple of months. Additional information on these events will be forthcoming.

#### **Public Policy: Ron Stretcher**

Commissioner Garcia reported that in Councilmember Jasso's absence she has been made aware of some concerns raised by the Public Defender's Office regarding certain items on CJAB's legislative agenda. Mr. Thelonius Peugh, Assistant Public Defender, will communicate those concerns to Major Gary Tittle with Dallas Police Department.

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

Judge Seider reported that the new Court Management System is getting closer to being approved and implemented. There are some discussions about how and what will be converted into the new system.

Judge Seider expressed that another concern the JP's are having is with Jury Services getting jurors to the JP courts. Commissioner Garcia assured Judge Seider that their concerns have been heard and will be addressed in the new year. Judge Seider stated that there is also an ongoing issue with the JP Court's appeals that are being filed in the County Criminal Court of Appeals #1. Another area being discussed is in regards to establishing a protocol for bond forfeiture.

The last item on the JP's agenda was in regard to addressing the active 250,000 Class C warrants. There have been several ideas about how to minimize this number and then better manage future warrants.

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

Dr. Terry Smith reported that they have been working with the Sheriff's Department on housing youth certified as adults in juvenile detention as opposed to transferring them to Lew Sterrett. The Juvenile Department is in the process of hiring ten (10) staff members to monitor these youth during their hearing process. Dr. Smith added that Mr. Steele is working with the committees to see if using video equipment may be an alternative to transporting certified youth from Henry Wade to Frank Crowley for some of the court hearings. Dr. Smith thanked CJAB for the presentation in Commissioner's Court and for the letter sent to TJJD Director, Mike Griffiths.

**Bail Bond Task Force: Commissioner Garcia**

Mr. Stretcher reported that the committee has started receiving reports from the District and County Clerk's Offices for funds collected from bond forfeitures. Mr. Stretcher stated that obtaining usable reports from Dallas County's AIS or Forvus systems has been a challenge. Dr. Robert Morris with UT Southwestern agreed that it has been difficult gathering and deciphering the information from the County's systems, but is confident that he will have his initial report ready to present to the committee by the next meeting.

**Fair Defense: Paul Blocker**

Paul Blocker, Assistant Public Defender, reported that the committee has met recently continuing their review of the various attributes of the Fair Defense Act. Exploring some of the challenges experienced by the system in assuring that indigent defendants are appointed counsel within the guidelines of the statute is a goal. Mr. Blocker reported that he recently attended a workshop in Austin, TX provided by the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. He stated that his task was to speak with representatives of the commission and come back with some recommendations for the committee which he was able to do. He stated that among the many recommendations shared by the commission, one was the increased use of ELM, and alternative sentencing programs. The next Fair Defense Committee meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2012.

**Serial Inebriate Program (SIP): Ron Stretcher**

Mr. Stretcher added that this pilot program has identified three participants and referred them to Turtle Creek Manor.

**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 2013. The overall ACMS project and development will be contracted out to a company selected in a competitive bid process which is AMCAD. The hope is to be able to brief this recommendation to Commissioner Court by December 4, 2012. If approved, the anticipated time to begin actually rolling out to production would be at the earliest eighteen (18) months.

**Announcements:**

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

The next CJAB General Membership meeting will be January 28, 2013.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and passed at 2:22 PM.