



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, September 16, 2013**

**Welcome & Introductions**, Commissioner Elba Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. She acknowledged Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel, and welcomed her to the meeting. Customary introductions were made by all in attendance.

**Membership & Infrastructure:**

Dr. Michael Noyes acknowledged the members who would not be in attendance on this date. He also announced a vacancy for the chair of the Public Policy subcommittee. The position has traditionally been held by the chairperson of the City of Dallas's Public Policy committee. The current chair of the City of Dallas Public Policy committee is the Honorable Sheffie Kadane, City Council Member, District 9. Duane Steele the Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) Coordinator will draft a letter of invitation to Hon. Kadane and present a resolution for the board's approval at the next meeting.

Dr. Noyes suggested that the board consider creating a new subcommittee to CJAB to conduct research and analysis. There was some discussion about the matter and the general consensus was that having a committee to oversee research and analysis would be of great benefit to CJAB.

A motion was made to form a Research subcommittee to CJAB. The motion was seconded and approved.

Dr. Noyes nominated Robert G. Morris, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Criminology, and Director of the Center for Crime & Justice Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas as chairperson on the Research subcommittee. Commissioner Garcia opened the floor for discussion, and there was none.

A motion was made to accept the nomination for Dr. Morris as chair of the Research subcommittee of CJAB. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on May 20, 2013 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- Dr. Stephen Bishopp, (CPI) & Dr. Robert Morris, (UTD):**

Commissioner Garcia introduced Sergeant Stephen Bishopp, Ph.D. with the Dallas Police Department's Caruth Police Institute (CPI). Commissioner Garcia explained that the CPI is an educational partnership between the Dallas Police Department and The University of North Texas. The Institute provides officer training and serves as the research and problem solving division of the department.

Dr. Bishopp prepared a power point presentation which was made a part of the packet for this meeting. Dr. Bishopp recently received a PH.D from UT Dallas and is the Associate Director of Research at CPI. He has published in Policing and Journal of Crime and Justice and written book chapters in Courts, Law, and Justice. He has served 23 years as a Dallas Police Officer, and 13 years as a sergeant. During his tenure he has had numerous assignments.

CPI was established in 2008 through a grant from the Communities Foundation of Texas. It provides requisite skills and advanced leadership capabilities. There are four primary training programs:

1. Advanced Leadership (Majors)
2. Executive Leadership (Lieutenants)
3. Supervisory Series (Sergeants)
4. Professional Staff Supervisor Series (Civilian)

Since 2010, 78 Lieutenants have graduated, and 198 Sergeants have completed the program. Many have received promotions as a result of the executive leadership training. RAND (Research and Development) Corporation's 2013 evaluation determined that the institute was unable to develop a research program and unable to apply for state/federal grants due to not having a full time researcher on staff. With Dr. Bishopp's appointment, he will be able to conduct research under CPI. Dr. Bishopp suggested that CJAB consider CPI as a resource and he thanked Commissioner Garcia for the invitation to present. He can be reached by email at [stephen.bishopp@dpc.ci.dallas.tx.us](mailto:stephen.bishopp@dpc.ci.dallas.tx.us).

Dr. Robert G. Morris gave a brief overview of the research contract proposal to replicate the research on the Dallas County pretrial release mechanisms. Another project his group will be focusing on will be a contextualized assessment of recidivism across Texas' major urban counties. The proposals were made a part of the packet beginning on page 17 through 25. Dr. Morris stated that the Center for Crime & Justice Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas will also be working with Dallas and Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Departments (CSCD) on a study of home visitations conducted by probation and its impact on recidivism. Dr. Morris stated that his department is available to conduct a vast range of research, and many times at little to no cost. He stated that the graduate students are eager to perform these studies to satisfy the requirements for their degree. Judge Robert Burns suggested that a study be done on the jail population and the length of stay of inmates in the County Jail and the causes for that stay. Commissioner Garcia asked what is the difference between option A & B on the first proposal on page 17 of the packet. Dr. Morris

responded that the choice is the County's and one is a more robust study than the other and one costs a little more. Ron Stretcher explained that Commissioners Court was recently briefed on the budget for FY2013 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). One of the budget items in that briefing was to use a portion of the FY13 JAG award to fund the first two aforementioned contract research proposals. Commissioner Garcia asked Dr. Morris what he believed the timeline for completion of the two projects would be once he begins. Dr. Morris responded it would take about a year to complete both.

### **Committee Project Updates:**

#### **Courts:**

Judge Robert Burns reported that the courts have been working on what will be needed to comply with the Morton Discovery Act. He stated that he and Judge Rick Magnis are working together on that procedure. Judge Burns stated that he is also working with Ron Stretcher to develop a more efficient case assignment system in the felony courts. Commissioner Garcia inquired as to how cases are currently being assigned. Judge Burns explained that capital cases are assigned manually, probation cases are assigned back to the original court of assignment, and new cases are randomly assigned via the "Wheel". He would like to see cases that are set and ready for jury trial be transferred to an available court if the court of assignment is not able to hear the case in a timely manner. Mr. Stretcher stated that there is a need to overcome institutional inertia to help move cases more effectively through the system. There was some additional discussion surrounding recidivism rates and the impact of extending lengths of stay in jail on those rates.

#### **Fair Defense Committee:**

Dr. Michael Noyes directed the board's attention to page 26 of the packet to a report prepared regarding the progress of the Fair Defense committee. He reported that the committee has met several times to begin addressing the deficiencies outlined by the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC). Ron Stretcher added that TIDC visited Dallas County on June 17 through 19, 2013 and due to the hard work of the committee the site visit went well. An informal preliminary report from the June visit was received on July 24, 2013 which stated the following:

1. Timeliness of misdemeanor appointments  
The Auditors reviewed 195 records, and ruled out 13. Out of the remaining 182, 177 were timely. This is 97.3% timely.
2. Distribution of juvenile appointments in the 304<sup>th</sup> District Court  
Presuming a jurisdiction's appointment procedures are fair, neutral, and non-discriminatory, the top 10% of recipient attorneys should receive less than 3 times their representative share of appointments. For the felony non-Spanish speaking attorneys, the top 10% received 1.1 times their representative share. For the misdemeanor non-Spanish speaking

attorneys, the top 10% received 1.5 times their representative share. Both of these attorney lists are well within our threshold.

3. Distribution of misdemeanor appointments

For non-Spanish speaking misdemeanor attorneys, the top 10% of recipient attorneys who appeared to be on the list for the entire year received 3.5 times their representative share of appointments. This is still an area of concern.

Dr. Noyes touched on an area of internal concern regarding the Election of Counsel (EOC) forms received from the various municipalities. The sheer number of EOC forms being received daily and the lack of personnel to process these forms have created a challenge, and may require more resources to accomplish this task.

The Fair Defense Committee is committed to continuing to monitor the County's compliance with the requirements of the Fair Defense Act, and work with the courts, court coordinators, court managers, and municipalities to assure this compliance.

**Law Enforcement:**

Chief Jimmy Spivey reported that the committee has not met since the last CJAB meeting, but is aware of a couple of topics of concern. One topic of discussion is surrounding the implementation of the Dallas County Instant Module (DCIM) and how it is working for the agencies that are currently using it. Another topic is prisoner transports. Chief Spivey stated that there has been discussion that there are some agencies that are not interested in continuing with the current agreement for transporting inmates to Dallas County. The concern is how this pullout may affect the agencies that want to continue to participate in the prisoner transport MOU. The current MOU will remain intact for FY 2014, but will be adjusted in FY2015 based on actual usage. Chief Steve Dye from Grand Prairie Police Department stated that he would be interested in FY2015 exploring the option of being charged per prisoner instead of a percentage. A meeting will be scheduled within the next month or so to begin to address these issues and concerns.

**Public Policy:**

Craig Pardue with Dallas County reported that two bills that the board was interested in did pass. One was the License Plate Penalty, which reinstated a fine for failure to display a license plate on the front of a vehicle, and the other was LEOSE, to reinstate funding for law enforcement training. Other bills of interest that passed were:

1. The venue for prosecution of an individual for cyber-crimes can be transferred to the County in which the victim resides.
2. SB275 enhances the penalty for leaving the scene of an accident where there is personal injury.

3. The hours of instruction for Concealed Hand Gun License (CHL) were reduced.
4. HB8 regarding human trafficking had a few enhancements.
5. Another bill dealt with defendant statements. Mr. Pardue stated that all written confessions must be written in the defendant's native language.

Buckley Chapel from Cowboy's Bail Bond Company announced that on October 4, 2013 at 7 a.m. the North Texas Crime Commission and Law Enforcement Committee will be hosting their annual fund raiser to support LEA training throughout the State. Mr. Pardue concluded his report and Duane Steele directed the committee's attention to a handout entitled CJAB Public Policy Committee Update on page 29 of the packet.

#### **Jail Population Update:**

Etho Pugh directed the committee's attention to excerpts from the Jail Population meeting held on September 16, 2013 found on pages 32 through 40 of the packet. The current jail population for this date is 6430. Mr. Pugh gave a brief overview of the information contained in those documents. He also stated that due to the high jail population, Commissioner Price has moved the Jail Population meetings that are usually held on the first double digit Friday of the month to every other Monday during the Jail Sanitation meetings until further notice.

#### **Justice of the Peace:**

Judge Steve Seider reported that the case management system (CMS) fit/gap assessment is moving slowly. As a result he has begun discussions with some of the LEAs and the Sheriff's Department to see if there is a way to interface their systems with the current CMS pending the implementation of the new system. The Tollway 90 day grace period ended last Friday September 13, 2013. There were approximately 90,000 habitual Tollway offenders identified in the north Texas area. The Justice of the Peace (JP) courts are now authorized to grant occupational drivers licenses as of September 1, 2013. The logistics for instituting this authority will be discussed at the next JP courts meeting.

#### **Reentry:**

In Christina Crain's absence a report was submitted for the packet beginning on page 41. Ron Stretcher commented on the bullet on page 42 of the packet regarding the Wayback House/Intercomm reentry program. He stated that the program is to be commended for their outstanding efforts to help ex-offenders considering the shoestring budget they have been operating on. He extended kudos to this organization.

#### **Crisis Services Project (SIP):**

Mr. Stretcher reported that the SIP program will be included in Dallas County's 1115 waiver project known as the Crisis Services Project (CSP). The project is up and running. Adapt Community Solutions (ACS) and Transicare are now contracted with Dallas County and working on site with the Criminal Justice

Department. Mr. Stretcher stated that an update on the project will be a standing report submitted to CJAB each meeting.

**Announcements:**

Commissioner Garcia encouraged the committees that have not met to coordinate with Duane Steele to schedule a date and location and to please contact her, Mr. Stretcher, and/or Dr. Noyes if they need any additional assistance.

Dr. Michael Noyes acknowledged supervision failures on the part of Dallas County CSCD that were recently reported in the local news media. He apologized for the failures and stated that this is not acceptable. Additional training and resources will be provided to staff to address this issue and get in front of the root cause for the failures. Dr. Noyes expressed how important the public's safety is to his department and ensured that the issues are being addressed.

The next CJAB meeting will be November 17, 2013.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:52 PM.