



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
General Membership Minutes for Monday, March 16, 2015**

Welcome & Introductions, Director Ron Stretcher, Dallas County Criminal Justice Department, called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM, in Commissioner Dr. Garcia's absence. He informed the board that Commissioner Garcia would be arriving late due to attending an open house of the County Jail's new Medical Unit. Customary introductions were made by all in attendance.

Membership & Infrastructure:

Duane Steele acknowledged the members who were not able to attend. Mr. Steele also introduced Melinda D. Schlager, Ph.D., newly appointed Executive Director of the Caruth Police Institute.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on December 15, 2014 were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and approved.

Committee Project Updates:

Bail Bond:

Ron Stretcher provided an update directing the member's attention to page 7 through 15 of the packet. The Bail Bond Subcommittee met on January 26, 2015, to address concerns raised during the December CJAB meeting regarding the collection of fines associated with bond forfeitures. The committee requested that Dallas County IT begin generating the Account 62 report again. This report identifies fines collected, specifically bond forfeitures from both felony and misdemeanor cases. There was also an Auditor's report generated, however, it captured not only the bond fines, but court cost (full amount) and interest. The committee also reviewed the Pretrial Release Mechanisms study conducted by UTD. They were encouraged to submit feedback regarding thoughts about the usefulness of the information and/or if there is any other studies they believe would be pertinent.

The Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from January 2014 through December 2014. The total judgments ordered by the courts for the aforementioned period was \$2,272,089.12 for over 2600 cases. Also reported was January 2015 through February 2015 reflecting judgment totals of

\$294,055.36 for 383 cases. The Account 62 reports reflected total bond forfeiture collected by the felony court from January through December 2014 in the amount of \$621,746. For the same reporting period, the misdemeanor courts collected \$400,035.

Fair Defense Committee:

Lynn Richardson gave a brief overview of the committee's activities. She reported that the committee met on February 4, 2015 at which time several items were discussed. The committee addressed the daily triage of the election of counsel forms (EOCs). The Court Coordinator Liaison that was performing the daily triage of the EOCs was promoted to another position within the county, so the current triaging is being processed by the Court Manger assistants. The committee also received feedback from Judge Yoo about the triage pilot she initiated. Judge Yoo indicated that during the trial period, her coordinator discovered that approximately 80% of the EOCs they processed were illegible. There were also the anticipated issues with appointing an attorney to a case that has not been filed yet. Judge Yoo suggested providing training for the LEAs having the most problems with the EOCs. There was also an update given regarding the software Dallas County IT has developed to capture remote bookings that are not part of the video arraignment process. Gary Miller with IT was present and reported that the software is ready for testing and will provide the end users with the testing site link. Finally, the committee addressed the video arraignment pilot with Richardson PD. Since the meeting, Judge McVea has reach out to Chief Spivey and scheduled a meeting to discuss the specifics and arrange a start date.

Mr. Stretcher added that there is a new initiative being started with the Sheriff's Department to begin using pink kites that inmates can fill out if they have not seen an attorney in the last 15 day and/or haven't been to court in the last 30 days. He stated that this is another measure in place to help with SB7 compliance.

Public Policy:

Council Member Medrano directed the board's attention to page 18 of the packet for an update on the items CJAB approved to support. He gave a brief update of the following:

1. **TABC-BYOB** - This proposal will provide a way for T.A.B.C. and local law enforcement to regulate the alcohol consumption in said establishments which include B.Y.O.B. sexually oriented businesses. This proposal will carve out exceptions for establishments that operate primarily as a food service and locations such as golf courses.

Update - HB148, SB618, SB808, HB2296, HB2011, HB1917, and SB396 have been filed relating to the regulation of on premise alcohol consumption.

2. **Safe Burglary** - Business burglary is currently a State Jail felony. The proposed change in statute to an F/2 would reduce the increase in safes being the target of numerous business burglaries.

Update - HB1570, as filed, will change the offense of burglary from a state jail felony to a felony of the third degree.

3. **Handicap Parking** - The 2009 legislation's intent was to make all handicap parking violations criminal, thereby sending a stronger message to the violator. The proposed change is to allow both civil and criminal citations to be issued for Handicap Parking Violations, depending on the circumstances of the officer or volunteer, and considering the ability to determine the identity of the driver.

Update – No new information at this time.

4. **HB1992** - This bill was related to the transfer of certain inmates to TDCJ following pronouncement of the inmate's sentence. Under the current law TDCJ is only obligated to accept persons sentenced to more than 10 years. This creates a problem with those who have committed certain 3G offenses and sentenced to 10 years or less, awaiting an appeal and sitting in the County Jail pending the disposition of that appeal.

Update - HB904 by Smith is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Corrections Committee on March 12, 2015 at 8:00am.

Council Member Medrano stated that the handout also gave an overview and update of a few other criminal justice bills of interest.

Jail Population Update:

Etho Pugh reported on the Jail Population meeting held on March 13, 2015. Excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 21 through 28 of the packet. Mr. Pugh stated that the current jail population for this date is 5,766.

Justice of the Peace:

Judge Steve Seider reported that the RFP is being cancelled, and the JP courts are now looking at incorporating Tech Share as the software for the RMS. He also added that they are working with Mr. Finney on a bill to help address some of their bail bond issues. The JP courts are also working on a bill updating local rules.

Jurisprudence:

Ellyce Lindberg reported that an ad-hoc meeting was held on February 19, 2015 to further discuss the issue of allowing defense attorneys from the Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (DCDLA) to obtain a security badge for building access that would bypass security. Ms. Lindberg stated that the committee reached a consensus to defer to Commissioners Court. Under the Code of Criminal Procedure there is a provision that allows Commissioners Court

to decide on matters such as this. Commissioner Dr. Garcia requested that Budget Officer Ryan Brown and Robert DeGroot, Chief of Dallas County Security prepare a letter outlining their position on this matter.

Juvenile Justice:

Dr. Terry Smith reported that the committee has not met, however Ms. Denika R. Caruthers with the Civil DA's Office will be a member of the committee. She also reported that the ribbon cutting for the new Letot Girls Center was recently held. The center will house girls that have been victims of trafficking and prostitution. The beds for this center will be contracted throughout the State. Also, juvenile justice representatives have been very busy tracking the many bills that are currently before this Legislative Session, which would have an impact on juvenile justice in Texas. Commissioner Dr. Garcia took a moment to congratulate Dr. Smith and the Juvenile Department for the wonderful celebration of the opening of the Letot Girls Center.

Reentry:

Michael Laughlin, Senior U.S. Probation Officer, reported in Christina Crain's absence. He stated that the second annual Reentry Symposium held on February 25, 2015 was a great success despite the ice and snow. A brief overview of the symposium and some of the keynote speakers was made a part on the packet beginning on page 35. Mr. Laughlin also informed the board about an upcoming event entitled "Orange is the New Black Meets Big D" featuring the author of the book Orange is the New Black. The event is scheduled for Tuesday April 7, 2015, from 5:30 to 10:00 PM at the Studio Movie Grill - Spring Valley. The invitation and information was provided in the packet.

Research:

Dr. Robert Morris was unable to attend this meeting, however, Ron Stretcher reported that the final version of the Pretrial Release Mechanisms study conducted by UTD has been released and is being review by the Criminal Justice Department staff and as previously mentioned, the Bail Bond Committee. A copy of the study will be made available to the members of CJAB.

Crisis Services Project (SIP):

Ron Stretcher reported that a new iteration of the SIP program is being implemented with the point of entry being Parkland Hospital. The targeted go live date is April 15, 2015 and a briefing will be presented to Commissioners Court on March 31, 2015 that will outline the new design of the program. The goal will be to serve 30 participants for the remainder of the year.

Action Item:

Ron Stretcher directed the board's attention to page 40 of the packet to information regarding a Safety + Justice Grant the Criminal Justice Department and the Sheriff's office are interested in applying for. The information in the packet gives an overview of the grant proposal. If awarded the grant, \$150,000 would be provided for 6 months of planning leading to an award of \$2 million a

year for 2 years. The focus is to reduce the over reliance on incarceration by the full implementation of risk assessment, pre bookin diversion for individuals with mental health needs, and the use of case tracking. If selected for the first phase, the grantors will provide technical assistance along with the \$150,000 to be used to hire someone to direct the process and for any data analysis needed. The results of the 6 month study will determine who receives the full funding of the grant. Sheriff Valdez was invited to New York for the announcement of this grant as a result of some of the processes her department has implemented over the past few years to reduce jail population. A copy of the briefing to Commissioners Court was also included in the packet along with a resolution from CJAB endorsing the submission of the grant and authorizing the County Judge and staff to sign any documents related to the grant.

*There was a motion made to endorse the submission of the grant. The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcements:

- Update on Homelessness Intervention in Dallas (smart phone grant) - Jennifer M. Reingle Gonzalez, PhD reported that in October 2014 they submitted an application for this grant. The University of Texas at Dallas Affiliate, Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research scored in the 10th percentile and it should be funded beginning December 1, 2015. At that point, collaboration with the Criminal Justice Department and partners will ensue.
- Caruth Police Institute Open House March 30, 2015 at 2:30 pm - Melinda D. Schlager, Ph.D.

Commissioner Dr. Garcia took a moment of personal privilege to present a resolution for 25 years of service with Dallas County to Mr. Duane Steele. The resolution was presented in Commissioners Court on March 3, 2015; however, Commissioner Dr. Garcia wanted to present the plaque personally. After reading the resolution, she thanked Mr. Steele for his years of service to Dallas County and CJAB.

The next CJAB meeting will be June 15, 2015.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:30 PM.