



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
General Membership Minutes for Monday, March 20, 2017**

Welcome & Introductions, Commissioner Dr. Garcia, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. Customary introductions were made by all in attendance.

Membership & Infrastructure:

There were no changes to membership or infrastructure at this time.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on December 19, 2016, were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and approved.

Presentations:

George Allen Protective Orders by Judge Tena Callahan, Sharon Archie, and Erika Williams:

Commissioner Dr. Garcia introduced Judge Tena Callahan, Sharon Archie, and Erika Williams, and gave a brief biography. Judge Tena Callahan stated that she believed that the day they set up the office for protective orders in the George Allen Building was one of the best days in Dallas County. Prior to this, the only protective orders presented in George Allen Courthouse were done by self-represented litigants. This presented a problem because these victims generally have little experience in dealing with court procedures. This office can provide information and help to these alleged victims by using county resources.

Erika Williams began the presentation by stating that beginning March 1, 2016; they began a Community Prosecution Unit and are working with the District Attorney's Office to pre-screen people for potentially receiving a protective order.

Ms. Archie and Ms. Williams next spoke about who is eligible to apply for the protective orders which included victims of family violence or victims who can show they are facing imminent danger of physical abuse from spouse, ex-spouse, relative by blood or marriage, member of same household or stalker.

For victims of family violence to receive the protective order they must show a past history abuse by the perpetrator or credible threat to cause physical harm. These will most likely be people who live in households and/or family members.

It could also be someone in a dating relationship even if the victim is a minor. For stalking, human trafficking, and sex assault, there does not need to be a relationship and the perpetrator could be a stranger.

To apply for a protective order a victim must go to the Frank Crowley Courthouse, their attorney's office, or George Allen Courts Building. When a person comes in to apply for a protective order they will meet with advocates to determine if they qualify. If they are in an active divorce or custody case they are not eligible to apply at Frank Crowley but can apply at George Allen Court House. Also if they have a pending case for family violence or other pending case in the District Attorney's Office they are not eligible to apply at the George Allen Office. Also a person who would not be eligible is someone who wants to apply for a third person, for example a friend or neighbor comes to the office to apply for the victim.

Applicants can run into problems during the process, for example the Pro Se Paperwork, the fee for the serving of the order, appearing before the judge, understanding what the order covers, and safety planning. Also knowing what resources are available to them, navigating the legal system, and mistakenly going to several different offices trying to find the correct one. Having this tool in George Allen Courts Building creates a one stop shop for the victim to get help and avoid the fee for serving the abuser.

Ms. Archie and Ms. Williams then discussed what the Protective Order Division now looks like after expanding to George Allen in 2016. Frank Crowley gets more traffic and higher numbers than George Allen but in the family courts in George Allen they are more involved in the family dynamics and get more involved. This can include counseling and social studies which once completed it may be reassessed if the protective order is still necessary. The George Allen unit represents Pro Se Applicants on protective Orders, provide advocacy services, provide legal representation in court, and include children in the protective order.

Ms. Archie then discussed the Statistics for family violence and sex assault offenses reported to Police in Dallas County. In 2013 there were 23,524, in 2014, there were 23,406, and in 2015 there were 21,407. Ms. Archie also stated that a large number of victims never make a police report but will still apply for a protective order through the District Attorney's office. Some victims may apply, but may be ineligible to receive protective orders at Frank Crowley because of an open case in Court in the George Allen Building.

Ms. Williams stated that since coming to George Allen their office has been able to serve 550 victims/survivors that received services and have filed 100 protective orders.

Ms. Williams concluded their presentation by stressing the benefits to the community that this Division has brought including assisting victims with

protective orders and placing their children on the order as well. Further they have also been able to assist with providing advocacy, safety planning, resources to the family, crisis intervention, and legal service referrals. Most importantly they have been able to provide assistance to victims in the family court who may not know how to navigate the system.

After the presentation Sharon Archie and Erika Williams answered questions. Ms. Lynn Richardson asked if referrals were provided to individuals who were going through the program who had substance abuse issues. She was currently told that they do not provide referrals but will give them information regarding services in their area. Another question was asked if the police should refer to Frank Crowley or George Allen, and they were told that they could contact either and would be directed to that point to the appropriate location.

Committee Project Updates:

Bail Bond:

Jeff Segura gave the update which stated the Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from January 2016 through December 2016. The total judgments ordered by the courts for the aforementioned period was \$1,829,818.17 for 2389 cases. The Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from January 2017 through February 2017 was \$387,267.13 for 401 cases. The Account 62 reports reflected total bond forfeiture collected by the felony court in February 2017 was \$68,393.22. For the same reporting period, the misdemeanor courts collected \$48,271.00.

Fair Defense Committee:

Lynn Richardson stated that many of the initiatives in the Public Defender's office are coming to fruition such as appointment of counsel. Currently fewer people are being left in jail waiting for counsel. Ms. Richardson stated that Judge Mulder has been very active in setting up an indigent screening process and they are in the process of hiring someone to oversee this process.

Ms. Richardson gave an update on the Pre-trial Release initiatives for which the Public Defender's Office is part of constructing. Ms. Richardson stated that the pieces are coming together and will result in the supervising of those on PR bond based on risk and needs. Ms. Richardson stated that Ryan Brown was there and was making efforts to ensure that poor people are not sitting in jail just because they are poor and this could possibly be solved by having 24 hour magistration with a prosecutor, a defense attorney, and a judge.

Ms. Richardson further stated that the Smart Justice Initiative headed by Ron Stretcher will be helping identify mentally ill individuals in jail for possible release.

Jail Population Update:

Etho Pugh reported on the Jail Population meeting held on March 10, 2017. Excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 29 through 35 of the packet. Mr. Pugh stated that the jail population for this date is 5,260.

Justice of the Peace:

Judge Steve Seider reported that they have a meeting with the Greater Apartment Association of Greater Dallas, The VA and ADAPT on March 21, 2017. Judge Seider stated he is calling this "Intercept Zero" which means it is dealing with people who are not yet in the criminal justice system, but still may need help. Currently they are identifying veterans, mentally ill, and homeless individuals and getting them into some kind of service or treatment. Ron Stretcher stated they are getting equipment to have a video node set up to provide services this way as well.

Juvenile Justice:

Dr. Terry Smith could not attend the meeting however Rudy Acosta spoke on her behalf. Mr. Acosta stated legislatively they are looking at trying to alter the age of responsibility, to raise it from ten and to keep seventeen year olds in the juvenile system. The Juvenile Department is also watching legislation regarding mechanical restraint with juveniles during judicial proceedings and mental health.

Mr. Acosta also stated they had concerns with the state budget particularly with TJJD who is their oversight agency, going into the session with a four and half million dollar deficit. This can greatly impact the Juvenile Department because the money they get from the state goes towards staff and programs, so they are following closely.

Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence:

Ellyce Lindberg stated that a LEA/Juris Prudence meeting was held with Judge Faith Johnson in attendance to discuss the new changes that will be coming regarding mental health and bond. One issue discussed was the notion of getting information to the District Attorney's office if the defendant is an "impact offender" as quickly as possible, because a bond decision may happen sooner. Additionally there was a discussion on uploading body camera evidence and the interface that is being created by Craig Morrissey of Dallas County IT and his team to make it easier for various law enforcement agencies.

Commissioner Daniels asked about how the sharing of information between law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney Office was evolving. Ellyce Lindberg stated that there is a portal that can be open to share information, but it is up to the agency if they would like to access it. Currently there are sixteen in the portal, and the City of Dallas is in the process of entering.

Public Policy:

Council Member Medrano could not attend however Jeff Segura gave an update. Mr. Segura stated that legislation is still coming through and being watched, specifically the Sandra Bland Act and Senate Bill 1338 by Senator Whitmire which would greatly affect Pretrial Release. Also Jeff Segura reminded everyone in attendance that the bills are still coming in and he will continue to send them to the appropriate departments for opinions.

Reentry:

Dr. Crain could not attend the meeting however Commissioner Garcia spoke on her behalf stating that the grand opening for Unlocking Doors new location is scheduled March 31, 2017. A flyer for Unlocking Doors was provided in the packets.

Program Update:**SAMSHA Drug Court Expansion:**

Laura Edmonds gave an update; the yearly goal for SAMSHA is 36 and they have 32 referrals in the first six months. The average wait time for client is five and half days in jail before being moved into the program.

Caruth Smart Justice:

Mike Laughlin reviewed the process in setting up the new Pretrial Program with the help of the judges and several departments. Mr. Laughlin stated that there have been meetings about Rite Care Teams for Intercept One, which would team clinicians, EMTs and law enforcement to form a rapid response team for mental health. Intercept two, three and four which are about jail book-ins, bond process, and re-entry. These work groups have been headed by Judge Lewis, Judge Mulder and Judge Wade to deal with assessment, screening, and bond supervision. The beta test for the pretrial program which is the culmination of these groups will begin in April. The last intercept is five which deals with post release treatment response. Currently Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute is working with getting treatment providers contracted.

Judge Mulder stated she was aware of legislation regarding getting evaluations done within four hours on defendants entering the jail. Judge Mulder regarded this legislation as not possible within the framework of Dallas County, and it should be carefully monitored. Sheriff Lupe Valdez suggested the possibility of getting exceptions for larger counties should that legislation pass.

Local Data Advisory Board:

Jeff Segura stated that he had spoken to Vicki Buchanan of Dallas County IT and the Dallas County Adult Courts are on track to reach the goal of 90% completeness for disposed cases by August 1, 2017. Currently Dallas County is

at 88.2%. The Juvenile Department has currently surpassed their goal and is at 91%.

Additional Comments

Commissioner Daniel introduced two interns, Stephanie Ruben and Oscar Riojas who are currently working in her office and are seniors at Skyline High School.

Public Comments:

None

Announcements:

Judge Nancy Mulder stated that Dallas County is currently the only county without a large Pretrial Diversion Program and she is working with Ryan Brown and others to create a new Pretrial Program overseen by a committee of five judges, three felony judges and two misdemeanor judges. The department will have an executive director and thirty officers. Judge Mulder further stated that the Pretrial Department will encompass indigent screening. Ryan Brown stated that there would be two separate groups, one currently under Ron Stretcher doing mental health screening. The second department would handle indigent screening and risk assessment. There is still discussion if they merge the mental health and supervision pieces but that is a discussion for the new Director, Commissioner's Court and Judiciary.

Judge Faith Johnson spoke about the Expunction Expo that was held on March 4, 2017, which resulted in over a thousand people coming out for pre-screening for expungement. On April 29, 2017, a Saturday, the judges will be holding court and would be signing off on judgements to expunge some of these cases. Judge Faith Johnson stated they would try and hold an expungetion day for people who have had their identity stolen in the near future. Judge Johnson also stated she would hold a community forum on April 4, 2017 at Concord Missionary Baptist Church. This day would provide a chance for the District Attorney's office to pass on information to the community and hear how they can better work with the community.

The next CJAB meeting will be held on June 19, 2017, at 2:30pm

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:50PM.