



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, March 26, 2018**

**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 18, 2017, 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:**

**Homeless Release Phone Grant – Dr. Jennifer Reingle-Gonzalez**

Commissioner Garcia introduced Dr. Jennifer Reingle-Gonzalez.

Dr. Reingle-Gonzalez began the presentation by introducing the project Link 2 Care and the partners associated with the launch of the project. The purpose of the project is to provide cell phones to the homeless population in order to link them to services in the community in an effort to help reduce jail population and get them out of homelessness and into stable housing. This would be accomplished through a smart phone app that would link them to services. In order to determine if the project is successful, a 5 year study will be conducted.

The study is currently in year one. They will be recruiting a total of 432 homeless men and women who have been released from Dallas County jail to participate in the study over the 5 year study. Upon release from Dallas County jail, a homeless person will be redirected to The Bridge where they will enroll in the program at an average of 20 people per month. Each participant will be followed for 6 months and recidivism data will be collected. Participants will get paid \$510 dollars if they participate and complete the 6 month study. The app will ask the participants questions about their daily activities and record the data. The app will link participants to their case managers, and AA/NA meetings by a click of a button.

Dr. Reingle-Gonzalez stated that a flyer has been created, and she has been in touch with Pretrial Services in order to help with recruiting. She also stated she would like to have contact with anyone that works with the homeless population in order to help with recruiting participants.

In order to participate in the study, all participants must have gotten released from jail within the last 30 days prior to referral. They have to reside in Dallas for the next year, and must enroll in the Bridge Homeless Recovery Program.

During the question and answer session Dr. Reingle-Gonzalez was asked if there is a specific strategy for making sure participants keep their cellphones charged. Dr. Reingle-Gonzalez stated they have done a study before and keeping cellphones charged has never been a problem. The Bridge has plenty of outlets for participants to use.

Commissioner Garcia asked if Dr. Reingle-Gonzalez can send progress reports through CJAB.

### **Homeless Diversion Court Program – District Attorney’s Office**

Commissioner Garcia introduced speakers from the District Attorney’s Office Felicia Kerney, Julie Turnbull and Lyndi Brooks and gave a brief biography.

Julie Turnbull began the presentation introducing the Reformatory Justice Unit and explaining the specialty courts and diversion programs the District Attorney’s office is involved with.

The unit is composed of 5 prosecutors, 1 investigator and 6 volunteer prosecutors from different divisions. It was explained that part of the unit is funded by MEMO funds, which are funds collected from the conditional dismissal fees. These monies are used to fund 3 additional probation officer position salaries as well.

Mrs. Turnbull gave a brief history of the specialty courts and their function. Defendants that qualify are pulled out of the criminal justice system and into specialty courts. Defendants do random drug testing and meeting with the judges on a weekly basis. If defendants do well they are rewarded by getting their cases dismissed and immediate expunction. If they are unsuccessful they are referred back to the criminal justice system for case management. Mrs. Turnbull referred to the packet for a list of the different specialty courts. Mrs. Turnbull finished off by saying her unit sponsors two classes HOPE and STOP. These classes are for individuals who are on probation or in a specialty court and classes are specifically for prostitutes and their clients (“Johns”).

Mrs. Brooks began her presentation by giving a brief history how the Homeless Diversion Court (HDC) started in Dallas County. The program is voluntary and

not ordered by the courts. Defendants are referred by service providers after they have been working with a service provider for a minimum of 30 days. The DA's office will review the defendant's criminal history and the progress in current program. They will then use that information to make a determination if the defendants are eligible for HDC. Upon successful completion of the program the defendant's case will be dismissed.

During question and answer session it was asked what kind of cases will they typically have. Mrs. Brooks stated mostly misdemeanors, violent offenses will be considered case by case, and no felonies at this time.

Commissioner Garcia asked how many people will they be able to divert. Mrs. Brooks responded they currently have 25 names submitted to them, for screening. Commissioner Garcia asked if families would also be considered for the program. It was stated that they are currently only looking at the individual and not servicing families. Commissioner Garcia requested Mrs. Brooks report back with a progress report in 6 months.

Mrs. Kerney began her presentation by giving a brief history of how the DA satellites offices began. There are currently 14 satellite offices for victims of domestic violence to be prescreened for a protective order. These offices are located at Police Substations, Family Advocacy Centers and Genesis Shelter. The purpose of these offices is to make it easier for victims to get to access to a prosecutor and advocates in the community. Victims are prescreened at the satellites offices and if they qualify for a protective order they would have to complete the process at the Frank Crowley Courts Building. Mrs. Kerney ended the presentation by stating that as of this date there have been over 350 individuals who have been served.

### **Committee Project Updates:**

#### **Bail Bond:**

Jeff Segura gave the update. The Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from year completed 2017 of \$2,391,037.77 for 2598 cases. The Account 62 reports reflected total bond forfeiture collected by the felony courts in February 2018 was \$116,180.00. For the same reporting period, the misdemeanor courts collected \$17,321.00.

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

Lynn Richardson could not attend the meeting but sent an update to Mike Laughlin. It was reported that they are currently working on establishing a 24 hour magistrate process. They have put together an official proposal for staffing in order to handle the extended hours.

**Jail Population Update:**

Etho Pugh reported on the Jail Population meeting held on March 16, 2018. Excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 45 through 50 of the packet. Mr. Pugh stated that the jail population for this date is 4,936. It was further reported that there was a technical issue with AIS over the weekend. It was causing delays on bonding companies being able to process their bonds. Mr. Victrum reported that the technical issue was corrected by IT today.

**Justice of the Peace:**

Judge Steve Seider could not attend the meeting but sent an update to Mike Laughlin. Justice Courts had been made aware of request for a waiver or exemption from the Office of Court Administration on collections reporting requirements. This is due to the antiquated Case Management System. He will be working with Dallas County Administration to solve and satisfy the requirements as they have done in the past. Secondly, the Dallas County DA's office has inquired about the Homeless Court, which Judge Seider has been having for 17 years in conjunction with the DAYL and the Stewpot. They have been included as a potential partner in the development of a homeless court for higher level cases. Thirdly, the first test of the software/hardware as a portal for the mental illness treatment that originates from JP court was successful. They are now going through response protocols and common scenarios to use with customers in the upcoming weeks. Lastly, software development of the new case management system is being supplemented with input from various Justice Court Chief Clerks, and the process is moving very slow.

**Juvenile Justice:**

Mr. Acosta could not attend the meeting but sent an update to Jeff Segura. It was reported that the Juvenile Department is currently in the process of selecting a new Chief/Director.

**Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence:**

A meeting was held February 28, 2018, and the meeting minutes are in the packets on pages 51-55. Ellyce Lindberg stated that they are currently trying to get a process where the law enforcement agencies brings the Probable Cause Affidavit to the jail when they have a warrant to drop off, or when they bring a prisoner. This would help the magistrate make an appropriate bond determination.

Ellyce Lindberg gave an update on Cite and Release, and stated there have been two dockets so far, and half the defendants did not show up. Those that did show were appreciative that they were not arrested initially. Commissioner Garcia asked if overall the program working efficiently. Mrs. Lindberg stated that the program is working well and the people assigned to the project are doing a great job. It was also stated that not all LEA are participating at the moment, but Dallas County infrastructure is setup for any other LEA that wants to start participating.

**Research:**

Dr. Jon Maskaly could not attend the meeting and did not send an update.

**Reentry:**

Dr. Crain started by giving a brief history of the Unlocking Doors program. Dr. Crain stated the DOJ and the White House has recognized Unlocking Doors, and will involve them in a research project on reentry. The DOJ plans to spend 4 million dollars on a reentry research study that is to be conducted in 4 different states. Texas has been selected as one of the states and Unlocking Doors program has been asked to participate and help roll out the study through their platform. At the end of the study a white paper will be written and published with the goals of implementing their findings and practices in other localities. Dr. Crain stated she would continue to provide updates as the research study starts to roll out.

The annual Reentry Symposium is scheduled for October 19, 2018 at the Belo Mansion.

Dr. Crain stated they are working with Parkland Hospital and PCCI, to build an algorithm on top of the Unlocking Door model in order to help sync and automate services for offenders. The goal of program is to collaborate and put an offender in all the programs he/she needs like, mental health, health care and homelessness which ultimately will save tax payer dollars. Dr. Crain stated that they have also partnered with another group called RefillWise in order to sign up offenders with a prescription card.

Dr. Crain stated that they have received a grant through NIH to do a research project on offenders exiting Dallas County jail who have AIDS/HIV. There will be control and focus groups, Unlocking Doors will call members of the focus group to remind them to go in for their medication.

Lastly, Dr. Crain stated that after speaking with a couple of LEA Chief's they will be starting a pilot project, where LEA will be referring offenders directly to Unlocking Doors. The purpose of this is to free up resources for the LEA.

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

Laura Edmonds gave an update; the yearly goal for SAMSHA is 36 and they have had 17 referrals through the end of February. They have been able to move clients from referral to out of jail within an average of 8 days. Commissioner Garcia asked what the target time is. Mrs. Edmonds stated the grant goal is to be under 14 days.

**Caruth Smart Justice:**

Mike Laughlin stated to refer to pages 57-64 for a quarterly summary from Meadows. It was further stated that Intercept 1 is doing well, and working closely with Dallas Police, Fire/Rescue, and Parkland. DPD Chief stated that on January 29, 2018 they started the project, and it's working well. The 911 dispatchers are able have clinicians respond to the scene; it frees up 2 to 3 officers. Mr. Laughlin stated that Intercept 2-4 continues to be in progress. They have had to make some tweaks in order to accommodate the revision to the statues; they will now be able to include more people therefore their numbers will improve. Mrs. Edmonds stated that Intercept 5 is currently working well. Commissioner Garcia asked if we will be tracking the cost. Mr. Laughlin stated yes that is part of the long term plan.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Announcements:**

The next CJAB meeting will be held on June 18, 2018, at 2:30pm.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 4:00PM.