



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
General Membership Minutes for Monday, December 17, 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:

A motion was made to approve Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez as the Research Subcommittee Chair. The motion was seconded and voted on. Motion carried out unanimously.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on September 17, 2018, were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed.

Presentations:

The Law Enforcement Stress Surveillance Study – Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez

Commissioner Garcia introduced Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez, UT Health Associate Professor and Assistant Regional Dean.

Dr. Gonzalez began the presentation by giving background of the Law Enforcement Stress Surveillance Study. The study was conducted on a group of Dallas Police Officers. The purpose of the study is to try and determine why police officers have poor health outcomes. What are some of the day-to-day stressors that police officers have, and what can be done to intervene to help LEA officers.

Dr. Gonzalez stated that LEA officers die an average of 10 years earlier than people who are employed in other occupations. Some of the common causes of premature mortality are disproportionate injury, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and suicide. A possible mechanism that may be contributing to premature mortality is the repeated exposure to stressful and traumatic stimuli. Acute and chronic stress may also drive high rates of divorce and family conflict, emotional dissonance and exhaustion, detachment, and cynicism. These adverse effects of stress have costly ramifications to the police departments in form of injury and

workers compensation claims, sick days, long- and short-term disability, early retirement and attrition, lost productivity, and burnout.

Dr. Gonzalez reported that a total of 10 officers from the Dallas Police Department were recruited to participate in the 30 day study, and the aim of the study was to identify what about the officer's day-to-day activity is stressful. In order to identify the micro-stressors associated with the law enforcement occupation a FitBit was assigned to each participating officer, along with an activity log and a stress log. The purpose of the FitBit was to record the officer's heart rate, and use that data to compare to the officer's current activity while on the job. Each officer was also to self-report when they put on their FitBit and when they took it off and record that data in the activity log. The stress log was used to record anything non-occupational that cause them stress. At the end of the study officers participate in a focus group to discuss feasibility and stress. Dr. Gonzalez then went over graphs that recorded the variations in heart rate and compared them to their activity.

Dr. Gonzalez stated continued to speak about the micro-stressors that impacted their heart rate while on the job. The primary micro-stressors included crisis intervention team (CIT) calls, traffic stops, officer-involved shooting events, low pay, and being unable to have a meal break or eat healthy on the job. The officers also reported hypervigilance, or being unable to turn off "cop mode." They also stated that limited man power, inadequate benefits, and stress from certain departmental policy. The officers were then asked how they cope with these stressors and they reported such coping mechanisms such as physical activity, time with family, and playing games. Dr. Gonzalez went over more graphs and compared heart rates between a CIT call and an officer assist call. The graph revealed that the officer assist call showed a higher heart rate than the CIT calls.

Dr. Gonzalez reported that in summary heart rate data were noisy and inconsistent. There was tremendous between-officer variation in responses to occupational stimuli. CIT and officer assist calls especially driving to and the first 10 minutes of the call, appeared to cause the greatest spikes in heart rate and the most stressful.

During questions and answers, Chief Spivey commented that he was happy to see these kinds of studies being conducted. It was also stated that the stressors for young officers fresh out of the police academy will be different than the stressors older tenured officers would have. Dr. Gonzalez mentioned that is one study she would like to do in the future. It was also asked if these type of studies will be expanded into other fields like nursing. Dr. Gonzalez stated that this it is something they would like to continue to research in the future.

Committee Project Updates:

Bail Bond:

Miguel Canales gave the update. The Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from January – November 2018 of \$1,245,620.07 for 1,963 cases. The Account 62 reports reflected total bond forfeitures collected by the felony courts in November 2018 was \$7,800.00. For the same reporting period, the misdemeanor courts collected \$3,500.00.

Fair Defense Committee:

Lynn Richardson gave the update. It was reported that the Public Defender's Office and the Indigent Defense Committee are asking for the support of CJAB on a proposed legislation, regarding priority appointment on capital cases in the criminal courts. Priority appointment meaning before assigning a case to another attorney the Public Defender's Office should get first priority. This proposed legislation would be cost effective for Dallas County as it will positively impact Dallas County's budget. Commissioner Garcia stated that the Public Policy subcommittee met, and discussed the Public Defender's office proposed legislation and have decided that CJAB will support the proposed legislation. Charles Reed further stated that this proposal along with Dallas County legislative agenda was heard at Commissioners Court and approved. A motion was made to support the Public Defender's Office proposed legislation. The motion was seconded and voted on. Motion carried out unanimously.

Jail Population Update:

Etho Pugh reported on the Jail Population meeting held on December 14, 2018. Excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 28 through 33 of the packet. Mr. Pugh stated that the jail population for this date is 4,687. Commissioner Garcia asked what is the average jail population for this time of the year. Mr. Pugh stated that we are currently 300 below the average at this time.

Justice of the Peace:

Judge Steve Seider gave the update. The Court Management System (CMS) development has not progressed in accordance with any time deadlines. Court Management System (CMS) capabilities/goals are being changed—it appears that the system will provide less than what was promised and it has taken a step backwards. There are four new Justices of the Peace that will be taking office next year. It was requested that Dallas County administration put together some kind of packet or training to provide them with information on what is happening within Dallas County. Judge Seider stated that he would partner with Mr. Hikel to develop a training for the new Justices of the Peace.

Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence:

Chief Spivey gave the update. A meeting was held November 14, 2018 in regards to how the new process of indigent bonds will affect Dallas County LEA's. It was further reported that Dallas County LEA's want to comply with all rulings from the Dave's lawsuit. It was reported that during the last meeting Mr. Hikel gave a presentation to all LEA's and walked them through the requirement and ramifications of the lawsuit. It was further stated that the minutes from that meeting are in the CJAB packet on pages 34 through 36.

Pretrial:

Jeff Segura gave the update. It was reported that Pretrial continues to expand their intake division and will have a group of individuals starting next week. The goal is to be operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It was further reported that with the expansion there will also be opening for supervisor and manager level positions within Pretrial. Smart Justice Unit is currently down 1 staff member in the Electronic Leg Monitor Unit, and they have been approved for the 8th officer. The Alcohol Monitoring Unit is fully staffed.

Reentry:

Christina Crain could not attend the meeting and sent an update to Miguel Canales. The 2018 Texas Reentry Symposium was held Friday, October 19, 2018 at the Belo Mansion in Downtown Dallas. Following are highlights: 350 attendees, full day of presentations and discussions regarding pertinent topics in criminal justice/reentry, and wide Media Coverage was received. Preparation for the Texas Legislative Session is under way: Unlocking DOORS™ served as a member of Texas Governor's Workforce Workgroup representing special populations. The group has assisted in making workforce recommendations for the criminal justice population in the upcoming Legislative Session. Multiple meetings have been and are continuing to be held with state leadership regarding pertinent criminal justice/reentry issues. Unlocking DOORS™ plans to assist with testimony, data, analytics, and additional assistance during the Legislative Session. The White House/DOJ/Koch Network reentry initiative "Safe Streets & Second Chances" (S3C) continues at the Unlocking DOORS™ Headquarters. Unlocking DOORS™ is the test site for the initiative's Texas rollout, with S3C staff having their own space at the Unlocking DOORS™ Headquarters through May of 2020. Unlocking DOORS™ has partnered with the University of Texas at Arlington to create a transportation/mobility application to assist clients. Stay tuned for additional information on the project.

Program Update

Caruth Smart Justice:

Mike Laughlin gave an update; he stated to refer to pages 42-48 for a quarterly summary of Caruth MHPR Bond. Since April 2017 they have a total of 920 approved cases, and a total of 656 discharged. They have had 239 complete the program successfully, 410 unsuccessfully and seven with a neutral outcome. As of November 30, 2018 they have a total of 264 active cases. Mr. Laughlin further stated that this is the last month for the Caruth Smart Justice grant. Mr. Laughlin briefly went over Intercepts 1-5, and asked to refer to packet for detailed explanation on progress made.

Public Comments:

None

Announcements:

Lynn Richardson passed around a flyer with contact information for the Mental Health Division Staff for the Public Defender's Office. The flyer will be added to the CJAB packet.

The next CJAB meeting will be held on March 18, 2019, at 2:30pm.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:33PM.