



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, June 17, 2019**

**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 Major Reuben Ramirez as a member of CJAB and representative for the Dallas Police Department. The motion was seconded and voted on. Motion carried out unanimously.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on March 18, 2019, were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed.

**Presentations:**

**Unlocking DOORS:**

Christina Melton Crain spoke and introduced Unlocking DOORS. With over 70,000 offenders being released from prison each year, Unlocking DOORS is a Texas Reentry Network. They are committed to reducing crime through lowering the recidivism rate which is at 70% at the moment. The purpose of Unlocking DOORS is to give guidance and assistance to each client known as offenders. Throughout this program, several services are provided to each client to help them succeed and prevent them from reoffending any time in the future. Some of these services range from housing to job searches.

Ms. Crain reported that Texas currently ranks as the largest criminal justice system in the United States. Over 70,000 offenders are released from state prison and jail systems into the Texas community each year. Unlocking DOORS functions to serve this population through their unique delivery model. Ms. Crain explained that Unlocking DOORS provides offenders reentering the community with reentry brokerage services. This includes Unlocking DOORS brokerage staff with providing reentry individuals with a comprehensive risk/needs assessment, working to develop an individualized reentry brokerage plan to address specific needs, assistance with referrals to community services, and ongoing monitoring and assistance. Ms. Crain stated that once an individual is an Unlocking DOORS

client they are always an Unlocking DOORS client and are free to return for assistance at any time.

Ms. Crain reported that Unlocking DOORS also works to collect, analyze, and report data they collect from their services. They use this data to further aid them in assisting reentering offenders, particularly by focusing on four key areas of need that if not met often lead to reoffending behavior: housing, employment, transportation, and medical/mental health services.

Ms. Crain concluded her presentation by informing the committee of the upcoming Unlocking Doors symposium which is taking place on Friday, September 27 at the Belo Mansion. For more information and to register, individuals can visit the Unlocking DOORS website at [dallasdoors.org](http://dallasdoors.org).

### **Committee Project Updates:**

#### **Bail Bond:**

Miguel Canales gave the update. The Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from January – May 2019 of \$572,325.21 for 919 cases. The Account 62 reports reflected total bond forfeitures collected by the felony courts in May 2019 was \$21,360.00. For the same reporting period, the misdemeanor courts collected \$28,481.60.

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

Lynn Richardson gave the update. It was reported that there has been a significant increase in funding to assist the committee. A portion of the funding was set aside to expand for public offenders who work with mentally ill clients this includes existing programs and being able to expand them. Also, includes assisting defense attorneys who are not public defenders and provide training in addition to representing people who are mentally ill.

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

Etho Pugh reported on the Jail Population meeting held on June 14, 2019. Excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 24 through 29 of the packet. Mr. Pugh stated that the jail population for this date is 4,891. The May average jail population is 4,714 and the yearly average is 4,824.

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

Judge Steve Seider was not present at the meeting and did not send an update to Miguel Canales.

#### **Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence:**

Ellyce Lindberg gave the update. There was no meeting held. It was reported that they are working with the district attorney to try and find out how to operationalize the new policy changes. Still adjusting to new ideas but progress has been made.

**Pretrial:**

Jeff Segura gave the update. Meeting was held on May 14, 2019. Pretrial continues its expansion and operating 24/7 in jail. Department had 23-24 staff members a year and a half ago and are now standing at 55. Soon to expand again with approximately 2 supervisors, in-take positions and electronic monitor numbers have rapidly increased. Staff positions plan to continue to growth to meet the demands. Michael Laughlin spoke and mentioned he is working with contractors to implement new risk tool, known as PSA that is based on more criminal history and less on subjective factors. The goal for PSA is to get more objective criminal history risk related information before the judge's eyes, and make better release decisions structure for pretrial. In addition, contractors will be training judges and many others on this process.

**Research:**

Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez gave the update. Jennifer has been scheduled to meet with the new district attorney to discuss his research priorities and agenda. Will be assisting him with some of their diversion programs, including the AIM specialty court.

**Program Update:****Local Data Advisory Board:**

Miguel Canales stated that he had spoken to Vicki Buchanan of Dallas County IT and the Dallas County Adult Courts have begun their work for the next year. Currently the adult courts are at 90% completeness for disposed cases. The Juvenile Department is currently at 91%. The goal is to be above 90% by September 2019. More information is on page 94.

**Link2Care:**

Dr. Gonzalez reported that the Link2Care project continues to progress. She did report that the project has experienced more lost phones by the project population than was anticipated, but they are continuing to assess project processes, and overall the project is progressing well.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Announcements:**

Unlocking Doors is holding their re-entry symposium on September 27  
The next CJAB meeting will be held on September 16, 2019, at 2:30pm.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved. Meeting was adjourned at 3:19PM.