



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
General Membership Minutes for Monday, September 16, 2019**

Welcome & Introductions, Commissioner Dr. Garcia, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. All in attendance made customary introductions.

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 June 17, 2019, were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed.

Presentations:

Transformative Justice: How Dallas Is Employing Evidence-Based Practices to Transform Their Community and The Landscape of Criminal Justice Nationally– Elizabeth A. Henneke, Yulise Reaves Waters, and Amy Lopez

Commissioner Garcia introduced the speakers Elizabeth Henneke, Yulise Reaves Waters and Amy Lopez.

Ms. Henneke began the presentation by recognizing their collaborative partners: The Dallas County Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, and the Dallas County Commissioners. All speakers introduced themselves and gave a brief bio.

Ms. Lopez started the presentation by giving statistics on recidivism in the U.S. Prison System. The national recidivism rate is 75% that inmates will reoffend within three years of their release. In Texas, \$5 billion dollars is spent on a system that results in 75% of the time young adults recidivating once released. One of the main issues with the Criminal Justice System is that everyone is working in silos. Council of State Governments released a report on young adults that states that programs around the Country that are delivering multi-disciplinary services and when they do so they lower recidivism from 75% to 10%. Ms. Lopez raised the question of why are these programs not being adopted by everyone. Critics have suggested that these studies are biased. They are collecting data from specialty courts who

hand select people to participate. As a result, the selection process accounts for the change, rather than the program itself.

What Transformative Justice aims to do is change this process, by pulling information from all the programs that are working, and developing it into their own model. Then they will also do a randomized control trial in a Pretrial space. The randomized control will divide defendants who go into the criminal justice system as usual, and then track defendants who enter the Transformative Justice Program. They will be tracking their performance for three years. They will collect recidivism data, well-being or health care tracking, and do a cost benefit analysis. It is predicted that if those people on their program for the first three years reduce their recidivism from 75% to 40% they will save \$4.7 million dollars on only the cost of incarceration, and that is not accounting for all other costs (i.e. court cost, attorney costs, etc.). This will ultimately free up time from law enforcement to the prosecution and defense. This initiative is also being conducted in Williamson County, Texas.

Ms. Waters stated this initiative has only been done once in the history of criminal justice, and it was back in 1980 with a small select group. The work will begin in five zip codes in Dallas County. The program will take the following steps to select candidates: 1) The defendant will be assigned to the program within 24 hours of arrest; 2) Individualized treatment decisions will be made by behavioral health and social service experts and guided by the results of a validated risk-needs responsivity tool; 3) Intensive, relationship-driven case management in the community and supported by justice-involved returning citizens; 4) Stage incentive-based programming to assure accountability; And 5) Community engagement and race equity programming that supports both community and individual healing. Ms. Waters briefly went over the different phases of the program as defendant's progress through it. Lastly, Ms. Waters stated that accountability is a key the program's success.

During the questions and answers, it was asked what will be the accountability measures used. It was stated that they would use a matrix to respond to different violations. Ms. Henneke gave an example scenario of how violations response would be handled.

It was asked how many defendants the study would include. Ms. Henneke reported that they would take 100 participants per year. The goal is to have a minimum of 300 participants by end of the study in three years.

Meeting attendees inquired as to how the program will interact with the Dallas Police Department and the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Henneke reported that they currently have a building on Holmes Street and will be sending out invites for an open house soon. The employees providing the case management will need limited jail access in order to see the defendants and interview them for the program.

Commissioner Garcia asked if they all have all the IT needs to start working the program. Ms. Henneke stated they are working with PCIC on an interface that will allow them to access EMS, healthcare, criminal justice, and social service data all in one database.

Committee Project Updates:

Bail Bond:

Miguel Canales provided the update. The Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from January – August 2019 of \$952,124.34 for 1,454 cases. The Account 62 reports reflected total bond forfeitures collected by the felony courts in August 2019 was \$106,500.00. For the same reporting period, the misdemeanor courts collected \$9,000.00.

Fair Defense Committee:

Lynn Richardson gave the update. She reported that they are continuing to work with Criag Morissey in finalizing the indigent defense portal. The Indigent Defense Commission has posted a grant for mental health programs, in which the Public Defender's Office will be submitting an application.

Jail Population Update:

Charlene Randolph reported for Etho Pugh. There was a Jail Population meeting held on September 13, 2019. Excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 27 through 32 of the packet. Ms. Randolph stated that the jail population for this date is 5,417. The August average jail population was 5,155 and the yearly average is 5,198.

Justice of the Peace:

Judge Steve Seider gave the update. He reported that the JP Court Management System has not changed, and there has not been any updates yet. The JP met with DA's Office, both with Criminal and Civil Division, regarding older cases that are uncollectable. They are looking at a process of cleaning up those cases. Judge Seider reported that they are also not getting accurate information on active warrants. They want to make sure that when the warrants are cleared by JP court, that it is properly communicated. IT has been helpful in crafting reports that help facilitate the day-to-day operations of the JP. Lastly, the past legislature changed the jurisdiction limit from 10k to 20k. This is going to increase the number of plaintiffs represented by attorneys, which will eventually be more time consuming. There are now six new JPs out of ten.

Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence:

Chief Jim Spivey gave the update. Chief Spivey stated they have spent some working through the legislative changes given to them by this new legislative session. Chief Spivey reported that TABC has started a new TRACE program and has asked LEAs to get involved early when there is an alcohol related crash with serious bodily injury. The purpose of this program is to trace back the alcohol vendor, which could have over served the driver.

Pretrial:

Jeff Segura gave the update. Pretrial Services continues to do well. They are currently down three officers; two have been identified and are in the process of being hired. Currently working with the Judges on certain protocols with the 24/7 operation.

Reentry:

Christian Crain could not attend the meeting and sent an update to Miguel Canales. The Unlocking DOORS 2019 Texas Reentry Symposium is Friday, September 27th at the BELO Mansion. Dr. Garcia will be receiving the Golden Key Award during the Symposium at noon for her dedication and support of improving reentry efforts. Mr. Jeff Segura will also be a symposium presenter on Pretrial matters.

Research:

Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez gave the update. There was a subcommittee meeting on July 22nd. The committee has identified Dr. Jetelina to potentially present during the next CJAB meeting in December, as she is doing some exciting work with the Dallas Police Department. They are continuing to work with the DA's Office on the AIM Court evaluation.

Program Update:

Public Safety (PSA) Pretrial Risk Assessment Tool:

Michael Laughlin gave the update. Mr. Laughlin reported that they are continuing to work on implementing the new Pretrial Risk Assessment Tool. They have hired a contractor to help with the implementation process. The goal is to have it off the ground by fall. There is a contract in place with Noble Software group that will automate the tool scoring and reporting. The first wave of training and information session have started last month. They are starting to run test samples of individuals going through the system in order to run a pilot to test the Nobel software to ensure it is working properly.

Public Comments:

None

Announcements:

The next CJAB meeting will be held on December 16, 2019, at 2:30pm.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:45PM.