



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, March 19, 2012**

**Welcome & Introductions**, Commissioner Garcia called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM. The Commissioner asked that everyone in attendance introduce themselves. Commissioner Garcia acknowledged and congratulated Chief Joe Costa on his new appointment as Chief of Police for the city of Desoto.

**Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2012 Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Membership & Infrastructure, Dr. Michael Noyes**

Dr. Noyes introduced the CJAB Members Handbook and thanked Duane Steele for assisting in its preparation. He informed the committee that the handbooks would be available to each member at the end of meeting.

**Presentation: Proposed Serial Inebriate Program for the County of Dallas, presented by Dr. Melanie Lippmann.**

Dr. Melanie Lippmann is an assistant professor of emergency medicine at UT Southwestern. She presented an update on the proposal to start a serial inebriate program in Dallas County. She explained that currently work is being done to identify and quantify the population that would benefit from this program. She has been working with Dallas Police Department, various hospitals, Dallas Fire and Rescue, EMS, and Psychiatric Services. There has been a list put together of the target individuals who are chronically involved in the system for alcohol abuse, and the cost associated with those contacts. These statistics were presented in a power point presentation that will be distributed later and posted on the CJAB website <http://www.dallascounty.org/departments/cjab/index.php>. Dr. Lippmann stated that the goal is to set up a pilot program here in Dallas referencing the model that has been established in San Diego, CA. The program was able to identify these chronic abusers that frequent the emergency rooms, jails, and EMS systems. By establishing a court mandated rehabilitation program, San Diego saved \$18 million within the first four (4) years, and helped over 500 individuals. Ellyce Lindberg, Assistant DA asked if the plan was to establish a criminal justice piece to this pilot. Dr. Lippmann responded that they are looking at communicating with the DA's office to talk about how to include this court ordered requirement. Lt. Alexander Eastman with DPD stated that the city's detox center basically is a sobering center but not a sobriety center. He added that the city is interested in participating in this pilot but it needs to have a

statutory and/or diversion provision to give it some teeth. Commissioner Garcia asked if a number has been established for this population. This is still being researched in the data collection phase of this program. Commissioner Garcia stated that CJAB is more than willing to help in developing and participating in this pilot program. Dr. Lippmann stated that they are currently looking for funding sources to help start the project, and are looking at being able to start sometime in September 2012.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

#### **Corrections (Jail Population), Pre-Trial/Diversion, Etho Pugh**

Etho Pugh introduced himself as the newly appointed Jail Population Coordinator. He referenced the stats that were made a part of the packet. He began by explaining each of the various reports in the packet. He also reviewed the Alternative Sentencing stats from February 2012 and highlighted the jail bed expenses saved by this program for this month was \$100,203.18. He added that this program has been very successful in reducing the need to house individuals in the jail that could be better supervised in the community pending their court hearings. Commissioner Garcia commended the departments involved for their efforts in managing the jail population. Dr. Noyes commended Mr. Pugh on his new position.

#### **Law Enforcement, Chief Mitch Bates, Garland PD**

Commissioner Garcia informed the committee that Chief Bates would not be in attendance, but the report from the January 5, 2012 LEA subcommittee meeting has been made a part of the packet for this meeting.

#### **Jurisprudence, David Alex**

In David's absence, Ellyse Lindberg reported that the subcommittee has not met and therefore has no report.

#### **Courts, Judge Robert Burns**

Judge Burns informed the membership that he has assumed the responsibility of presiding Judge over the DIVERT court. He has also been appointed to interface with the Clerk's office to address issues with the County's OnBase program.

#### **Re-Entry Subcommittee, Christina Melton-Crain**

Christina reported that the Re-Entry subcommittee meeting was held on March 8, 2012. She reported that there was good representation and Judge Burns and Dr. Lippmann will be added to the distribution list. The committee discussed the three topics of focus they would like to address for 2012 which are housing, employment, and educating the community at large about re-entry. There was open discussion about the topics, and members from the committee were assigned to one of the areas to begin working. Christina stated that the committee's goal is to report after each meeting the accomplishments made in the three re-entry focus areas, and work towards a stronger collaboration among the various re-entry services to build a more unified approach. She encouraged

feedback and ideas from CJAB members in regard to helping with this collaboration. Michael Lee reported that the City of Dallas opened a RFP which he understands will be awarded to DOORS. He stated that a meeting was held with the City of Dallas staff to discuss the collaboration of re-entry efforts and the use of the LSCMI (Level of Service Case Management Indicators). DOORS is the regional trainer in the use of the LSCMI assessment tool. He stated that this is a great opportunity to have a standardized measure of dealing with the target population. Commissioner Garcia will have a letter drafted from CJAB to be presented on April 28, 2012 to the City Council in support of DOORS.

### **Public Policy, Delia Jasso**

Councilwoman Jasso reported that the Public Policy committee met on March 9, 2012 and the minutes were made a part of the packet. She asked that Dr. Noyes give the report in Lt. Gary Tittle's absence. Dr. Noyes reported that the committee met and discussed items on the last Legislative agenda that did not pass that CJAB may want to revisit. He stated that there will be additional meetings prior to the new session to determine the agenda items that will be pursued with CJAB's approval. Dr. Noyes added that in regard to the State budget, they will be starting with an \$8 billion deficit. He stated that this may make it hard to maintain the funding that is currently being distributed. He requested that anyone who has items they would like to see on the 83rd Legislature agenda, to please forward those to Councilwoman Jasso. By mid-summer the Public Policy committee, through CJAB, will prepare a packet of items to be represented in the upcoming session. Sheriff Valdez suggested that Mental Health be an agenda item in the CJAB packet.

### **Justice of Peace, Judge Steve Seider**

Judge Seider reported that the next meeting of the Justice of Peace committee will be April 13, 2012. The JP's did meet with a couple of the Commissioners and will meet again on April 20, 2012. One item discussed was the fee issue with the Tollway Authority. He stated that through collaboration with the DA's office and the four (4) counties in the Tollway Authority's jurisdiction, they have worked out an inter-local agreement to address this issue that should allow them to make it until the next legislative session to right the wrong. Another issue was in regard to the court management system. Judge Seider stated that the assistant DA that was working with them on this project was reassigned and the new ADA has found some areas of concern that will have to be addressed before the contract is signed. He anticipates the contract being signed within the next 45 days. Judge Seider reported that the JP's have been working with DART and the "Stew Pot" a homeless shelter to start holding Saturday court to help this population suffering with housing and transportation issues to address their outstanding Class C tickets. The DA will also send a representative and for those cases found guilty, community service will be ordered on the spot. Judge Seider stated that the Office of Court Administration (OCR) has mandated reporting requirements that the current case management system cannot comply with. He stated that this may require a meeting be held to discuss their obligation to comply with this mandate without the proper software. Another topic of

discussion was the 700,000 outstanding Class C warrants that have not been recalled. He stated that JP's have discussed having an expiration date on the face of the instrument. He believes the statute will allow it. Sheriff Valdez stated that beginning April 1, 2012 the sheriff's department will no longer be putting these warrants in the system. A final item discussed was a personnel issue surrounding a JP working in another JP's court.

### **Juvenile Justice, Dr. Terry Smith**

Dr. Smith reported that the Juvenile Department attended a meeting on mental health, and is very concerned about the possible loss of funds to the mental health system. She updated the committee on the new ESTEEM court for girls who have been involved in prostitution and trafficking. Dr. Smith stated that the court is up and running and doing well. Dr. Smith also reported on a trip where representatives from the Juvenile Department went to San Francisco to visit the re-entry programs. Having re-entry options for juveniles transitioning into adulthood is very important so the collaboration with the re-entry subcommittee has been very beneficial. Senate Bill 1106 was an issue discussed last meeting in regard to obtaining information from Parkland Hospital. She stated that a meeting was held with an attorney versed on HIPAA along with Parkland representatives, and the understanding is that under certain situations sharing of information is allowable. The Disproportionate Minority Contact or Confinement (DMC) diversion court for Hispanic and African American males will also be opening soon. The Juvenile Department has applied for a number of grants from the Governor's Office for their diversion court and has been awarded all applied for.

### **Project Updates, Commissioner Garcia**

Commissioner Garcia reported on the progress of the Bail Bond Task Force. She stated that the Task Force submitted reports to Commissioner's Court which were unanimously approved. She thanked everyone who participated in that subcommittee for their hard work in establishing a Bail Bond forfeiture procedure for Dallas County. She also reported that the Civil Service committee approved the four (4) positions requested by the District Attorney's office that will be dedicated to bond forfeiture. Commissioner Garcia requested that the Bail Bond Task Force be made a standing committee of CJAB for an additional year to continue to monitor the process of the procedure.

A motion was made to allow the Bail Bond Task Force to become a standing committee for one year with Commissioner Garcia as the chair. The motion was seconded and approved. An amendment will be made to the by-laws to add this committee.

Dr. Robert Morris from UTD updated the committee on the progress of the project to identify different mechanisms of release through collection of data. The project is proceeding and the data is being processed. The five main release mechanisms have been identified as pre-trial release, attorney bond, commercial bonds, personal recognizance, and cash bonds. Over 54,000 bonds were filed in

these categories in 2008. One of the goals of this study is to hash out the mechanisms behind failure to appear. Dr. Morris stated that this has been a challenge and will take more time due to the way the data is coded. The recidivism data will be more helpful. He thanked the committee for their cooperation.

**Announcements:**

Duane Steele informed the committee about the requirement from the Texas Governor's Office for counties and municipalities to report arrest, prosecution and court outcomes to DPS at a 90% rate of completeness. Dallas County has developed a Local Data Advisory Board to address this issue. The requirement is that by August 31, 2012 all counties be at 90% in adult reporting, or risk becoming ineligible to receive grant funding such as the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), and others. By August 31, 2013 all other reporting entities such as the Juvenile Departments will be required to comply at 90%. Dallas County has begun working and currently stands at 89.9% completeness. The Juvenile Department at Dr. Smith's direction has also begun to address their reporting to DPS by manually entering the required information into the DPS website to close open arrest reports from 2006 through 2010. They are currently at 58% completeness and on target to reach 90%. Dr. Smith added that the Juvenile Department has taken advantage of a grant opportunity offered by the Governor's Office specifically to fund staffing for the purpose of reaching completeness. Dr. Morris also offered the use of Interns from UTD to assist in this effort.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and passed at 2:58 PM.