



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, May 20, 2013**

**Welcome & Introductions**, Commissioner Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM. She acknowledged Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel, and welcomed her to the meeting. Customary introductions were made by all in attendance.

**Membership & Infrastructure:**

Dr. Michael Noyes acknowledged the members who would not be in attendance on this date.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on March 18, 2013 were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Committee Project Updates:**

**ACMS Update:**

Ron Stretcher reported that the Adult Case Management System (ACMS) project is underway. However, the prosecution module has experienced a minor setback. The technical team has determined that the software platform was not exactly what was needed. Mr. Stretcher stated that the requirements work that was already done is acceptable but the structural piece will have to be revisited. There should be no additional cost, but this setback will take approximately 3 to 4 months. The court module is going well and the necessary users and stakeholders have been engaged in training to complete the fit/gap analysis and will be for the next 2 or 3 months as this project moves towards implementation. Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel sits as chair of Dallas County's IT Committee. Dr. Daniel added that the committee is always reviewing the timeliness and cost effectiveness of projects to insure that things are handled fairly.

Chief Jimmy Spivey of Richardson Police Department asked how this delay of the prosecutor module would affect the digital media evidence (DME) being transferred to the District Attorney's (DA's) Office. Mr. Stretcher responded that the ability to transfer DME electronically is a part of the prosecution module and would be subject to the same 3 to 4 month delay. Currently, a number of agencies are sending electronic filing and electronic DME submissions via a web based DCIM portal.

**Action Item** – A meeting to update the LEAs on the current status of the DCIM project and how it relates to the ACMS project will be scheduled.

**Bail Bond:**

Ron Stretcher reported that he along with other staff and two representatives of the local surety companies attended a bail bond workshop in Austin, TX during the first week in May 2013. Even though a number of other Counties represented that they were not having any difficulty with their bail bond process, after discussion, it appears that the same issues Dallas County has been dealing with are also common issues to those Counties. David Finney with the DA's Office concurred with Mr. Stretcher's comments. A bail bond tracking component will be built into the ACMS package. There have also been some meetings with the Judges to discuss possible policy changes to establish a more uniform process.

Buckley Chappell with Cowboy Bail Bond Co. suggested that the committee work on developing a definition for the true cost of a failure to appear (FTA). He stated that the packet attachment from the Bond Forfeiture Unit could be misunderstood to indicate that the County collected \$1.8 million from bond forfeitures, when in actuality it reflects the total amount of Judgments ordered. Gary Fitzsimmons, Dallas County District Clerk, made it clear that the report was generated from the DA's Office not the Clerk's Office so it would not reflect collection data. Mr. Stretcher added that this report is only a measurement of the work being done in the Bond Forfeiture Unit. After additional discussion on the matter, the consensus was that there is still much work to be done to develop a fluid bond forfeiture process in Dallas County, but there has been much progress.

**Fair Defense Committee:**

Dr. Michael Noyes reported that the committee has met several times over the past 9 months. The committee has referred to the reports issued by the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) and the County's responses. The issues are quite complex and not easily resolved. Recommendations are being developed to present to CJAB that will respond to areas of concern in TIDC's report to ensure that Dallas County is in compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 7's Fair Defense Act. Dr. Noyes added that after the recommendations are presented, the committee would like to convene as a workgroup to continue to monitor the various components of compliance with SB7.

**Law Enforcement:**

Chief Jimmy Spivey reported that the committee has not met recently, but a couple of agenda items have been raised that will be topics for the next LEA Committee meeting. One item will be an update on the DCIM project and how ACMS will interact with it. Also, a discussion on what types of data will be shared. A second item for the agenda will be a discussion regarding prisoner transportation.

**Public Policy:**

Duane Steele directed the committee's attention to a handout entitled CJAB Public Policy Committee Update. The report outlined the bills that were on CJAB's radar and the highlighted areas indicate the bills' status. Currently the only bill on CJAB's agenda to pass both chambers was House Bill (HB) 625

(License Plate Penalty). HB34 (TX Alcohol and Beverage Commission's regulation on BYOB restaurants) was referred to the Senate Business and Commerce Committee and has a high probability of full passage. Dr. Noyes advised that this is the final week of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session.

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

Etho Pugh directed the committee's attention to excerpts from the Jail Population meeting held on May 10, 2013 found on pages 9 through 17 of the packet. The current jail population for this date is 6098. Mr. Pugh gave a brief overview of the information contained in those documents. Mr. Steele commented on the document on page 17, Monthly NorthSTAR Intakes. He stated that this document represents the total number of inmates booked into the County jail that have had some interaction with NorthSTAR. In 2007 there were approximately 7% of the intakes with this match compared to the current percentage for 2013 which is 22%. Dr. Noyes commented that during the current legislative session, a significant increase in funding was added to the State budget for the Mental Health System in the amount of about \$250 million over the next biennium.

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

Judge Steve Seider reported that the case management system fit/gap assessment is moving slowly. There are issues with the credit card and bail bond processes within the system. The Justice of the Peace Committee is also watching Senate Bill (SB) 1792 that is involving habitual violators on the toll roads. This bill will essentially make it a criminal trespassing offense for anyone who has been ordered not to drive on the toll road. Violators can have the vehicles seized, and registration blocked. There will be a 90 day amnesty period for individuals who owe tolls to pay them plus 10% without having to pay fines, court cost, and attorney fees. The Toll Authority will be required to give notice to a violator before implementing the "Do Not Enter" order. Dallas, Collin, Denton, and Tarrant Counties JP's are working together to set standards for this bill. The last issue Judge Seider discussed was an Attorney General (AG) opinion recently issued on Texas Government Code 27.055. This code talks about temporary Justices of the Peace, the AG's opinion changes the way they are appointed. Judge Seider stated that he and one of his colleagues drafted some legislation that would address this but he is not sure it will be heard.

#### **Jurisprudence Ad-Hoc Committee:**

Ellyce Lindberg reported that the committee has been meeting and working with the Public Defender's Office and the Defense Bar to address issues and concerns that will help the court system work more efficiently.

#### **Juvenile Justice:**

In Dr. Terry Smith's absence, Bill Edwards reported that the Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS) is now moving to the enhanced version which will be referred to as TechShare. This will be the vehicle to interface with the entire State. There have been overview meetings with the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and Mr. Edwards extended his appreciation for their cooperation. The system should be ready to roll out to the LEAs by the end of December 2013. He

also reported that the Juvenile Department has been selected to participate in a project with the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University. The project is "The Crossover Youth Practice Model" which is a partnership between the Juvenile Department and the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) to collaborate efforts in working with youth who are involved with both systems. This will require a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to share data. This project should provide more continuity of care, and the absence of duplicated services. The Department is excited about participating in this project. The first twenty one months will be strictly data collection, but after that they will begin matching clients. The committee will be updated periodically on the progress of the project.

**Crisis Services Project (SIP):**

Mr. Stretcher reported that the SIP program will be included in Dallas County's 1115 waiver project known as the Crisis Services (PSH) Project. The project has been approved by Commissioners Court and it is anticipated that the first clients at the City's Detention Center will be engaged in early July 2013. This project will also be targeting inmates in the County Jail with mental health issues and connecting them to services in the community.

**Announcements:**

Mike Faenza with Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) reported that on May 21, 2013 he will be asking Commissioner's Court to endorse MDHA's Dallas Area Permanent Supportive Housing Plan to end chronic homelessness in the Dallas area. The plan uses three central strategies to meet its goal to establish the PSH system capacity necessary to overtake existing chronic homelessness and prevent new cases of chronic homelessness (disabled and homeless for a year or more).

1. **Housing Capacity:** Increasing PSH Capacity by 1800 Units
2. **Supportive Services Capacity:** Devoting existing resources and developing new financing streams for supportive services.
3. **Preventing New Cases:** Placing disabled homeless in PSH within twelve months of an onset of homelessness.

Mr. Faenza stated that 1200 of the 1800 housing units would come from DHA along with 200 from the HUD Continuum of Care grant, and 400 from the Veterans Administration. The housing would be made available through the Housing Authority and/or through Service Provider Network (SPN) vouchers. The plan has been endorsed by the Housing Authority Commission, MDHA Board Continuum of Care, and will have a revised briefing with Dallas County Commissioners Court. Finally, it will go before Dallas City Council for endorsement.

Commissioner Theresa Daniel extended kudos to everyone involved with putting this plan together. Commissioner Garcia echoed Commissioner Daniel's sentiments.

- **Dallas County DPS Reporting** – Duane Steele reported that the current Dallas County completeness report for Adults is 90% and 98% for Juvenile. Mr. Stretcher stated that the CJD grant funding is safe.
- **Intercity Transport** – Included in the packet on page 31 was an updated Inter-City transportation report. Sheriff Valdez stated that the percentages are in the report, however she understands that there may be some concerns about the process. Chief Larry Boyd with the City of Irving stated that when this transportation process was created about three years ago it was to help the County out during a tough budget period. Chief Boyd stated that the original process was not that bad and he would like the LEAs to meet to discuss whether or not the current transportation process is still desired. He stated that the transports have become intermittent. There have been some refusals to transport that have not been medically related. Chief Spivey echoed Chief Boyd's concerns. Commissioner Garcia suggested that the LEA subcommittee schedule a meeting to address these concerns.

**The July 15, 2013 meeting will be cancelled.** The next CJAB meeting will be September 16, 2013.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:55 PM.