



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, March 17, 2014**

**Welcome & Introductions,** Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM. Dr. Garcia introduced and welcomed Ms. Patricia Anthony, who is with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. Ms. Anthony expressed an interest in CJAB and stated that she plans to become a regular attendee of the meetings. 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. Dr. Noyes directed the board's attention to the CJAB membership roster on pages 2 to 4 of the packet. He asked that if there are any additions and/or corrections to be made, to please forward those changes to Duane Steele, who will update the roster.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on January 27, 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:**

**Bail Bond:**

Duane Steele reported that the Bond Forfeiture Unit provided an update which was distributed as a handout for this meeting. The first page of the report reflected the total of judgments ordered from January 2013 through December 2013 which was \$2,790,725.24. Page two reflected January 2014's Judgments in the amount of \$405,615.14. Page three reflected the total judgments ordered for the month of February 2014 were \$161,016.85. Mr. Steele indicated that it is the intent of the Bail Bond Committee to begin providing this update as a standing report for future CJAB meetings. Commissioner Dr. Garcia expressed great appreciation for the submission of this report and stated that the total judgments ordered for 2013 appear to line up with the projected annual figures published in the Bail Bond report issued in February 2012. Commissioner Garcia thanked the committee for their hard work.

**Fair Defense Committee:**

Paul Blocker reported in Lynn Richardson absence. He stated that since CJAB last met the committee began the project previously mentioned to initiate a 30

day study to determine the true impact of the Election of Counsel (EOC) forms that are being received from the municipalities that are not participating in the video arraignment process. The project was a two part initiative, the first to begin collecting data that would reflect the number of EOCs being received daily, what agencies were sending them, and how many were not being found in the system with court assignments. The 30 day sample was initiated on February 10, 2014 through March 14, 2014 with the assistance of Ms. Lisa Anderson with Adult Probation. The second part of the project was to begin an aggressive triage of the "Stack" of EOCs that have to be researched daily to determine if the case has been assigned a court. This triage portion of the project is being worked by administrative assistants from the Public Defender's office and various interns assigned to the Court Manager's office and an intern from Commissioner Dr. Daniel's office. Mr. Blocker expressed his sincere appreciation to the individuals participating in the project. He stated that the committee will be meeting within the next two weeks to begin analyzing the data that was collected during the 30 day sample to develop a recommendation for action to CJAB. Commissioner Dr. Garcia inquired as to when the recommendation would be presented and Mr. Blocker responded by the June CJAB meeting.

**Law Enforcement:**

Chief Jimmy Spivey was unable to attend, however Commissioner Dr. Garcia acknowledged that the LEA Committee is waiting on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) from the County outlining the items discussed in the Ad-Hoc committee meeting was held on January 17, 2014. She stated that the MOU is forthcoming.

**Public Policy:**

Council Member Medrano directed the Board's attention to a one page handout that was added to the packet entitled, Legislative Proposal 2015 State Legislative Session. He encouraged members of CJAB to complete the form with legislative proposals they would like to request CJAB to support or not to support and to submit those forms to himself or Duane Steele ASAP. The Public Policy Committee will schedule a meeting within the next two or three weeks and will add an agenda item that will allow time to review any proposals received. Commissioner Dr. Garcia and Duane Steele reiterated the importance of filling out the forms and submitting them in a timely fashion to ensure the committee is able to address any specific legislative concerns during the next meeting.

**Jail Population Update:**

Etho Pugh reported on the Jail Population meeting held on March 14, 2014 and excerpts from that meeting could be found on pages 11 through 18 of the packet. The current jail population for this date is 5,996. Mr. Pugh stated that maintaining a daily census under 6,000 is the desired goal of the Jail Population Committee. At this time the committee is pleased with the efforts being made to move cases and inmates effectively. Mr. Pugh continued with a brief overview of the information contained in the documents attached.

**Jurisprudence:**

Ellyce Lindberg reported that the committee has not met since the last CJAB meeting but there has been a lot of activity around the implementation of the Adult Case Management System (ACMS). She stated that the first phase of the Prosecution Module is scheduled to go-live on Wednesday March 19, 2014. This phase of the system will convert the current paper files in the District Attorney's (DA's) office into digital files and create a digital filing system and case management system. There will be reporting capabilities within the new system. She stated that the release of Phase II will offer the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) the ability to file cases directly from their system to the County DA's office and Phase III will give Defense Attorney's the ability to upload information regarding a case to their computers. Ms. Lindberg was unable to give dates when the following phases will roll out. Duane Steele added that there was an effort to get Craig Morrissey with Dallas County IT to attend this meeting, however with the impending rollout of the Prosecution Module of ACMS he was unable to. Mr. Steele stated that he will make an effort to get Mr. Morrissey to the next meeting for a technical update of the system and future rollouts.

**Juvenile Justice:**

Dr. Terry Smith reported that the committee hosted an Ad Hoc meeting on February 7, 2014 and the minutes from that meeting have been made a part of the packet for this meeting beginning on page 19. Dr. Smith thanked Sheriff Valdez and Duane Steele for working to implement a procedure for addressing some of the issues surrounding 17 year old youth transitioning to the adult system and adults with Juvenile warrants. Another issue was with regard to what happens after a youth ages 14-16 certified as an adult is convicted for the charge in which he/she has been certified. Dr. Smith mentioned a recent case where a 15 year old was convicted and ordered 10 years' probation on the charge he was certified for. Subsequently, the youth violated his probation and was facing a revocation and the issue arose as to where he should be housed pending the revocation hearing. Even though the Juvenile Department did house that youth, it was later determined and outlined in Appendix A of the revised "Video Arraignment for Certified Youth" draft that under these circumstances the youth should have been remanded to the County Jail in the Youthful Offender's Unit. The tentative policies and procedures outlined, discussed, and agreed upon were included on pages 21-24 of the packet. Dr. Smith added that there is legislation being written to raise the age of accountability to 18 years old. However, Dr. Smith also believes that the age on the bottom end should be reconsidered not to include youth 10-12 years old. The Juvenile Justice subcommittee will be submitting the legislative proposal form to the Public Policy subcommittee to address their position regarding increasing the age of accountability on the top end as well as the bottom. Once the aforementioned policies and procedures have been statutorily approved, notification will be made to the LEAs so they are aware of where to take detainees that fall under these criteria. Sheriff Lupe Valdez expressed her support with regard to the age increase because she stated that it is in line with Federal Law. The federal government considers an individual to be an adult at 18 years of age, however it is the State of Texas that

identifies a 17 year old as an adult. This creates problems for the jail as they are responsible for adhering to both federal and state laws.

**Reentry:**

Christina Crain reported that on March 12, 2014, DOORS hosted a partners meeting. She stated that this was an opportunity for the various organizations that partner with DOORS to come together to discuss common missions, services offered and future goals in a mutual vision to prevent recidivism and to address the needs of the formerly incarcerated. The turnout was great and she is looking forward to further collaboration. Ms. Crain explained that DOORS is not a service provider, but a conduit for connecting the formerly incarcerated with the appropriate services. DOORS received a grant through the Governor's Office which has allowed them to hire a case manager to work in Gatesville, Texas to visit six different units of TDCJ. This pilot initiative allows the case workers to perform pre-release screenings on female inmates to get a head start on setting up services for those soon to be released and returning to the Dallas area.

The Reentry Committee will be looking at legislation to address the issue of employers requesting charge information on applications in addition to conviction information. This request can be a great impediment for an ex-offender seeking employment. The committee is also looking to move forward with developing a reentry website for Dallas County that will provide resource information to the formally incarcerated and their families.

**Research:**

Dr. Robert Morris stated that he, Ron Stretcher, and Duane Steele met since the last committee meeting to discuss drafting a template that outlines the recent and developing justice-related research projects that the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) is working on. These projects can be found on pages 25 through 27 of the packet for this meeting. Dr. Morris gave a brief overview of some of those projects. He also reported that the preparation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dallas County to expand the pretrial study is in its final stages and should be ready to move forward soon. Duane Steele suggested that this may be a good segue to the action item on the agenda. He stated that the MOU has been reviewed and approved by Dallas County's Civil District Attorney's Office and that it will be funded through the FY2013 JAG grant.

**Action Item:**

Commissioner Dr. Garcia directed the board's attention to Resolution #1-2014 on page 33 of the packet. The resolution requests the endorsement of the Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board to initiate the follow-up study on the failure to appear research and brief the MOU between UTD and Dallas County to Commissioners Court for approval.

There was a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and approved.

Commissioner Dr. Garcia asked when this MOU would be briefed before Commissioners Court. Mr. Steele responded that it should be briefed within the next two to three weeks. Commissioner Dr. Garcia also thanked Dr. Morris, UTD and the Research Committee for their continued collaboration in performing meaningful research studies that help Dallas County continue to be safe, secure and prepared.

**Crisis Services Project (SIP):**

Charlene Randolph reported that the Crisis Services Project (CSP) is going well. During the month of February 2014, CSP served 311 unique consumers, exceeding their monthly goal of 250. The project is allowed to report to the State twice a year on the milestones accomplished. The funds received as a result of the reporting and intergovernmental transfer (IGT) have allowed CSP to provide funding for a Care Coordinator for ValueOptions. Funds from the project will also be used to standup the Serial Inebriate Program (SIP) by developing an MOU with the City Detention Center (CDC) to incorporate two case managers at the CDC to triage the serial inebriates to see if they are ready to participate in SIP. Commissioner Dr. Garcia inquired as to how many clients are currently being served. Ms. Randolph explained that for the month of February 2014, 311 clients were touched by the project and currently 32 are actively involved with Transicare. Duane Steele went on to clarify that the clients being served at this time are individuals that are in the jail and identified as having some involvement with the Medicaid Managed Care System. However the potential clients frequenting the CDC will begin to be served through this project once SIP is stood up and the two case managers are hired. Mr. Steele also extended kudos to Ms. Randolph for taking ownership of the Crisis Services Project, and seeing to the task of making sure all of the desired components come together to truly create a transformation in the way this population is served.

**Announcements:**

Dr. Terry Smith announced that Mike Griffith will soon be resigning from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). Mr. Griffith preceded Dr. Smith as Director of the Dallas County Juvenile Department and a little over three years ago retired and moved into the Executive Director position at TJJD. Dr. Smith stated that when Mr. Griffith was awarded the position as Executive Director at TJJD, CJAB was gracious enough to send a letter of congratulations to him. She suggested likewise CJAB should send a letter to the Executive Board of TJJD acknowledging the outstanding job that Mr. Griffith has done during his short tenure as Executive Director.

The next CJAB meeting will be June 16, 2014.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:20 PM.