



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, June 16, 2014**

**Welcome & Introductions,** Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM, and 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 17, 2014 were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Presentation- Jennifer M. Reingle Gonzalez, PhD, (Homelessness Intervention in Dallas):**

Dr. Jennifer Reingle is an epidemiologist and Assistant Professor at the University Of Texas School Of Public Health (at UT Southwestern). She is currently working on a grant proposal to reduce the incarceration rates among homeless people in Dallas. Dr. Reingle stated that the desire to take on this project was sparked by a colleague of hers who has a strong relationship with the Bridge and Salvation Army leadership. Her colleague, Dr. Michael Businelle, has conducted several interventions to reduce smoking (including the implementation of a partial smoking ban at the Bridge) by providing smartphones to homeless people. These smartphones are programmed to provide a tailored intervention to each person based upon their location (they may go off when a person is near a store that sells cigarettes, for example) to reduce their tobacco consumption. Dr. Reingle would like to use this technology to create an intervention to this "homeless to prison" pipeline. She believes that a study like this could lead to a reduction in incarceration rates among homeless people, similar to the reduction in rates of smoking that have already been observed using this method.

A number of questions were asked, but the most common was "What mechanism would be in place to keep the participant from selling the phone". Dr. Reingle's response was that the candidates are specifically chosen and paid to participate in the study creating an incentive to keep the phone as opposed to selling it. The phones will be charged through a solar device and are tracked through GPS. At the end of the study, the participant will be allowed to keep the phone. The grant application to the National Institutes of Health is due on August 28, 2014. Dr.

Reingle is requesting the support of CJAB and Dallas County for this project. There are a number of procedural issues to be ironed out, however she would like to move forward with the grant application knowing that she has the support of CJAB.

Commissioner Dr. Garcia thanked Dr. Reingle for presenting this innovative idea for reducing the cycle of homelessness in Dallas County. For additional questions and/or information about the project, please email Dr. Reingle @ [Jennifer.Reingle@UTSouthwestern.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Reingle@UTSouthwestern.edu) or call (470) 333-8749.

### **Committee Project Updates:**

#### **Bail Bond:**

Duane Steele reported that the Bond Forfeiture Unit provided an update which was distributed as part of the supplemental packet for this meeting. The first page of the report that was distributed last meeting reflected the total of judgments ordered from 2012 of \$1,106,757.33 and 2013 which was \$2,790,725.24. Page two reflected judgments ordered from January through May of 2014 which totaled \$1,032,230.18. David Finney with the District Attorney's Office stated that the unit continues to be effective. Commissioner Garcia thanked the committee for their hard work.

#### **Courts:**

Judge Rick Magnis reported that about four (4) months ago he started a Family Violence program which supervises high risk felony offenders on probation for family violence. The program is going well and even though there have been a few clients that have failed to complete the program, none have reoffended against their victim. Judge Magnis also reported that his court continues to be ready to handle cases from other courts with vulnerable victims to help move cases, however he has not received many. Commissioner Dr. Garcia asked about an article in the Dallas Morning News regarding the removal of guns owned by family violence offenders. Judge Magnis stated that there are currently laws that prohibit possession of a firearm during various levels of the criminal justice process, but there is not a process by which to identify if the offender is in possession of a firearm and/or how to confiscate them. Judge Roberto Cañas Jr. will lead the judiciary in working with other groups to develop a system wide process for identifying and removing firearms from domestic violence offenders. The initial meeting will be within the week. Judge Magnis suggested that Judge Cañas be invited to the next CJAB meeting to give an update on this initiative. Mr. Steele will extend an invitation to Judge Cañas for September's meeting.

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

Lynn Richardson reported that the committee did meet on April 1, 2014 with Dallas County Budget Officer, Ryan Brown to review the results of the 30 day election of counsel (EOC) sample. The minutes from that meeting were made a part of the supplemental packet for this meeting. Ms. Richardson extended a huge thanks to Lisa Anderson with Community Supervision and Corrections

Department (CSCD) for her help in conducting the sample. The sample period was from February 10 through March 14, 2014. The results of the 30 day sample were as follows:

1. The average EOCs received weekly was 193.
2. There were a total of 772 EOCs received during the sample period of which 616 elected appointed counsel.
3. Only 83 had a court assignment at the time of review.
4. There was little uniformity in the EOC form that was used. There were also issues with the forms being incorrectly filled out or not filled out at all.
5. During the sample period, one LEA only submitted one (1) EOC.

Other issues included forms with no date of birth, others were cut off at the bottom and some had all of the other parts of the packet and no EOC at all. Monday was the heaviest day due to the EOCs that were received throughout the weekend. The next steps are to schedule another meeting with Mr. Brown to determine if additional staff needs to be added to process the EOCs received from the LEAs not participating in the video arraignment process. The committee will also work the Dallas County IT to determine if there is an automated process that can be implemented that will not only process the EOCs, but create a profile in AIS that will allow court and subsequent counsel appointment.

#### **Law Enforcement:**

Chief Jimmy Spivey reported that the LEA committee has not met since January 2014, but is still waiting on a response from the County in regard to the discussions at that meeting. Ryan Brown apologized for the delay in responding to the LEAs about the intentions of Dallas County regarding specifically inter-city inmate transports. He indicated that a statement will be drafted outlining the intentions of the County. Also, during the budget hearings, discussion will be had with Commissioners Court regarding not charging the municipalities for inter-city inmate transportation. Mr. Brown stated that in assuming the cost for transportation, Dallas County would determine the terms of pick-up, such as the time of day and frequency. Chief Spivey noted that the LEAs are willing to help out with the other terms of the agreement and his department, Richardson PD, is still willing to participate in a Video Arraignment Pilot to work out the bugs of facilitating a large municipality. Judge Magnis stated that by using video arraignment, once the inmate is arraigned by a County Magistrate, the County takes on jurisdiction of the inmate. If the inmate is only arraigned by a municipal magistrate, the city retains jurisdiction of the inmate until he/she is transported to the County. Duane Steele added that he has started discussions with Judge Terrie McVea and Dallas County IT to see if, during the pilot, the web portal of DCIM could be used for ebooking to eliminate the use of faxes and expedite the process for video arraignment. Craig Morrissey with Dallas County IT stated that

there would have to be some research and review of the business practice for the use of DCIM for this purpose, but believes it is possible. Mr. Morrissey suggested developing a technical subcommittee of the LEAs that would encompass the County's IT and representative of the LEA's IT Departments.

**Public Policy:**

Council Member Medrano reported that the committee met on April 29, 2014 and that the minutes of the meeting have been made a part of the packet for this meeting. He stated that during the meeting, interim charges to the House and Senate committees were reviewed and discussed specifically those charges concerning law enforcement and criminal justice. The committee agreed to reserve the preparation of the County and City's agenda packets until after the elections. There is a strong belief that there will be a dramatic change in the makeup of the legislature after the election. Commissioner Dr. Garcia encouraged the board to send any proposed agenda items to Mr. Steele ASAP. She also stated that the committee has agreed to keep the agenda supported by CJAB to a minimum to synergize the focus on just a few pertinent items.

**Jail Population Update:**

Etho Pugh reported on the Jail Population meeting held on June 13, 2014 and excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 12 through 19 of the packet. The current jail population for this date is 6,263. Maintaining a daily census under 6,000 is still the desired goal of the Jail Population Committee. Mr. Pugh continued with a brief overview of the information contained in the documents attached.

**Justice of the Peace:**

Dr. Michael Noyes reported in Judge Steve Seider's absence. He stated that the JP courts are still without a creditable case management system and out of Office of Court Administration (OCA) compliance. An additional waiver will need to be requested pending implementation of a case management system. Some Forvus warrants are not legally sufficient in terms of stating an offense. Program support will be needed to correct this. Finally, the next Stew Pot Community Court with DART is being scheduled for October or November 2014.

**Jurisprudence:**

Ellyce Lindberg reported that the committee has not met since the last CJAB meeting, however there are a number of items to report. The copier in the defense attorney's work area has been a tremendous help, thanks to those who made it possible. Morning docket calls have been implemented in all but three (3) of the misdemeanor courts. There is work being done to complete the defense attorney portal through the Adult Case Management System (ACMS). This will enable defense attorney's access to case information electronically through that system. She also reported that the ACMS Prosecution Module is working well.

**Juvenile Justice:**

Dr. Terry Smith reported that she attended a meeting on June 11, 2014 of the North Texas Juvenile Justice Chiefs to discuss a bill for the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature to raise the age of juveniles from seventeen (17) to eighteen (18) years of age. There is still much discussion to be had regarding this issue. The committee is working on a letter to distribute to the LEAs regarding adults arrested with only a juvenile warrant. The Juvenile Justice Committee in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office has worked through a process whereby an individual arrested with only a juvenile warrant will no longer be transported to the Juvenile Department, but will be taken to the County Jail and arraigned by a Juvenile District Judge via video.

**Reentry:**

Dr. Michael Noyes reported in Christina Crain's absence. DOORs is currently coordinating efforts with Dallas County CSCD and members of the judiciary to serve various caseloads specific to DOORs. They are also working with the Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team (BHLT), Housing Committee and Senate District 23 Workforce Task Force to coordinate services. DOORs is in the process of renewing its State grant to expand the Pre-release Pilot Program with TDCJ. A second partners meeting is being planned to coordinate all partner services, and finally, planning is underway for the second Dallas Reentry Symposium for this fall.

**Research:**

Dr. Robert Morris reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UTD and Dallas County to replicate the pre-trial release mechanism has been completed and approved by Commissioners Court. Coordination is underway between the two (2) IT departments to work out the specifics of transferring the data. Dr. Morris anticipates initial findings to be available by the September CJAB meeting. Additional projects are ongoing and initial findings will also be available by the next CJAB meeting.

**Crisis Services Project (SIP):**

Charlene Randolph reported that the Crisis Services Project (CSP) is going well. She stated that CSP is working with the City Detention Center to reactivate the Serial Inebriate Project (SIP). A meeting was held on June 11, 2014 with key stakeholders to plan the specifics. CSP will fund two (2) case managers that will be located at the City Detention Center to begin triaging potential participants indicating a readiness for change.

**Announcements:**

Commissioner Dr. Garcia invited the board to review in the packet the CJAB presentation which was presented to Commissioners Court on June 10, 2014.

The TDCJ—Region II Community Partnership Council of Dallas Proudly presents their 2nd Annual Community Career Fair – Friday August 29, 2014.

Anyone interested can register on-line at [CriminalBackgroundJobHelp.com](http://CriminalBackgroundJobHelp.com).

The Pre-Career Fair Orientation will be located at the Martin Luther King Jr. Branch Library (Building C), 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas, TX. 75215.

The next CJAB meeting will be September 15, 2014.

**Adjournment:**

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