



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, December 15, 2014**

**Welcome & Introductions**, Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM, and customary introductions were made by all in attendance.

**Membership & Infrastructure:**

Duane Steele acknowledged the members who were not able to attend. Mr. Steele also introduced Ms. Nakish Greer who hails from the Juvenile Department and will now be assisting the Criminal Justice Department.

Commissioner Dr. Garcia introduced Chief Charles M. Cato with Dallas Police Department as her nomination for Co-Chair for CJAB. A motion was made to accept the nomination and appoint Chief Cato as Co-Chair of CJAB. The motion was seconded and approved. Congratulations were extended to Chief Cato on his new appointment, and he expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on this board.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on September 15, 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- Ms. Patricia Anthony, Correctional Programs Officer with the Bureau of Prisons:**

Ms. Anthony began by giving an overview of the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) located in Seagoville, TX. She reported that in 1938, the institution was constructed at a cost of \$1,750,000. In 1942, it became a Federal Detention Station for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In 1969, they began accepting incarcerated offenders sentenced under the Youth Corrections Act. In 1996, it became a Federal Detention Center and in 2013, the facility was listed in the National Register of Historical Places. Ms. Anthony shared that she manages the Correctional Programs Unit which is responsible for managing all movement, activities and programs designed to appropriately classify inmates. The unit is also over the victim witness program, inmate financial responsibility training, release preparation, and case management. The facility also has a robust educational development program and requires that every inmate lacking a high school diploma enroll in a GED program. The institute contracts with Cedar Valley Community Collage to help teach the academic and vocational programs.

There are also a wealth of religious, recreational/wellness and substance abuse programs offered to promote rehabilitation. By national standards, the FCI is designated as a low level facility. The average daily population is a little over 1800 inmates in a facility designed to house 1288. The average age of the inmates is 41 years, and the average length stay is 120 months. Ms. Anthony thanked the board for their attention and opened the floor for questions.

Ron Stretcher, Dallas County's Criminal Justice Director, asked about the origin of the population of inmates held at the facility. Ms. Anthony responded that the inmates are sentenced to FCI in Seagoville from all over the United States to include Hawaii and even Puerto Rico. She added that the crimes vary, but 60% are for drug related offenses, and she has seen an increase in cybersex offenses. Because the facility is a low security level facility, inmates must meet the criteria for being housed there.

Commissioner Dr. Garcia thanked Ms. Anthony for an informative presentation and informed the board that the power point of the presentation was included in the packet for this meeting.

### **Committee Project Updates:**

#### **Bail Bond:**

Ron Stretcher provided an update directing the members attention to page 20 of the packet. The Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from January 2014 through November 2014. The total judgments ordered by the courts for the aforementioned period was \$1,771,688.10. Mr. Stretcher stated that amount reflects over 2400 cases and is on target to meet the projected judgment amount of \$2 million by the end of December for the year. He stated that the County's Bail Bond Board has had to address a couple of issues with providers, but they are being addressed through the proper legal avenues. Buckley Chapel with Cowboy Bail Bond Co. asked if the stats that were distributed only reflect judgments and/or do they include fines collected. Mr. Stretcher stated that the report only reflects judgments levied and not fines collected. He stated that gathering the fines collected has been a bit challenging and would require getting reports from the County and District Clerks revenue streams. Mr. Chapel stated that he has received a call from the media inquiring if the \$2 million reported is money that has been collected or levied. The discussion led to the recall of the CJAB Bail Bond committee to address the concerns about collection reports and other factors surrounding bail bond forfeitures. Mr. Steele will schedule a meeting of the committee after the first of the year and ensure that all stakeholders are invited.

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

Lynn Richardson gave a brief overview of the committee's activities. She reported that the committee is still working to address issues around the timely appointment of counsel and processing of the election of counsel (EOC) forms being received via fax daily. She stated that currently the Court Coordinator

Liaison is performing the daily triage of the EOCs, and this seems to be working well. However, there is still the issue of the defendants that have not been assigned a court and the ability to get them in the system. Ms. Richardson informed the board that discussions have been started with Dallas County IT to create a workaround that will allow for remote booking of a defendant that has not received a video arraignment. It was also reported that the grant that was requested by Judge Yoo has been postponed. The committee will be meeting again after the first of the year and keep the board informed.

### **Public Policy:**

Council Member Medrano was unable to attend the meeting on this date. Ron Stretcher directed the board's attention to page 23 of the packet for the committee's last minutes. The Public Policy committee met on November 10, 2014 and discussed several legislative items that may be presented during the upcoming session. The committee suggested tracking or tabling a few of the items that were discussed and voted to support four (4) items. The four items the committee voted to support and request approval/support from CJAB are outlined in an additional hand out on the table. Mr. Stretcher gave a brief overview of the following:

1. **TABC-BYOB** - This proposal will provide a way for T.A.B.C. and local law enforcement to regulate the alcohol consumption in said establishments which include B.Y.O.B. sexually oriented businesses. This proposal will carve out exceptions for establishments that operate primarily as a food service and locations such as golf courses.
2. **Safe Burglary** - Business burglary is currently a State Jail. The proposed change in statute to an F/2 would reduce the increase in safes being the target of numerous business burglaries.
3. **Handicap Parking** - The 2009 legislation intent was to make all handicap parking violations criminal, thereby sending a stronger message to the violator. The proposed change is to allow both civil and criminal citations to be issued for Handicap Parking Violations, depending on the circumstances of the officer or volunteer, and considering the ability to determine the identity of the driver.
4. **HB1992** - This bill was related to the transfer of certain inmates to TDCJ following pronouncement of the inmate's sentence. Under the current law TDCJ is only obligated to accept persons sentenced to more than 10 years. This creates a problem with those who have committed certain 3G offenses and sentenced to 10 years or less, awaiting an appeal and sitting in the County Jail pending the disposition of that appeal.

A motion was made to support the CJAB 2015 Proposed Legislative Agenda. There was discussion, a second and approval. The discussion was regarding a bill to address "exchange needles". This item was not presented to the committee, but will be reviewed at a later date.

**Jail Population Update:**

Ron Stretcher reported on the Jail Population meeting held on December 12, 2014. Excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 28 through 35 of the packet. Mr. Stretcher stated that the current jail population for this date is 5,919.

**Jurisprudence:**

Ellyce Lindberg reported that an ad-hoc meeting was called with members of the Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (DCDLA), Dallas County Security, the Sheriff's Department, and the Jurisprudence committee to further discuss the issue of developing a security badge for defense attorneys. Ms. Lindberg stated that she was unable to attend that meeting but was informed that the next meeting will be in late January. Commissioner Dr. Garcia requested that she be invited to that meeting. Robert DeGroot, Chief of Dallas County Security will call the next meeting of these stakeholders.

**Juvenile Justice:**

Rudy Acosta reported in Dr. Terry Smith's absence. He stated that the Juvenile Justice committee will be tracking SB 104 regarding raising the age of juveniles.

**Reentry:**

Duane Steele reported in Christina Crain's absence. He stated that Unlocking DOORS had a Partners meeting on November 12, 2014. A number of agencies providing reentry services were represented. The plan is for the Partners meetings to become the platform for the CJAB Reentry committee because all of the key stakeholders are already at the table. The meeting was very informative; each of the agencies had an opportunity to share information about the services they provide. Unlocking DOORS will be hosting the second annual Reentry Symposium on February 25, 2015 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, at the Belo Mansion. More information regarding the symposium will be forthcoming.

**Research:**

Dr. Robert Morris reported that the Research committee met on November 24, 2014. The minutes from that meeting can be found beginning on page 36 of the packet. Dr. Morris informed the group that the most recent Pretrial Release Mechanism study performed, has been completed and forwarded to Mr. Stretcher and Mr. Steele for review. The highlight of the study indicates that commercial bonds still tend to have a better show rate than other bond and pretrial bond for misdemeanor cases improved there show rate in 2012 from 2008.

A study being conducted for Judge Burns with regard to the effects length of stay in jail has on recidivism has also been completed and will be forwarded to him for review. Other projects include a research study for Adult Probation (CSCD) to measure the effectiveness of the specialty courts in Dallas County, and a multi-county recidivism study being done by the Council of State Governments.

**Crisis Services Project (SIP):**

Duane Steele reported that the Crisis Services Project is going well. The project is meeting the needs of individuals entering the jail with mental health issues by providing timely comprehensive assessment with release plans and working very closely with the Public Defender's Mental Health Unit. He added that last month, the percent of inmates being booked in with NorthSTAR matches fell from 24% to 22%. The initiating of the Serial Inebriate Program is progressing. Through the visits Ms. Trevella King has made to the City Detention Center (CDC), it was determined that the CDC may not be the primary entry point for the program. A meeting was held with Turtle Creek Manor on October 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss reinitiating the jail as an entry point for their ARCH program. There is also a meeting scheduled in January 2015 with Parkland Hospital and Homeward Bound to strategize on how to develop that entry point.

**Announcements:**

Commissioner Dr. Garcia spoke about a briefing scheduled for December 16, 2014 to Commissioners Court regarding Cite and Release. Mr. Stretcher added that the Dallas Police Department is leading the drive to initiate this pilot and Etho Pugh is the lead for Dallas County. Chief Cato expressed the importance of this pilot actually saving time for the Officer on the street from having to book someone into the jail. There was much discussion regarding the many obstacles to prosecuting these cases, but Mr. Stretcher stressed that without full cooperation and willingness from all departments involved, the pilot will not succeed. Commissioner Dr. Garcia encouraged full cooperation.

The next CJAB meeting will be March 16, 2015.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:50 PM.