



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, June 15, 2015**

**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. Commissioner Dr. Garcia added that Chief Cato would not be in attendance due to the recent shooting incident at Dallas Police Department. During the introductions, Chief Spivey acknowledged the recent passing of Chief Chris Vinson with Highland Park Police Department. Chief Spivey stated that Chief Vinson was very active in the law enforcement community and CJAB's LEA Committee. Chief Vinson will be sorely missed. Commissioner Dr. Garcia asked the board to observe a moment of silence in respect and memory of Chief Vinson.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on March 16, 2015 were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and approved.

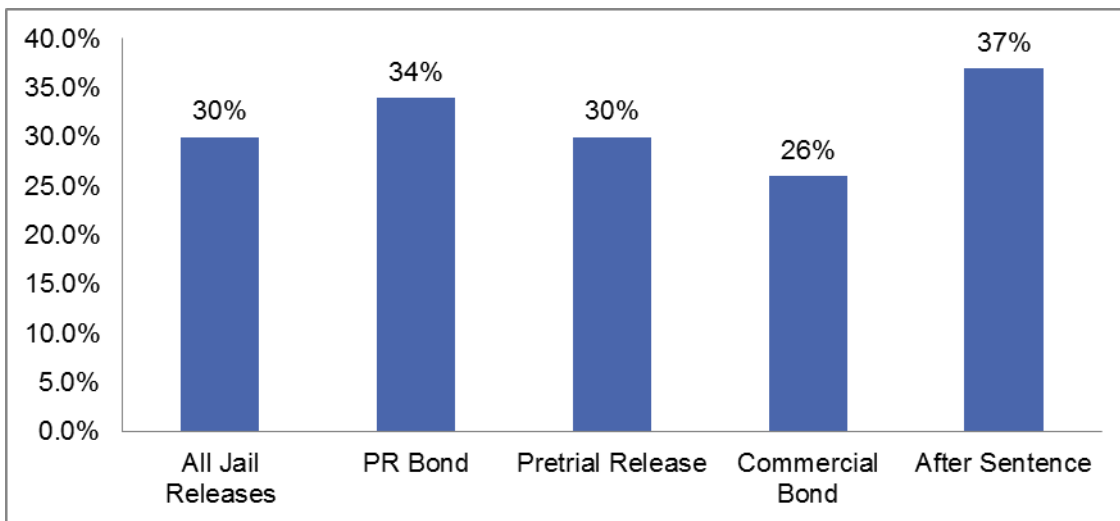
**Presentation- Ms. Jessica Tyler, Research Manager with the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center:**

Commissioner Dr. Garcia introduced Jessica Tyler with a brief bio and thanked her for coming on such short notice in the place of Dr. Tony Fabelo.

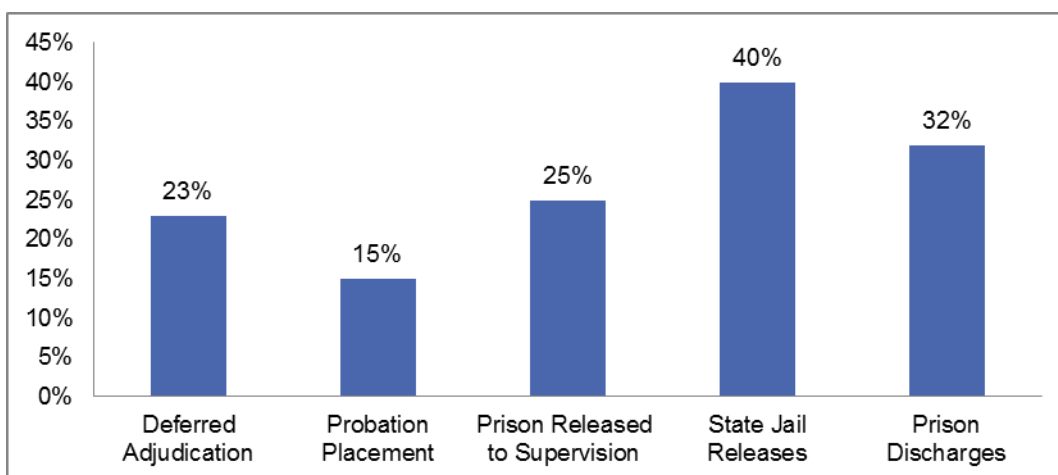
Ms. Tyler prefaced her presentation by expressing Dr. Fabelo's heart felt apologies for not being able to attend this meeting due to a family emergency. However, Ms. Tyler began by giving a brief background of how the five county recidivism studies began. In May of 2013 she recalled attending a Criminal Justice Planners meeting held at Sam Houston State University where representatives from the urban counties in Texas meet biannually. Dallas County is an integral member of these planning sessions. During that May session, the discussion began regarding conducting a recidivism study that would represent the five largest counties in Texas; to include the local county jail, adult probation, and Texas Department of Corrections data. One of the first topics was how to develop a uniform definition of recidivism. The goal was to compare the recidivism rate of the criminal justice populations among the Texas urban

counties. After much debate, the consensus was to define recidivism by using re-arrest rate, then set a standard follow-up period of one year (or 365 days from release), and determine how to set controls for risk profile. Three different groups will be tracked over time to determine a short-term and a long-term recidivism comparison. Three contract options were made available, a one year, two year, and three year option from 2011 to 2013 data. Dallas County's initial participation was with the one year contract for 2011 data. As a result of that participation a draft of the first year result was received on April 8, 2015 which was made a part of the packet for this meeting. The following graphs capture some of the highlights of the report:

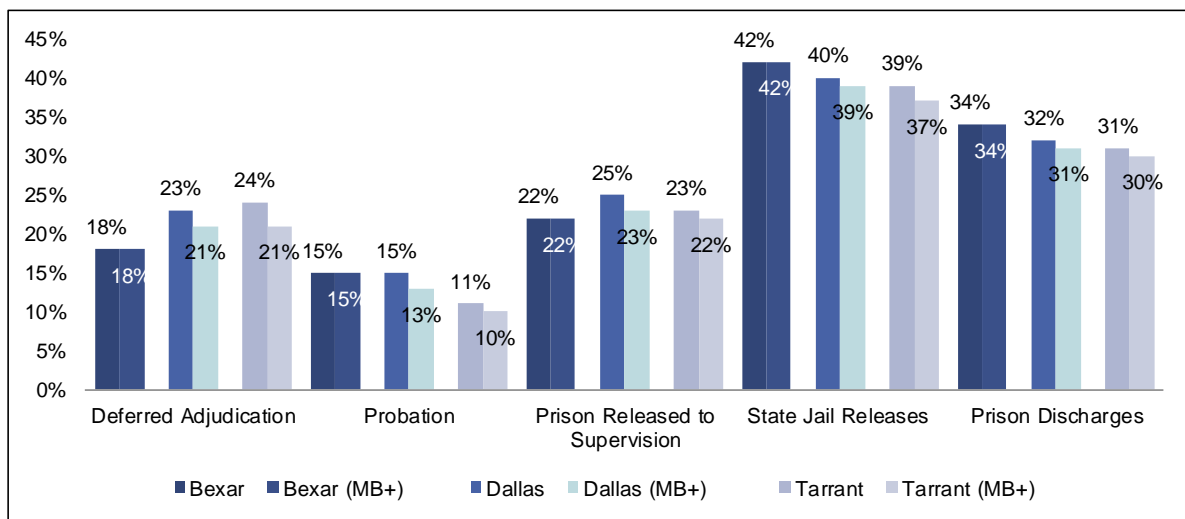
**Figure: One-Year Recidivism Rate by Population in Dallas County for 2011 Study Group**



**Figure: One-Year Recidivism Rate for State Populations in Dallas County for 2011 Study Group**



**Figure: Overall Recidivism Rate by Type of Population in Bexar, Dallas, and Tarrant Counties for 2011 Study Group**



Jessica Tyler also gave a brief overview of the “Stepping Up Initiative”. Stepping Up is a national initiative to reduce the number of persons with mental illness in jails. Recognizing the critical role local and state officials play in supporting change, the National Association of Counties (NACo), the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Foundation (APF) have come together to lead a national initiative to help advance counties’ efforts to reduce the number of adults with mental and co-occurring substance use disorders in jails. With support from the U.S. Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, the initiative will build on the many innovative and proven practices being implemented across the country. There are two key components:

- A Call to Action - includes a six step planning and implementation process that will result in fewer persons with mental illness incarcerated.
- A National Summit - planned for Spring 2016 where all who have agreed to participate can share progress. The summit will also include potential funding opportunities for more intensive consultation and assistance.

Ms. Tyler thanked the board for their time and attention and offered her information for any follow-up questions anyone may have. Jessica Tyler, Research Manager, can be contacted via email at [ityler@csq.org](mailto:ityler@csq.org) or by phone at 512 482 8132.

### **Committee Project Updates:**

#### **Bail Bond:**

Ron Stretcher provided an update directing the member’s attention to page 30 through 32 of the packet. As requested in the January 26, 2015 meeting of the Bail Bond Subcommittee, Dallas County IT began generating the Account 62

report monthly and the Bond Forfeiture Unit has begun sending a more detailed version of their report. The Account 62 reports identifies fines collected, specifically bond forfeitures from both felony and misdemeanor cases. The Account 62 reports reflected total bond forfeiture collected by the felony court from January through May 2015 in the amount of \$63,468. For the same reporting period, the misdemeanor courts collected \$152,688.

The Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from January through May 2015. The total judgments ordered by the courts for the aforementioned period was \$665,399.27 for 956 cases. Also reported was January 2015 through February 2015 reflecting judgment totals of \$294,055.36 for 383 cases.

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

Lynn Richardson gave a brief overview of the committee's activities. She reported that the committee has been following up on few of the items discussed during the February 4, 2015 meeting. The committee is still working to address the daily triage of the election of counsel forms (EOCs). Judge McVea and the Sheriff's Department's Data Management Unit (DMU) have been testing the software Dallas County IT has developed to capture remote bookings that are not part of the video arraignment process. Ms. Richardson also referenced a report provided by the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) found on pages 33 through 36 of the packet outlining their legislative accomplishment during the last session. The highlight was a first time general revenue appropriation for the FY16 and 17 biennium for indigent defense. Finally, Duane Steele reported that he and Judge McVea visited Richardson PD to address the video arraignment pilot and look forward to it starting soon.

#### **Public Policy:**

Council Member Medrano directed the board's attention to page 37 of the packet for an update on the items CJAB agreed to support. He gave a brief update 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.

**Update - HB148, SB618, HB2011, HB1917, and SB396 Did not pass.**

**SB808- relating to the sale of distilled spirits to ultimate consumers by the holder of a distiller's and rectifier's permit has passed the Senate and the House. This bill will allow licensed distilleries to sell directly to consumers.**

**HB2296- relating to regulation by a municipality of the possession of an open container or public consumption of alcoholic beverages has passed**

the Senate and the House. This bill changes how municipalities may regulate the possession of open containers in the public.

2. **Safe Burglary** - Business burglary is currently a State Jail felony. The proposed change in statute to an F/2 would reduce the increase in safes being the target of numerous business burglaries.

Update - HB1570, as filed, will change the offense of burglary from a state jail felony to a felony of the third degree. **This bill did not pass.**

3. **Handicap Parking** - The 2009 legislation's 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.

Update – No changes to the level of punishment for handicap parking violations.

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 if case is put on appeal. 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.

Update - HB904 Relating to the transfer of certain inmates to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice following pronouncement of the inmate's sentence. **Signed by the Governor; effective 9/1/15**

Council Member Medrano stated that the handout also gave the outcomes of a few other criminal justice bills of interest. He encouraged the board to begin thinking about bills of interest for the next session now.

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

Etho Pugh reported on the Jail Population meeting held on June 12, 2015. Excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 40 through 47 of the packet. Mr. Pugh stated that the current jail population for this date is 5,561. In comparison, last year's population on the same day was 6,233. This is the lowest the jail population has been since February 2015.

#### **Jurisprudence:**

Ellyce Lindberg yielded to Commissioner Dr. Garcia regarding the issue of allowing defense attorneys from the Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (DCDLA) to obtain a security badge for building access that would

bypass security. Commissioner Dr. Garcia reported that Budget Officer Ryan Brown and Robert DeGroot, Chief of Dallas County Security did prepare a letter outlining their position on this matter which stated in short that at this time, Dallas County will not support the request for special security badges for defense attorneys.

#### **Juvenile Justice:**

Duane Steele reported in Dr. Terry Smith's absence. Mr. Steele directed the board's attention to pages 48 through 51 of the packet. He reported that the committee met on May 14, 2015 and the topic of discussion was: "Where is Dallas in terms of readiness in the event of an emergency such as the one in Baltimore". It was said that it is not a matter of if, but when. The committee talked about lessons learned from Baltimore, and engaged an emergency preparedness exercise. The exercise provoked discussion regarding preparedness with regard to the Juvenile Department. Areas to address were, 1) Staging, 2) Informing Families, 3) Community Partners, 4) Wide Spread Communication, 5) Law Enforcement Partners and 6) Filing Charges or Releasing Youth. Other topics discussed were legislative updates, and expanding utilization of the video equipment to conduct hearings with adults charged with juvenile offenses and youthful offenders at Lew Sterrett.

#### **Research:**

Dr. John Worrall reported in Dr. Robert Morris' absence. He reiterated that the final version of the Pretrial Release Mechanisms study conducted by UTD has been released and is being review by the Criminal Justice Department. Also, the study being performed for CSCD on the specialty courts is underway and should be completed soon.

#### **Crisis Services Project (SIP):**

Ron Stretcher reported that the targeted start date for the new iteration of the SIP program by Parkland Hospital has been pushed back to work through the transportation component of the program. A new start date is forthcoming.

#### **Action Items:**

- Pages 52 through 54 of the packet consist of a briefing and resolution for CJAB's endorsement of the aforementioned "Stepping Up" initiative. As previously mentioned, Stepping Up is a two part national initiative to reduce the number of persons with mental illness in jails. The resolution requests CJAB approves proceeding with a focused planning process (30 days) to determine if Dallas County wants to participate in Stepping Up; leading to a request for a resolution of participation from the Dallas County Commissioners Court and including a plan to obtain the necessary resources for Stepping Up.

\*There was a motion made to endorse the aforementioned resolution. The motion was seconded and approved.

- On page 55 of the packet was a resolution seeking CJAB's endorsement to proceed with the renewal of the contract between Council of State Governments Justice Center and Dallas County for years two and three of the research study addressing county level recidivism.

\*There was a motion made to endorse the aforementioned resolution. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Announcements:**

Ron Stretcher directed the board's attention to page 40 of the packet to information regarding the County's Combined Completeness Percentage. As of June 8, 2015, the completeness reporting to CJIS for Adults was 90%. This percentage is for the 5 year period between 2009 and 2013 which needed to meet or exceed 90% on or before August 1, 2015.

The next CJAB meeting will be September 21, 2015.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:56 PM.