



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, June 20, 2016**

**Welcome & Introductions**, Commissioner Dr. Garcia, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. Customary introductions were made by all in attendance.

**Membership & Infrastructure:**

Commissioner Dr. Garcia stated that Chief David Brown accepted the nomination to be Vice Chair of CJAB, however he was not able to attend the meeting. Commissioner Dr. Garcia introduced Jeff Segura as the new Program Manager for CJAB.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on December 14, 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.

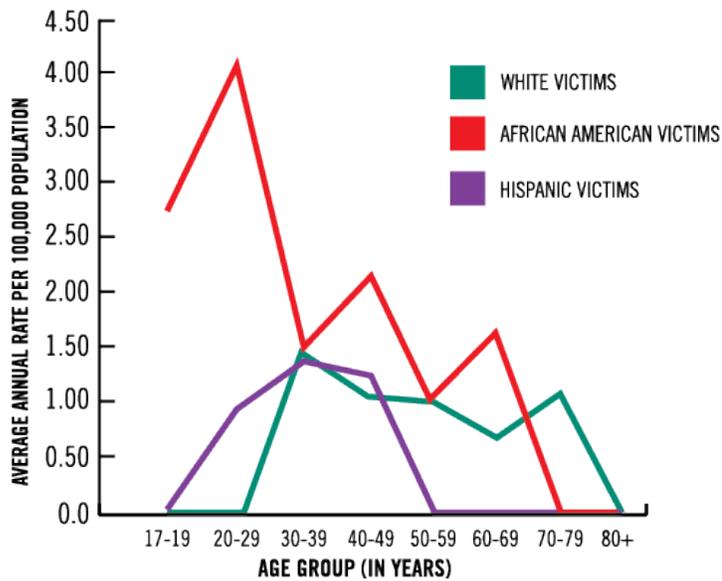
**Presentations:**

**Adult Intimate Partner Fatality Report by Ms. Jan Langbein, Chief Executive Officer with the Genesis Woman's Shelter & Support:**

Commissioner Dr. Garcia introduced Jan Langbein with a brief bio and thanked her for providing information on the Violence Fatality Report. In 2011, the Dallas County Commissioners put together The Intimate Partner Fatality Review Committee, which was tasked with researching the fatality of woman in regards to their intimate partners. Before the report could be made, first the Health and Safety Code Chapter 672 had to be changed in order to keep the information confidential. The information that has been completed and reported for this review so far is 2009-2011. 2012 is completed and fatalities for 2013 are being compiled. In October 2014 the Texas Council on Family Violence noted that Dallas County had more woman killed by intimate partners than any other county in Texas.

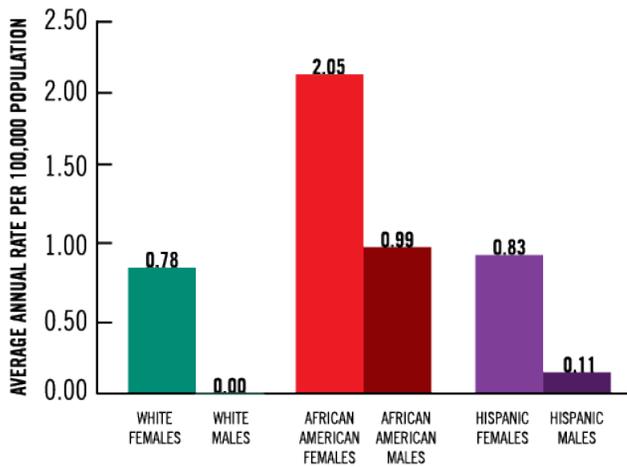
Ms. Langbein reviewed stats and facts from the report including the following graphs:

## FEMALE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE VICTIM FATALITY RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND AGE GROUP



- African American women and women between 20-24 have the highest rate of fatality
- The average age of the victims was 38.0 years old, with a range in age from 19 to 71 years

## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE VICTIM FATALITY RATES BY GENDER AND RACE/ETHNICITY



African American females are approximately 2.5 times more likely to die by intimate partner violence than White females or Hispanic females.

Ms Langbein also gave facts regarding children who are involved in these cases. 44.1% of the cases directly impacted children. Fourteen children were present during the homicide with two directly witnessing the homicide, and two who were not present but found the victim.

The Fatality Report further found that 64.7% of victims were cohabitating with their perpetrators and a firearm was the most common weapon used. 61.8% of incidents happened within the City of Dallas and the remaining incidents occurred in Carrollton, Garland, Cedar hill, Irving, Coppell, Mesquite, Desoto, and Rowlett. 52.9% of perpetrators had a previous violent arrest.

In the study, only three victims had applied for a protective order, two had received it but it had expired. One had applied but had not yet received the protective order. It should also be noted that not one victim had sought services at a shelter such as New Beginnings, Genesis, or Family place. This was an important factor because in the cases where the victim sought help or shelter the victim did not die.

Ms. Langbein also passed out a sheet that is being used as a screening instrument for Domestic Violence calls by the Dallas Police Dept. It is called the *Domestic Violence Lethality Screen for First Responders*. It included eleven questions for the victim (the sheet is included in the packet). Once the sheet is complete the officer can use the assessment to determine if the victim needs to go to a shelter like Genesis. This screening instrument can also taken to the court. Ms. Langbein stated the makers of the screening instrument would be open to training any department who is was interested in using it.

**County Uniform Recidivism Measure Project by Ms. Jessica Tyler Research Manager for Council of State Governments Justice Center:**

Commissioner Dr. Garcia introduced Jessica Tyler with a brief bio. Ms. Tyler gave some background on the Recidivism Study and why it was commissioned. Ms. Tyler stated that the goal was to compare the recidivism rate of criminal justice populations among the Texas urban Counties and to trigger a systematic conversation about furthering examinations to understand drivers of recidivism. It should ne noted that recidivism was defined as re-arrest(s). The counties involved are Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis. Populations looked at in the study included local jail population including first jail release, jail release on PR Bond or commercial bond, and jail release after sentence completion. Also included was the population placed on probation, regular and deferred, prison release to the county and state jail release to the county.

Three different groups will be tracked over time to determine a short term and a long term recidivism comparison.

Some of the highlights from the presentation are as follows:

## One-Year Recidivism Rates – All Jail Releases

All Jail Releases					
	Dallas	Tarrant	El Paso	Bexar	Harris
2011	28%	26%	21%	22%	25%
2012	28%	27%	22%	22%	
2013	28%	28%		22%	

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All Jail Releases is defined as aggregated total of the four releases types, personal recognizance, pretrial release, commercial bond, and post sentence.

## One-Year Recidivism Rates Pretrial and Commercial Bond

During this period  
Dallas and El Paso  
did not have  
pretrial  
supervision

Bexar and Tarrant  
had pretrial  
supervision  
administered by  
the county

Pre-Trial Release					
	Dallas	Tarrant	El Paso	Bexar	Harris
2011	27%	20%	29%	21%	15%
2012	30%	20%	30%	22%	
2013	31%	18%		21%	

Commercial Bond Release					
	Dallas	Tarrant	El Paso	Bexar	Harris
2011	24%	24%	18%	22%	20%
2012	24%	26%	20%	23%	
2013	23%	23%		23%	

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## One-Year Recidivism Rates Probation and State Jail Releases

Placed on Probation					
	Dallas	Tarrant	El Paso	Bexar	Harris
2011	13%	10%	14%	15%	9%
2012	12%	10%	15%	15%	
2013	11%	8%		14%	

Release from State Jail					
	Dallas	Tarrant	El Paso	Bexar	Harris
2011	39%	37%	37%	42%	43%
2012	43%	40%	35%	43%	
2013	40%	39%		41%	

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## Three-Year Recidivism Rates Local Populations

All Jail Releases			
	Bexar	Dallas	Tarrant
2011	37%	45%	43%

After Jail Sentence			
	Bexar	Dallas	Tarrant
2011	42%	54%	54%

Pretrial			
	Bexar	Dallas	Tarrant
2011	36%	44%	35%

Commercial			
	Bexar	Dallas	Tarrant
2011	38%	40%	41%

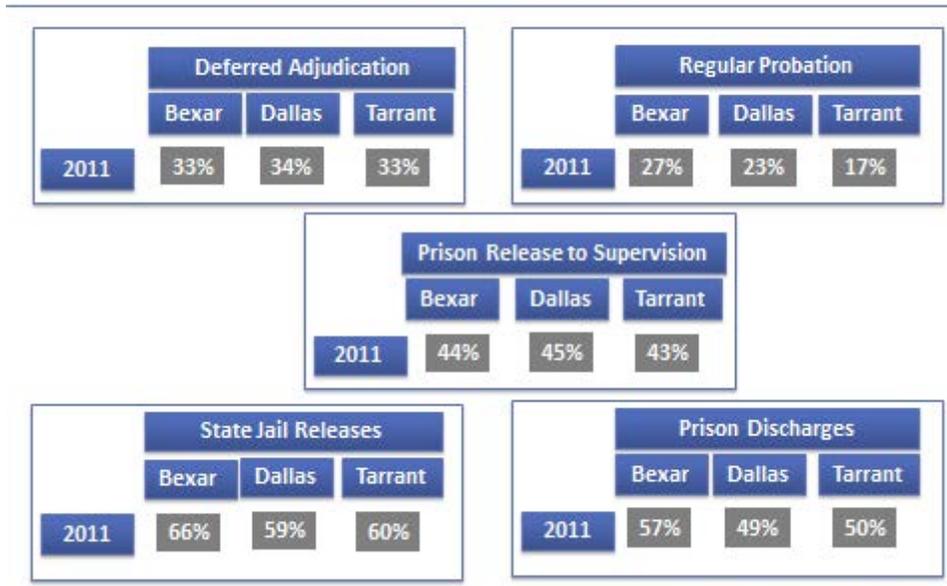
Dallas does not have pre-trial supervision

Bexar and Tarrant has pre-trial supervision administered by the county

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The charts above and on the next page show the Recidivism rate in 2011 tracked for three years.

## Three-Year Recidivism Rates State Populations



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The study encouraged Counties to find programs that helped keep Recidivism down and to expand them. The study also encouraged counties to match the risk to the need when giving the defendant a treatment provider. The entirety of the presentation is included in the packet.

### **Stepping Up/Caruth Smart Justice by Ron Stretcher Director of Department of Criminal Justice:**

Dr. Andy Keller was unable to attend the meeting because he was delayed at the airport. Director Ron Stretcher presented the information about the Stepping Up/Caruth Grant. Ron Stretcher discussed Dallas County and the Meadows foundation coming together to work on identifying defendant's mental health treatment needs based on risk level. The Caruth Smart Justice Group funded a study of people in jail in need of treatment. On the basis of this study a plan is being put together for longer term funding from Caruth. The focus would be to free up law enforcement, impact high recidivism rate, and make a long term shift in funding away from high level crisis to ongoing community support. The program is now past phase one having completed work groups based on assessment, screening and supervision. The plan is now receiving input from various entities and will then go to Caruth in August 2016 for further funding.

Mr. Stretcher displayed a map showing the several areas where people can be detained at various jails. In contrast he also showed a map showing the few places someone could be taken to receive help with mental health issues. The goal of the project would be to build upon the existing provider base and create more access to service in the community. Also the program is working to engage emergency medical responses.

The program would look at using about a third of the money to create diversion programs on the front end of dealing with defendants. To deal with emergency responses a team would be created consisting of a paramedic, law enforcement, and a clinician to intervene in a more focused manner.

Part of the money will also be used to address risk assessments and the need for pre-trial supervision. This would provide the ability to screen offenders for mental health and provide appropriate supervision when necessary. Currently Dallas County has Pre-trial officers but does not provide supervision which is possibly a reason recidivism is high in Dallas County. Supervision will be added to the job duties of the Pre-trial Officers, and this will take into account criminogenic risk as well as mental health needs.

Another part of the program will include expanding the number of ACT Teams, which provide high level services in the community. Currently there are 725 asserted community treatment slots for ACT, which is the highest level of service that is provided within the County. The team includes nurse, counselor, and psychiatrist which work with people in the community to keep them out of the hospital. The number of slots will be expanded to 2350. One current problem is that the current state law around Act teams penalizes service providers from doing outreach. Currently people have to consent and then complete the program. However, many people in need of these services often initially refuse and the providers must sometimes interact up to month before they agree to have treatment. The program is looking at providing this so the providers are not penalized. Slots are also being created for a step down process because they will not need to maintain the highest level of treatment.

Another treatment option being created is to provide mental health services to initial onset of psychosis. The goal is to treat people early before severe problems develop. Metrocare and UT Southwest are working to build capacity for first time psychosis issues.

Funds will also be used to bring in outside expertise to address the housing problem for people with mental health needs. The Corporation for Supportive Housing, Commissioner Daniel's Work group, and the city of Dallas are working together to solve this problem.

The proposal was reviewed in June, will be submitted Mid-July, and a decision should be reached in August. Implementation of expanded services should begin January 2017 with the Northstar transition.

## **Committee Project Updates:**

### **Bail Bond:**

Mr. Finey reported that there were fewer arrests than in the past resulting in jail population being reduced; therefore there were fewer bond forfeitures. Mr. Finey stated that it was encouraging to see how many cases are being taken to final judgment because of higher rate of return. Although they are making less money from bail bond forfeitures the real goal was to get the defendant to show up to court and it appears that rate is going up.

The Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from January 2016 through May 2016. The total judgments ordered by the courts for the aforementioned period was \$689,339.99 for 952 cases. The Account 62 reports reflected total bond forfeiture collected by the felony court in May 2016 was \$7,610.00. For the same reporting period, the misdemeanor courts collected \$33,775.00.

### **Fair Defense Committee:**

Lynn Richardson reported that the Fair Defense Committee had not met, however there have been improvements in appointing attorneys in compliance with the Fair Defense act. This is helping make sure some defendants are not in jail for long periods of time and helps expedite appointing court appointed attorneys.

### **Public Policy:**

Council Member Medrano could not attend the meeting; however, Charles Reed spoke about the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Reed stated that because oil prices are down the state will not have a lot of money this session, so it was important to prioritize funding requests for the upcoming session. Also revenue and appraisal caps are coming back so it will be difficult for the counties to raise their own funds, as a result they will need help from the state. Jeff Segura announced that there would be a meeting in July to discuss upcoming legislation and an email for a meeting request will be sent soon. Commissioner Dr. Garcia stated that previously CJAB had been able to focus on public safety legislation and if someone has a specific item they can pass it on to herself or Mr. Segura. However, CJAB will be picking items to focus on in the near future.

### **Jail Population Update:**

Etho Pugh reported on the Jail Population meeting held on June 10, 2016. Excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 55 through 62 of the packet. Mr. Pugh stated that the current jail population for this date is 5,431.

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

Judge Steve Seider reported that his court generally deals with defendants with mental health issues prior to entering jail or before they have a serious criminal

accusation. Judge Seider stated he is in the process of putting together an Executive Summary for three different dockets within the Justice of the Peace Courts to specialize in mentally ill, veterans, and chronically homeless. Currently, they are still in the information gathering stage from around Texas. Some items identified are that early intervention and peer to peer contact with veterans are generally successful. The goal is to shrink timelines and keep defendants better informed using existing technology. Judge Seider further stated he deals with mostly class C misdemeanors but with this comes 5000-6000 evictions cases where mental health issues, veterans and substance abuse is an overlying factor. Also many people coming from prisons come across his court because they need to have tickets taken care of before they can obtain an ID card. The next Stu Pot court is September 10, 2016, which helps close out cases with the homeless population in downtown Dallas allowing them to obtain ID cards.

#### **Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence:**

Chief Spivey reported that there is significant progress in electronic case filing storage and they have talked about issues that have come up with body cameras. Minutes from the Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence meeting held on June 13, 2016, are included in this packet.

#### **Juvenile Justice:**

Dr. Terry Smith reported that they had worked with the LEA Subcommittee to discuss Techshare Juvenile in order to get set up with e-filing. On the legislative side regarding Juvenile Justice the committee is working on legislation concerning cleaning up a concealed handgun bill which would provide the same protections for Juvenile Probation offices that are currently given to adult probation offices against carrying on premises. The committee is also working on dealing with the changes in regard to PREA. The 2017 guidelines for PREA will result in an unfunded mandate for the counties.

#### **Reentry:**

Dr. Crain reported that the Reentry Committee is pushing the community reentry diversion platform. Unlocking doors has 133 partners state wide, many in Dallas and North Texas. Dr. Crain asked any present Law enforcement agency to be involved to help share information and provide services. The Third re-entry symposium was held in April of this year with about three hundred attendees. Ron Stretcher was a presenter at this symposium. Topics covered included expunction, nondisclosures, homelessness, and tent city and the issues it presents. Also covered was getting reentry help to offenders coming out of TDCJ who do not get help from TDCJ. An MOU is in place between TDCJ and Unlocking Doors to provide services. In April 2017, the forth symposium will be held. Unlocking Doors makes sure offenders gets to the appropriate services by being part of a network which results in a cohesive coordinated effort between many entities which helps produce raw data and evidence based analytics. Several other counties and organizations want to replicate the program and Dallas County is on the forefront of this service provision.

**Program Update:****SAMSHA Drug Court Expansion:**

Laura Edmonds discussed the SAMSHA Grant which funds residential treatment at Nexus to any female in specialty court program. So far 17 participants are participating under the grant with a year one goal of 36. One success has been to move all participants from jail to treatment in less than 7 days.

**JAG Grant Renewal:**

Jeff Segura reported that the Department of Criminal Justice has applied for another year of the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and the money will be used to continue the Recidivism study.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Announcements:**

Dr. Crain introduced two new members of the Unlocking Doors Team, Hue Nguyen as Director of Data Management and Compliance and Ashley Swenson who is currently interning while going to University of North Texas College of Law.

The next CJAB meeting will be September 19, 2016.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 4:06PM.