



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, June 18, 2018**

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

**Membership & Infrastructure:**

There were no changes to membership or infrastructure at this time.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on March 26, 2018, 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:**

**Strategies in Partnering and Prosecuting Elder Abuse – Stephanie Martin**

Commissioner Garcia introduced Assistant District Attorney Stephanie Martin

ADA Martin began the presentation by giving a background of elder abuse, and stated the purpose of this presentation is to reach out to local Law Enforcement Agencies and provide training for how to properly identify and investigate elder abuse.

ADA Martin stated currently the DA's office partners with the Probate Court and the senior source. It was further stated that the DA's office can provide training free of charge that would go towards 8 hours of TCOLE. This training can be geared towards patrol division and/or detectives. ADA Martin went over statistics, and reported that the elder population is only going to get bigger.

ADA Martin stated that when it comes to elder abuse there are different types: physical abuse, neglect and financial. It was further stated that the DA's Office would be able to train officers in ways of being able to identify victims, perpetrators, how and why this abuse happens and the effect it has on the elderly population. ADA Martin stated that a lot of the dynamics you see in these elder abuse cases are very similar to family violence and child abuse cases.

ADA Marin went over examples of cases she has seen in the past and stated LEA had failed to identify and investigate these cases. It was further stated that this training was created, in order to help LEA.

ADA Martin stated the training is conducted through case studies, because it is believed that is the most effective way to understand what it is that LEA will encounter in the field. ADA Martin went over two case studies in detail, as an example of what the training would be like. ADA Martin ended the presentation by stating that the District Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement and Adult Protective Services all need to be on the same page, and better communicate with each other.

### **Guidance for Emergency Detentions – Matt Roberts & Courtney Clemmons**

Commissioner Garcia introduced Matt Roberts from the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) and gave brief biography.

Matt Roberts began the presentation by giving a background of NTBHA and going over the agenda of topics he will be covering during the presentation.

Mr. Roberts stated that back in 1999 NorthSTAR was created, and served 7 counties. Services were provided to both eligible Medicaid and medically indigent individuals. In 2015 the Texas Sunset Commission reviewed NorthSTAR and decided to end it, and made NTBHA a fully functioning mental health authority. It was further stated that NTBHA is not an insurance company, manages only indigent funding, and cannot make a profit.

Mr. Roberts stated NTBHA has a priority population of adults with severe mental health illness such as schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder, and children and adolescents with mental health illness who also exhibit serious emotional, behavioral or mental disorders. Mr. Roberts further stated the services provided by NTBHA are mental health outpatient, crisis services and substance use disorder treatment. These services are outsourced through ADAPT, Metrocare, Nexxus etc.

Mr. Roberts stated the purpose of his presentation today was to talk about Emergency Detention, and where local LEA need to take them. It was stated that mental health patients used to be taken to Green Oaks, but this is not the case anymore. The guidance right now is for any peace officer in an APOWW situation to take the person to the nearest mental health hospital. The hospitals are regulated by EMTALA which means they are obligated to take that person, stabilize them, and if they can't provide care for them, they are obligated to transfer them to an appropriate hospital that can. It was further stated that EMTALA is the key enabling officers to get care for the people and get officers back on the street as soon as possible.

Mr. Roberts ended the presentation by stating that he will be sending out a list of all the inpatient mental health hospitals in the community. It is a one page and has information and would like to distribute to LEA community.

### **Committee Project Updates:**

#### **Bail Bond:**

Miguel Canales gave the update. The Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from January – May 2018 of \$744,893.81 for 1,219 cases. The Account 62 reports reflected total bond forfeitures collected by the felony courts in May 2018 was \$10,500.00. For the same reporting period, the misdemeanor courts collected \$36,016.00.

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

Lynn Richardson could not attend the meeting and did not send an update.

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

Leah Gamble reported for Mr. Etho Pugh in his absence. Jail Population meeting was held June 15, 2018. Excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 31 through 36 of the packet. Mrs. Gamble stated that the jail population for this date is 4,967.

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

Judge Steve Seider reported the JP court management system there has had no significant progress since last report. It was reported that this project has been in the works since 1998. Judge Seider further reported that truancy cases from the last 25 years have been approved for expungement, and as soon as the process has been completed the files will be destroyed. During questions and answers Commissioner Garcia asked if there would be another reduction in truancy court judges. Ryan Brown stated with the upcoming budget there will be a reduction bringing the number of judges to a total of 2.

#### **Juvenile Justice:**

Mike Griffiths introduced himself as the interim Director for the Juvenile Department. Mr. Griffiths reported that from the past 8 years referrals to Juvenile Court are down. They have gone from 10,000 to 4,800. Mr. Griffiths reported that the consulting company hired to replace Dr. Terry Smith, is doing good work and should have a replacement by October of 2018.

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

Chief Spivey reported that they continue to work with Assistant District Attorney Ellyce Lindberg on smoothing out the process of including the Probable Cause Affidavit with their case file in order for the magistrate to have that information at the time they would be setting a bond. Chief Spivey reported the current issues they are working on are the filing of misdemeanor pill cases. The DA's office has adopted a new policy stating that all pill cases require a lab analysis in order to

be accepted by the DA's office, due to pill identification mistakes caused by officers in the past. Chief Spivey reported, it would not be a problem in the long run, but at the moment it is going to be resource issue, due the impact it would have on the Department of Public Safety lab.

**Reentry:**

Christina Crain could not attend the meeting and sent an update to Miguel Canales. Unlocking DOORS Annual Texas Reentry Symposium will be held Friday, October 19th at the Belo Mansion. Please make a note on your calendar and let Christina know if you are interested in becoming a sponsor, supplying items for the attendee bags and/or purchasing a resource table for your organization. Lastly, The White House/Koch Industries initiative "Safe Streets and Second Chances" has officially begun. The initiative encompasses a roll out in four states (Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida and Kentucky) of a research project using a new assessment tool called the 5 Key Model. The Texas roll out will be headquartered at Unlocking DOORS through May of 2020. This is a very exciting initiative and we look forward to sharing the results with everyone. Please call Christina for more information on the initiative.

**Pretrial:**

Commissioner Garcia asked Mr. Jeff Segura to do a brief update about what is happening with Pretrial Services at the moment, and then stated that with the approval of CJAB, she would like to create a Pretrial Subcommittee.

Jeff Segura reported Pretrial Services has been expanding in the past several months. They have recently moved into their new space on the 2nd floor at Frank Crowley Criminal Courts. This new space has allowed them to hire and expand the Department. Alcohol Monitoring Unit has 3 officers running 1,200 cases. They have been approved to hire 3 more officers, who are currently undergoing the hiring process. Mental Health Pretrial started out with 5 officers, now has 10. Electronic Monitoring Unit cases have increased drastically in past several months due to more judges using this service. They have been approved to add another officer bringing the total to 7 officers. The big change right now is the Intake Assessment Unit who will be responsible for conducting the indigent screening. They have been approved to hire 6 officers, and have 4 who started working last week. The indigence screening process started back in February, where officers interviewed incoming defendants and collect financial information in order to help with the magistrate process. Today is the first day the new intake officers will start working from 7AM-11:30PM Monday-Friday, and Saturday's 7AM-3:30PM. The ultimate goal is to have this operation working 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Jeff Segura made a motion to start a Pretrial subcommittee and have Commissioner Garcia serve as the subcommittee chair. The motion was second by Miguel Canales. The motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

## **Program Update:**

### **SAMSHA Drug Court Expansion:**

Laura Edmonds gave an update; the yearly goal for SAMSHA is 36 and they have had 31 referrals through the end of May. They have been able to move clients from referral to out of jail within an average of 7 days.

### **Caruth Smart Justice:**

Mike Laughlin stated to refer to page 38 of the packet for Caruth MH PR Bond stats. Since April of 2017 they have a total of 640 approved cases, and a total of 367 discharged. They have had 141 complete the program successful, 223 unsuccessful and 2 neutral. As of May 2018 they have a total of 273 active cases.

### **Local Data Advisory Board:**

Miguel Canales stated that he had spoken to Vicki Buchanan of Dallas County IT and the Dallas County Adult Courts are currently at 90%, and Juvenile Court is also at 90%. They have reached their goal for the year sooner than expected.

### **Public Comments:**

None

### **Announcements:**

Mrs. Kelley Schmidt from North Central Texas Council of Governments stated that she left some flyers for everyone to take. The flyers are for the Stop Violence Conference happening at the end of July.

Mr. Michael Laughlin stated that Dallas County submitted an application to the National Association of Counties (NACo) for Smart Justice to be recognized. Mr. Laughlin stated that NACo did select Dallas County to receive an award. The award ceremony will be in July in Nashville, TN.

The next CJAB meeting will be held on September 17, 2018, at 2:30pm.

### **Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:40PM.