



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
General Membership Minutes for Monday, September 19, 2022**

Welcome & Introductions, Commissioner Dr. Garcia, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. All in attendance made customary introductions.

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 June 27, 2022, were made a part of the packet. A motion was made to approve minutes; the motion was seconded and approved.

Presentations:

Dallas Deflects– Dave Hogan

Ellyce Lindberg introduced the presenter, Dave Hogan.

Dave Hogan is the clinical director of the Dallas Deflection Center. The Dallas Deflection Center also referred to as Dallas Deflects is located at Homeward Bound Treatment Center, 5300 University Hills Boulevard. Homeward Bound provides treatment to individuals with issues such as: drug abuse, mental health and co-occurring mental health issues. The idea behind the Deflection Center is, diversion from jail to treatment. With jail population rising, this essentially may cut down the number of mentally ill, low-level offenders being incarcerated.

Mr. Hogan gave a scenario of police dealing with a homeless individual. The individual will panhandle and be asked to leave the the location. Management of the location will call the police and the police shows up. Generally, when the officer takes someone to jail, they spend about 3 to 4 hours booking in the individual, taking up half of their shift. The arrestee will stay in jail for 3 or 4 days without getting assessments or treatment. Once released, the individual will return to the same situation that landed them in jail, which subsequently leads to high rates of recidivism.

How much does that cost us? In the jails, \$67 a day to house an inmate in general population and \$95 a day for the inmate receiving medication assistance in general population. The cost increases to \$288 a day, if the individuals must go to a behavioral observation unit. Total cost of processing a single criminal trespass case including law enforcement, district attorney's office, and court of law and the county jail would be \$1,400. That's one case. There were 1700 arrests last year solely for criminal trespass. That is \$2,507,274 tax-payer dollars wasted on criminal trespass cases.

Mr. Hogan explained there are three components needed to help this situation. The first component is technology, and to be able to treat people with co-occurring disorders. Co-occurring related to substance abuse and mental health. The next two components were strong political will and sufficient funding to produce the project. All three of these components are present in the Deflection Center project; Dallas County and Dallas City council are both supporters of the project.

Mr. Hogan reported on the goals for the Deflection Center: reduce the number of mentally ill low-level offenders in the county jail, reduce the recidivism rate for low-level misdemeanor offenders, and provide a positive option to arrest and incarceration by providing services and housing status for offenders. Mr. Hogan continued with the parameters to get into the program. The person must be committing a criminal offense, in need of some behavioral health services, not experiencing a medical crisis, not acting in a menace or aggressive manner and lastly, better assistance for community-based services opposed to incarceration.

Mr. Hogan reported about the services provided by Dallas Deflects best practices of mental health & substance use evidence-based individualized assessment, trauma-informed harm reduction follow-up, and respite recovery and wellness practices. Dallas Deflects helps with permanent supportive housing, such as section 8 apartments and boarding homes. They also follow up on individualized treatment plans and case management, community support programs and connection to qualified federal programs.

Mr. Hogan concluded the presentation stating the officers who bring the individual in will fill out a questionnaire, takes about 15 minutes. Then, the officers return to their policing duties. The individuals that are brought in are given the necessary treatment to reenter society.

Mr. Hogan opened the floor for questions. Jeff Segura asked if the individuals stay overnight and if the individual is out on bond would this be an alternative? Mr. Hogan reported they can stay overnight; however, this is not an alternative yet. It was asked if Dallas Deflects could be used by other agencies in Dallas County? Mr. Hogan said, they are open to all agencies and are available now. Mr. Hogan continued with the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority assess the individual and determine their needs. Commissioner Garcia asked about the

accessibility. Mr. Hogan elaborated on the individual's first day; there is an assessment, a period of gathering information, and assigning a life coach.

Commissioner Garcia asked about the collection of data. Mr. Hogan explained that this is a Bureau of Justice Administration grant, and a lot of data will be collected to get continued funding. Dr. Crain asked about the kind of assessment used and expressed a desire for Unlocking Doors to collaborate with Dallas Deflects.

Mr. Hogan was asked about the capacity; the current capacity is 16. The Dallas Deflection Center sees both men and women. Currently the hours of operation are 9am to 9pm, however, they hope to expand the hours to 24-hour operation after the first year.

Commissioner Garcia inquired about Dallas Deflects working with Southeast Alliance Community Care Team. Mr. Hogan reported having connected with them, and Dallas Deflects plans to be inclusive of suburbs in the Dallas County area. Commissioner Garcia asked about working with the Living Room, and Mr. Hogan answered that they are working closely with them. Mr. Hogan concluded with ensuring Dallas Deflection Center wants to communicate with all entities within Dallas County and municipalities.

Committee Project Updates:

Criminal Justice Administration & Jail Population Management Update:

LaShonda Jefferson gave the update. The Jail Population committee meeting is being held on a special date this month. The meeting will be held on Friday, September 23, 2022. Excerpts from that packet can be found on pages 24 through 31 of the CJAB packet. The jail population for today is 6,246, which is 86.7% of our total jail capacity. The Criminal Justice Department continues to collaborate with stakeholders to manage our jail population. The average jail population for August 2022 was 6,288 and our yearly average for 2022, so far, is 5,818. Jail population continues to see a significant increase due to individuals in jail with unfiled felony cases and those pending transfers to state facilities.

Fair Defense Committee:

Lynn Richardson gave the update. Ms. Richardson expressed the excitement about the Deflection Center and their efforts. The Public Defender's Office participated in the well-attended Big Texas Rally for Recovery on Saturday, September 17, in Coppell. The Public Defender's office continues to work with the commissioners, the county administration, and the courts to reduce the backlog cases that accumulated due to COVID, and courts being shut down. The Public Defender's Office announced their ongoing partnership with Dr. Crane and the Unlocking Doors program, to give their clients opportunities to find employment and reduce recidivism. The Public Defender's Office also continues to work with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission regarding the backlog cases and streamlining the processes to effectively represent their clients. Ms.

Richardson introduced Alexis with Community Engagement. She further explained they will be going into the Dallas County jail and the Juvenile Detention Center, to work with the women and the kids on artistic work and art therapy.

Justice of the Peace:

Judge Steve Seider gave the update. Judge Seider reports the court management system will be going live. The JP courts will be closed to the public from October 26 to November 1 to convert into the new system. There was a meeting with all JP courts, everyone was on the same page as they begin this transition to the new system. They are looking to create a functional analyst position. This person will ensure the legislative requirements are met and act as the conduit between the Courts, Dallas County IT and Tyler Technologies. Judge Seider is working with Budget, IT and HR to figure out the qualifications for this position, how the position will be funded, and where the person will be housed. Another subject Judge Seider touched on was the communication with IT to have DPS tickets filed electronically. There are some programming authorizations that will need to go through Austin to have that ability added. Judge Seider described starting a conversation on a legislative enabling statute that would allow the courts to have special bonds information entered in the statewide database website where the individual can look up their name and see if there's money available.

Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence:

Ellyce Lindberg gave the update. Ms. Lindberg reported there was not a formal meeting for this subcommittee in the last quarter. However, they continue to work on the 90% Reporting mandate due by next August. There are about 22, 000 cases to close out before our deadline. LaFayne McCall reported the list to agencies have some wrong agencies on it; however, she will go through the lists to make those corrections. Mr. Duane Steele asked when they anticipate seeing the impact of the pandemic on the five-year window to get the cases resolved? Ms. LaFayne answered that it started last year when they worked on 2016-2020 cases and it continues to this year's 2017-2021 cases. The last item mentioned was an upcoming meeting with the DA to discuss a statute that became effective in September.

Pretrial:

Jeff Segura gave the update. Pretrial Services numbers were as follows: Alcohol monitoring at 1614, Electronic Monitoring at 741, Mental Health at 323 and General Pretrial at 161, totaling over 2,839 for the department. Electronic Monitoring numbers have dipped a little bit, which is a welcoming relief as they are onboarding new staff. They have identified seven officers of the ten positions available. The arising concern is space and determining if they will keep the current location in addition to the new location. Mr. Segura reported retention is also a challenge for their intake unit; October of last year was the last time the unit was fully staffed. Pretrial expressed their gratitude to county commissioners for allowing overtime to the intake unit. Pretrial continues their search for qualified candidates to hire.

Reentry:

Dr. Christina Crain gave the update. Dr. Crain concurred with Ms. Lynn Richardson on the next-level partnership with the Public Defender's Office. The Unlocking Doors program will be beta testing out of the South Dallas location. The hopes are that it is going to be successful and will expand working with other government centers to get more in the community. Unlocking Doors has been ramping up with the employers they work with and are now close to 75 employers who are considered background friendly. About 50 to 60 of those are willing to hire anybody across the board. It's been found that some employers are hesitant about hiring someone with a violent criminal background. They are on a legislation for the next session that would give employers better protections. Unfortunately, this year's Texas Reentry Symposium has been canceled. Dr. Crain reported that Unlocking Doors is expanding to Houston. There will be an end of the year event with Darryl Strawberry and more information to come on this event. Dr. Crain was asked about their data collection. She explained, the clients are enrolled into their database and assessed; all information gathered is entered into this database. Through this database they can monitor each goal set and are able to run reports to reflect specific statistics. Unlocking Doors recently contracted Reconnect, which work with probation and parole departments, making this move beneficial for all to close the loop on referrals made to service providers.

Research:

Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez was not able to attend today's meeting. An update was not provided.

Program Update:

None.

Public Comments:

D. R. Rockwell granted three minutes. Rather than a comment, Mr. Rockwell stated he had questions and hopes of getting answers to the things he did not understand. He initiated by questioning the community's ability to better support justice involved patients with severe mental illness within the Lew Sterrett jail. He expressed the jail is inadequate for care of serious mental illness, particularly those who experience psychosis. Mr. Rockwell continues his concern that jail exacerbates mental illness, because inmates with serious mental illness are often segregated from the general population and held in isolation. While access to medication and healthcare professionals is provided to avoid infringement of an inmate's 8th amendment rights to healthcare when in confinement, he reasserted that the care provided in Lew Sterrett Justice Center is inadequate. Mr. Rockwell's second question was how to reduce the wait time for patients in Dallas County. He expressed the Competency Restoration is taking too long in Dallas County because the state hospitals are at capacity with a long waiting list. There is an estimate of 400 people in jail deemed incompetent. While competency restoration is designed to support the inmate's 6th amendment

rights of a fair trial, the extended wait time means there is not a speedy trial. Although a psychiatric hospital is currently being built, the number of beds won't suffice the many on the waiting list and the building won't be ready until 2025. Mr. Rockwell's final questions were regarding community supervision officers' ability to positively reinforce former inmates' engagement with mental health professionals and the reentry and assertive community treatments for them. Commissioner Garcia thanked Mr. Rockwell for joining the meeting and shared she a brief response to his inquire.

Announcements:

The next CJAB meeting will be held on December 19, 2022, at 2:30pm.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:39PM.