



Behavioral Health Steering Committee

530 Fund Sub-Committee

September 9, 2020

Attendees

Laura Edmonds, Shenna Oriabure, **Julie Turnbull, Trina Crosby, Judge Lela Mays, Charlene Randolph, Lynn Richardson,** Vickie Rice, Keta Dickerson, **Bryan Smith, Teresa Saulsberry, Judge Jennifer Bennett,** Kelly McWilliams, **Serena McNair,** Kimberly Duran (bold type indicates designated voting representatives)

Review/Approval of Minutes

Laura Edmonds called the meeting to order at 9:00am and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Julie Turnbull made a motion to approve the minutes. Bryan Smith seconded the motion and the group accepted the minutes.

530 Fund Balance and Update

Laura Edmonds provided an update of the 530 Fund Balance. Currently the balance for the Felony account (4020) is \$133,991.14 the Misdemeanor account (4031) is \$42,031.53 for a total of \$176,022.67. There is approximately \$6,000 in outstanding invoices that not yet cleared the account. The account is still receiving low credits likely due to the impact of COVID. Courts approved for incentive monies must make purchases on or before September 30, 2020. DIVERT Court was approved for incentives but it was not properly documented on the tracking spreadsheet. The data entry error has been corrected. Julie Turnbull advised Harris County reported a reduction in 530 revenues due to changes in the fee structure. The changes occurred in January 2020 from \$60 for drug and alcohol related offenses to \$20 for misdemeanors and \$25 for felonies. Julie asked if the Dallas County's 530 fund revenue reduction could be attributed to the new fee structure. Laura will check with Auditor's Office to inquire about contributing factors to the reduced revenue. An overview of the 530 Fund FY2020 expenditures was included in the meeting packet.

Drug Testing

Laura Edmonds provided an update of the 530 specialized drug testing utilization total for FY20. Total invoiced under the drug testing line item is \$10,030.35 which leaves a balance of \$4,969.65. Utilization of drug patch: 13% were no shows and 87% received patch services. Of those clients that received drug patches: 41% positive, 14% results pending, 26% negative, 19% unable to test (no patch intact at removal, did not return for removal). Report in packet. Laura advised there is

plenty of funds available for UA lab testing. If a court has utilized all UA observations, then clients can self-pay and 530 fund will cover the cost of specimen testing. Courts can contact Shenna Oriabure for updated utilization numbers. Serena McNair advised CSCD is 100% definitely outsourcing. CSCD is still negotiating and getting towards the end the contract process. Serena stated UAs will be taken in Crowley for both male and females. Another entity is now involved and multiple counties are trying to merge contracts. The more counties involved the cheaper the pricing. CSCD is looking at a 9 panel testing and will still be able to do random UAs. As of the beginning of September 2020 there are no longer any CSCD UA technician employees. November 1 is the projected start date of CSCD funding UAs. Once a contract is executed CSCD will have to figure out logistics for working out how many people can be in the courthouse and the random UA line. Laura called for a vote to extend 530 UA observations; will allow 16 UA observations for the smaller courts and 32 UA observations for the larger courts. Unused UAs from FY20 cannot be rolled over into FY21. All voting members present voted “yes” to continue UA observations for FY21. UA observations and drug patches are extended through the month of October 2020.

Transitional Housing

A written report was provided in the meeting packet. There are 3 specialty court participants in Salvation Army transitional housing. The breakdown is 2 females and 1 male participant. The court utilization breakdown is 1 STAC and 2 STAR. Referred individuals must present proof of a negative COVID-19 test and staffed on a case-by-case basis. Please still send referrals to Shenna and clients will be added to waitlist.

Request for Funding

No requests were received.

Texas State Office of Governor Update

Courts are waiting on notice of awards for FY2021 grants. Grant end of the year reporting is due 9/20/2020.

Resource Distribution Proposal/Specialty Court Survey

Laura spoke about the proposal to provide more resources to larger courts while still being equitable to smaller courts. The subcommittee will continue to look into how to apply the proposal to specific funding items. The topic will be revisited at a future meeting. A Dallas County sponsored specialty court survey will be sent out soon. It is optional for courts to complete. The purpose of the survey is to gather more specific information on the various courts to capture and identify grant needs, resources to address barriers, and needs for different specialty courts. Survey data may be shared with Commissioners Court. Courts that complete the survey will be automatically credited FY2021 incentive funding. Courts that complete the survey will not have to complete formal requests for funding. The survey should take about 10-15 minutes if the information is readily available. The survey will be on Microsoft Forms and a link will be sent out some time this week. Keta Dickerson asked if the Commissioners Court is under the assumption

that the Criminal Justice Department (CJD) is over specialty courts or is a collaborator. Laura responded CJD is participating as a collaborator; not sending the message CJD is *over* specialty courts but there to help and support courts. This is an internal survey not related to any other surveys sent out by Office of Court Administration (OCA) and the specialty court resource center/Amber Gregory. Julie Turnbull asked about the recent survey sent out by OCA to and if all the courts received the information. Julie is concerned about how to ensure completion and eliminate duplication. The survey is due October 15, 2020. Serena advised she coordinates with the courts to complete the survey. Vickie asked about creating an informational pamphlet or electronic database with information about all Dallas County specialty courts. Laura will look into the process of having a regularly updated centralized database with that information. Kimberly Duran asked about the new specialty gang court. Serena McNair advised a grant was received for a special gang docket/caseload. The caseload has already started and is currently under 20 people with two officers assigned. Some cases were up for revocation or newly probated cases which have been identified and connected to gangs. Vickie requested a general overview of the specialized gang caseload. Serena reiterated the gang caseload IS NOT A COURT. The caseload is driven by clients who have gang activity or involvement. The participants are high risk. Serena advised the caseload has the support of the Dallas Police Department and other police agency in Dallas County. The caseload is housed in Frank Crowley due to security. Serena will speak to Kimberly and Vickie offline.

Announcements

Multiple flyers in packet. September is National Recovery Month.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 am and will reconvene on 10/14/2020 @9:00am via Teams.