

**McLean County
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
January 5, 2012 Meeting**

Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked Robert Sutherland agreeing to become the League of Women Voters representative in place of Carol Reitan.

ISU Stephenson Center Data Report

At the end of each month the data analysts to the McLean County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council download information from the EJS System. Those data are merged and aggregated to provide a picture of the manner in which the jail population is changing in size and composition over time.

Key Results on Case Processing

- Case processing is similar for classes of felony—except Class M or X cases take much longer.
- Case processing time rises dramatically between first status hearing and first plea; this is due to cases that have multiple status hearings.
- Case processing time was higher in 2008 than in 2009 or 2010.
- For the time interval between initial trial and final sentencing, case processing time was noticeably lower in 2010 (than in 2009 & 2008).
- Case processing time varies little by race/ethnicity; however, it is lowest for African Americans than it is for the white population or Latinos.
- The intervals are shorter for persons who are in jail versus those who are not in custody.
- Black defendants spend noticeably more pretrial time in-custody.
- The longer processing times for Hispanic defendants may reflect the effect of immigration status on pretrial or presentencing release from custody.

Number of Different Persons, Average Number of Beds Used, and Total Beds Used by Pre-Trial Cases

By charge, we compare the annual figures, for pre-trial cases on: Number of Different Persons, Average Number of Beds Used, and Total Beds Used in the McLean County Jail over 5 years (2007 to 2011).

A new category for “Other Violations” is added to this month’s report and going forward. It was discovered that people booked for Traffic and other violations were not included in the previous counts. Those days are now captured, and across the years.

Comparison of Pre-Trial Case Persons in the Jail (2007-2011):

- Number of different persons: In 2011 there were fewer bookings for Class 1, Class 3, and Class 4 Felonies; DUIs; Misdemeanors; and Other violations. This is compared to the previous four years. The number of persons booked on new charges or warrants for Class M/X or Class 2 Felonies remained relatively flat following a peak in 2008.
- Average length of stay: The number of days people are spending in the jail by kind of offense

did not change much over the last five years. If anything it rose, especially for Class 1, Class 2, and Class 4 Felonies and DUIs.

The decrease in jail population is driven by the reduction in bookings, and in the reduction in number of warrants served.

The bottom line - the County can only expect the trend of fewer bed days to continue as long as there is a continued trend of reduced admissions to the Jail. If admissions rise, the problems regarding bed days and jail capacity will return.

In comparison of race/ethnicity statistics - there is no real difference in case processing time for any racial or ethnic group for most case events, until the case reaches a stage of multiple sentencing hearings, then Hispanics have a statistically significant longer case processing time.

Legislative Update

Kim Campbell distributed a list of laws affecting the judicial system approved by the legislature since October.

She also discussed the McLean County Bar Association Lawyer to Lawyer mentoring program. The Bar Association has been working on the framework, and rules regarding civility for over two years. The focus of the program is on professionalism with clientele and between attorneys. The mentoring program had its first training in October and is modeled on several other programs in the northern part of the state.

Transition in the State's Attorney's Office

State's Attorney Ronald Dozier spoke about his first 5 weeks in office. He is focusing on staff issues, and trying to create clearer lines of responsibility and duties for numerous assignments. He has largely focused internally on his office, but will be speaking to external stakeholders over the coming months. He is also trying to address attorney and staff workload distribution.

Jobs Partnership Program

SA Dozier discussed the program which is an initiative of the Joy Care Program (dedicated to making the reentry of prisoners to society and employment easier). Many employment policies, licensing regulations and state laws make employing persons with felony convictions difficult. The lack of gainful employment effects self-esteem, and contributes to recidivism and continued substance abuse.

This program is modeled on a Peoria County model which has existed for 12 years. It is comprised of 12 weekly sessions of 60-90 minutes centered on conflict management, work-skills building, interviewing, and repeated lessons on integrity and dependability. Class size has become about 28 persons. Graduates from the program are provided additional references from the program.

The Bloomington program has received positive feedback from employers, and has been given dozens of referrals from the Child Support Enforcement office.

Juvenile Justice Council

The Council has been provided a copy of the last meeting of the Juvenile Abuse/Child Protection Roundtable (December) - the next meeting is March 16, 2012 at 12:00 noon.

Judge Robb attended the Models for Change conference in early December. This conference focused on reforming the processes of the juvenile justice system, particularly those involving continuous offenders, and those incarcerated. This is also the basis of the Juvenile Redeploy project being implemented by Court Services. The Redeploy program has seen a 50% reduction in commitments from McLean County to the Department of Juvenile Justice in 2011.

Court Services is still working on a summer jobs partnership - there are two candidates being evaluated. This is a program for high-risk youth which, in addition to a paying job, teaches life skills and dependability.

Juvenile Court Services is reporting a high number of clientele who are 17 years or older. Much of that is driven by mandatory supervised release provisions in certain sentences, and the move to move all misdemeanor offenders who are 17 to the juvenile court.

West Bloomington Revitalization Partnership (WBRP) - www.westbloomington.org

Deborah Halperin (IWU) gave a comprehensive overview of the progress of the West Bloomington Revitalization Project:

- They will host an economic development summit with the Economic Development Council in 2012
- The WBRP is completing a financial literacy inventory - stabilize finances, lower debt for families and individuals
- Completing a street assessment, and have begun a revitalization project centered on the 600 block of West Mulberry
- Began collaborations with Mid-Central Community Action; Habitat for Humanity and the City of Bloomington
- There will be a Global Youth Service Day on April 21 (last year 700+ people participated in service projects in Bloomington/Normal)
- Have begun partnerships with various local sports teams (YMCA, Bloomington Drive Basketball, YMCA Youth Soccer) to provide opportunities for youth
- Participating in the Chicago Teacher Pipeline with Bloomington Junior High - a mentoring program via Skype

She discussed various programs that are still in the planning stages, and some volunteer or donation opportunities. Persons interested in additional information on the programs or project should contact:

West Bloomington Revitalization Partnership
800 West Washington
Bloomington, IL 61701
309.829.1200
westbloomington@gmail.com

Other

Judge Robb reminded the Council that there are now 21 judges in the Circuit, and there have been various reassignments within McLean County. Mr. Scanlon will circulate the current assignment summary to the Council.

Adjourned: 2:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.**
Government Center RM 400
115 W. Washington
Bloomington, IL 61701

Comparison of Pre-Trial Case Persons in the Jail (2007-2011) (cont):

- Total length of stay: Overall jail use declined over five years for Class 1, Class M or X, and Class 4 Felonies and Other violations.
- Except for the spike in length of stay for Class 1 and Class 2 Felonies, 2011 most mimics the 2009 patterns.
- The drop in jail use since 2008 is largely due to a decrease in the number of bookings not a decrease in length of stay. And most of this decrease is in warrant arrests rather than arrests for new charges.

Progress

- The Census data necessary to look at trends in the age structure of the population by the number of different persons coming in the jail is gathered.
- Coding of violent and non-violent offenses has begun.
- We still struggle with the merging of sentence data with bookings for new arrests and warrants.
- We are expanding the analysis of case processing time conducted by Dr. Wells.