

**Summary of the “Jail Booking and Bond Policies and Procedures Sub Committee of the McLean County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council” meeting held
11/12/2009**

Committee Members:

Gregory Allen - Jail Superintendent & Committee Chairperson	Carol Reitan – Collaborate Solutions Institute
Matthew Banach – Asst. State’s Attorney	Sarge Rizvi – Pretrial Services Coordinator
Melinda Fellner – Inmate Assessment Specialist II	Bob Siron – Acting Asst.Chief Bloomington Pd.
Diane Hughes – Jail Operations Supervisor	Robert Sutherland – Jail Review Committee
Jacqueline Mathias – Inmate Assessment Specialist I	Rusty Thomas – MCSD Chief Deputy
Lori McCormick – Court Services Director	Cathy Waltz – JDC Superintendent
Joan Naour – Director/MCDF Health Services	Chaplain Tony Watson – Jail Chaplin
Chris Bailey – Adult Court Services	Martha Foster – State’s Attorney’s Office
Phyllis Nelson – Circuit Clerk’s Office	Steve Brienen - Appointed Member

Superintendent Gregory Allen began the meeting by distributing the Executive Summary, McLean County Prisoner Breakdown Report, and Purpose of Committee statement. The purpose of the Jail Booking and Bond Policies and Procedure Subcommittee is to “examine [the] question of what the primary purpose of the Jail is. Review arrest and booking policies to determine impact on the jail. Research impact of change to court summons process for certain misdemeanors. Make recommendations consistent to the goals under question #1.” The handout also listed three strategies in addressing the jail population:

1. Add Beds
2. Reduce Length of Stay
3. Reduce admissions

Questions relative to the strategies include:

1. What drives the length of stay and admissions?
2. What can be done to reduce the length of stay and admissions?

Ms. Reitan stated that the Consultants reports stated that we (the CJCC) can’t start without managements administrative statistics. Ms. Reitan provided the subcommittee with an Excel spreadsheet of Corrections Continuum Control & Services Matrix. Ms. Reitan stated that with the appropriate information (statics) we would have a better notion of what was happening with regards to the population. Ms. Reitan stated that the Consultants said that we didn’t have enough statistics nor in the right form.

Mr. Sutherland provided the subcommittee with his summary of the goals of the subcommittee as well as processes by which to meet the goals of the subcommittee. Included in these processes is the collection and tabulation of data. Mr. Sutherland pointed out that the Jail is the “bottom of the funnel and whatever happens in the system funnels into the jail. The jail is the nexus of the problem and the statistics that the subcommittee gathers will allow the committees to see where we are at.”

Mrs. Fellner responded that the jail currently can track sentenced inmates but not pretrial inmates; and in order to do that it would require IT to overhaul statistics.

Ms. Reitan pointed out that the Consultants said that it would require major change to generate the numbers needed.

Ms. Fellner added that the report of the pretrial detainees is not open to the public, not broken down and there are confidentiality issues involved.

Ms. Reitan believes that a crucial part is to shift to a more statistical breakdown. Long term statistics, she added, is what we would ultimately need to meet the goals of the subcommittee.

Ms. Fellner stated that the purpose of the subcommittee is who needs to be in jail. Additional areas brought up that should be looked at by the subcommittee were what types of cases, particularly felony cases, are on the docket. Which judges have more on the docket should be looked at as well. And, compiling a Chronological report of everyone who is a pretrial detainee.

Mr. Yoder (Guest Attendee) added that he has a report of who has been in jail the longest (those here today) and he will bring a copy next time. He stated that the reason the form was created (in three versions: one for internal purposes; one for the PD and one for the Public) was to work with the PD to determine who needs to be in jail; to see who wasn't a threat and could be released. There are varying opinions between the State's Attorney Office, PD Office, Pretrial Services Coordinator etc. as to who those people are. There is no cut and dry answer and it turns out to be a public safety issue. How much risk are we willing to take to create a bed in the jail; anytime you look further there may be underlying reasons they are there (in jail).

Mrs. Fellner pointed out that there are misdemeanors staying in custody; those who have missed courts and other types of cases- not just public safety threats.

Mr. Yoder added that there are mandatory jail sentences for certain offenses. And, again, the concern is to keep the public safe as well as to make sure who is in jail needs to be there.

Mr. Yoder also pointed out that court scheduling is a problem and needs to be looked at as well. A lot of it is pure and simple scheduling. And, some Judges won't take a plea on the date of the trial. A blind plea can have a PSI with a court date set 3-4 months out. Those are types of problems that the Counsel can hope to mediate. Judge Robb is open but cannot dictate what an individual Judge will do.

Among the discussion was mandatory sentencing requirements and sentencing (jail) alternatives. Mrs. Fellner asked what the minimum statutory requirements were and ASA Banach stated certain driving offenses and multiple offenses. Some mandatory requirements are fines, community service, 300 hours community service, 30 day mandatory minimum, higher jail time when it is philosophically appropriate. For instance, 180 day for a DUI with children in the car. They (SA) try to keep people out of jail as much as possible unless they (the defendant) make it impossible or there are mitigating circumstances.

Ms. McCormick pointed out that with regards to community service, it does work for a lot of people but there are also those who it does not work. In response Ms. Reitan brought to the table the

discussion of electronic monitoring and Auto-breathalyzer fitted cars; alcohol bracelets. Ms. McCormick pointed out that by doing that you're just displacing the workload of the people. Mr. Banach added that the Scram bracelet has been working with a positive effect. But you will eventually have to involve more people for monitoring and money is an issue as well. They must pay and it is more expensive than GPS. Mr. Sutherland pointed out that that is the role of the County Board.

Mr. Allen brought up the topic of reducing admissions and the fact that on a regular basis individuals are released no charges filed. Mr. Yoder responded that the police have jobs to do – to preserve the peace. They don't want the State's Attorney to get calls every night as to whether to charge with a felony or not. Mr. Yoder stated that it is his philosophy to do a thorough screening up front. He also mentioned the discussion of an Administrative Order allowing non violent Class 3-4 Felonies to post bond the night of the arrest. But, it would require an administrative order to obtain that greater authority.

Sharjeel Rizvi pointed out that, on the same note, he gets reports done on individuals and when they get to the Judge for court at 1 p.m. and he ends up doing reports on charges the individual was arrested on which are different than what they are charged in court.

Mrs. Fellner brought up the idea of an afternoon screening, a screening similar to weekend court. They can take a preliminary look at it (the charges) and forward it to Ms. Campbell to screen for felony and misdemeanors. Mr. Yoder pointed out that a problem with that is that the reports may not be done and they have to charge based on an oral summary by officer.

Geographic limitations were also discussed briefly by the subcommittee.

Superintendent Allen ended the meeting by summing up the topics that he would like brought back to the next meeting with recommendations.

1. Purpose of jail
2. Length of time people stay
3. Follow up on an Administrative Order (Re: bond authority for certain Felony no violent arrests).
4. Out of County arrests– Possibility of Administrative order for certain warrants when individuals are picked up out of county (authority to change bonds PR's). (certain warrants).

**Summary of the “Jail Booking and Bond Policies and Procedures Sub Committee of the McLean County
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council” meeting held
12-03-2009**

Committee Members:

Gregory Allen - Jail Superintendent & Committee Chairperson
Matthew Banach – Asst. State’s Attorney
Melinda Fellner – Inmate Assessment Specialist II
Diane Hughes – Jail Operations Supervisor
Jacqueline Mathias – Inmate Assessment Specialist I
Lori McCormick – Court Services Director
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The subcommittee meeting began with a distribution of a variety of statistics involving individuals incarcerated in the MCDF. Included in this information was a “snapshot” of the breakdown of jail sentences for misdemeanor and traffic cases. This snapshot listed the individuals who were serving a sentence, the length of the sentence, and the charges for which the individual was sentenced. There was discussion involving the statutory minimum sentences for certain traffic offenses, as well as other factors that are considered by the states attorney’s office at the time of disposition.

Another handout which was distributed was a compilation of the jail transport logs, with details specifics in regard to the retrieval of inmates from other Illinois counties on McLean County misdemeanor and traffic warrants. The issue of establishing geographic limitations was again discussed, as was the fact that McLean County continues the practice of incarcerating individuals for failing to appear in court for ordinance violations. These ordinance violation warrants are pursued by the city attorney’s and approaching them in regard to alternative solutions was discussed. One of the alternatives discussed was referring these cases to a collection agency, as is done in some misdemeanor and traffic cases when non-payment is the only issue.

The possibility of the issuance of an administrative order setting bonds on certain Class IV felonies was revisited. Pros and cons, as well as the possible need to consider this on a case by case basis was discussed.

Mr. Sutherland provided the subcommittee with his summary of what he would like the subcommittee to accomplish. An emphasis was given to the need for detailed statistical information, as well as the specific policies and procedures of the agencies involved; i.e. McLean County State’s Attorney, Bloomington and Normal Police Departments, McLean County Sheriff’s Department, etc...

The subcommittee was broken down into sub-committees which were assigned the following areas to research:

- Group 1: Admissions – What drives admissions? How do we reduce admissions?
Members: Chris Bailey, Bob Siron, Anthony Watson, Melinda Fellner, Jane Foster, Phyllis Nelson

Group 2: Defining the use of the jail
Members: Greg Allen, Carol Reitan, Jackie Mathias, Lori McCormick, Rusty Thomas, Cathy Waltz

Group 3: Length of stay – What drives length of stay? How do we reduce length of stay?
Members: Matt Banach, Diane Hughes, Joan Naour, Sharjeel Rizvi, Robert Sutherland, Steve Brien

These sub-committees will make arrangements on their own, to meet and report back to the full subcommittee, which will meet Wednesday, December 30, 2009 @ 11:00

In summary: While we understand the creation of the CJCC was not specifically to solve the overpopulation problems of the MCDF overnight, but to be an ongoing examination of the various components of the Judicial System within Mclean County and their practices; this subcommittee feels there are certain issues that need to be addressed immediately that could have an effect in reducing the population. These issues include:

1. Discontinuing the practice of incarceration for ordinance violations
2. Examining the possibility of the issuance of an administrative order setting bond on certain Felony charges
3. Establishing geographic limitations on warrants