

## Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner; Members Rackauskas, Harding, Butler, and Cavallini (arrived 4:33 p.m.)

Members Absent: Member Nuckolls

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials  
Present:

Sheriff Mike Emery; Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator - Eleventh Circuit Court; Ms. Joan Naour, Director, Correctional Health Services; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center

Others Present: Ms. Lisa Pieper, Regional Vice President, Children's Home and Aid Society; Ms. Teresa Kelly, Children's Home and Aid Society; Mr. Seth Reynolds, Coroner's Office

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the April 1, 2008 Committee minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Butler/Harding to approve the Minutes of the April 1, 2008 Committee Meeting.  
Motion carried.

Sheriff Mike Emery presented a request for approval of the continuation of a Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant of \$4,110.00. He explained that this is a refund the Sheriff's Department receives from the Federal Government on vests that are purchased on a five-year rotation.

Motion by Cavallini/Harding to Recommend Approval of the Continuation of Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant of \$4,110.00.  
Motion carried.

Sheriff Emery presented a request for approval of the continuation of an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Grant of \$22,176.00 for Holiday Mobilization 2009. He indicated that there is no match requirement for this Grant. Sheriff Emery stated that this is a grant the Sheriff's Department is provided for safety checks, seat belt checks and alcohol compliance checks, etc. He reported that this year's reward is higher than in previous years, which means it will be possible to hire deputies back to patrol on nights as it is deemed necessary.

Motion by Rackauskas/Harding to Recommend Approval of the Continuation of an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Grant of \$22,176.00 for Holiday Mobilization 2009.  
Motion carried.

Sheriff Emery reviewed the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report for April, 2008. He noted that there is nothing specific to point out on the population report.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, he thanked Sheriff Emery.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator -Eleventh Circuit Court, presented a request for approval of an Assessment of Filing Fee Increase of \$8.00 on all civil cases for the Family Visitation Center. He introduced Ms. Lisa Pieper and Ms. Teresa Kelly from the Children's Foundation. Mr. Scanlon explained that the General Assembly passed a bill in the last Legislative Session, Public Act 91-117, allowing a filing fee of up to \$8.00 to be imposed on civil cases to fund a Children's Supervised Visitation Center. At the March 12, 2008 McLean County Judge's Meeting, the judges voted unanimously to support a filing fee increase of \$8.00. Mr. Scanlon indicated that Ms. Pieper's February 15, 2008 letter to Judge Robb outlines the reasons why the Court supports the increase.

Mr. Scanlon referred to the 2003-2007 Filings Comparison. He pointed out the first section from "adoption" to "tax cases" averages approximately 7,500 civil filings per year, and this filing fee will generate approximately \$60,000.00 if imposed.

Chairman Renner asked who and how many people will be served by this revenue. Ms. Pieper replied that the 2007 calendar year statistics show the following:

- Served 41 cases from the following referral sources: 24 Orders of Protection, 14 Family Court Orders, 2 Juvenile Court Orders, 1 other Civil Court Order;
- Completed 484 Supervised Visits and 231 Supervised Exchanges safely occurred;
- No safety/security problems occurred during service provision, including attempted parental abductions, threats and/or violence.

Ms. Pieper stated that the goal is to help the individuals get to a point where they can safely manage their own visits or exchanges without outside intervention. She indicated that nine cases were successfully transitioned from supervised visits to exchanges, which means that the non-custodial parents were able to leave the site with their children. Ms. Pieper distributed a statistical handout and brochures.

Ms. Kelly advised that the Family Visitation Center's population consists of anyone who is impacted by domestic violence, stalking, sexual abuse or child abuse, which result from self-referrals, community referrals, court referrals, attorneys referrals, therapist and psychologist referrals, school referrals, etc. She pointed out that, while they did not have to push the panic button, there were volatile parents and staff needed to step in and diffuse the situation. Ms. Kelly stated that they use a professional staff.

Ms. Rackauskas noted that the Family Visitation Center operates on a \$175,000.00 Federal Grant. Ms. Kelly responded that this amount is for a one-year funding cycle. She noted that the Department of Justice mandates that \$20,000.00 of those funds be earmarked for three or four training sessions each year. Ms. Rackauskas stated that after taking out the \$20,000.00 there is still \$155,000.00.

Ms. Rackauskas expressed concern regarding the budget for the Family Visitation Center. She pointed out that even if they got the \$75,000.00 Safe Harbor grant, plus the anticipated revenue from the \$8.00 fee, the budget is still \$20,000.00 less than what is needed. Ms. Rackauskas asked what will be cut back to meet the budget. Ms. Kelly replied that there are several line items in the grant that provide food and snacks for the children, children's items, maintenance items, transportation assistance to victims, infant items, etc. that would need to be discontinued.

Ms. Rackauskas recommended that a more detailed budget be made available before the Committee recommends approval of the fee increase. Ms. Kelly responded that the Family Visitation Center receives other financial support from

the Justice Community. Ms. Rackauskas indicated that all of these revenues should be listed in the budget.

Chairman Renner recommended that the Committee be informed as to how many children are actually being served.

Ms. Kelly indicated that their long-term plan to save money is to reduce staff and cut back on the hours of the Family Visitation Center.

Ms. Harding agreed with Ms. Rackauskas that it is premature to take this request to the full Board at this time.

Mr. Scanlon advised that, from the Court's perspective, most of the children in this program are court ordered to be there. He stated that, in the absence of this program, there will be court ordered exchanges done in public places, such as in the lobby of the Sheriff's Department, police stations, McDonald's, etc. Mr. Scanlon indicated that, from the court's perspective, it is vital to have some alternative, such as the Family Visitation Center. Ms. Kelly pointed out an instance when two parents started physically abusing each other at an exchange being made at the Bloomington Police Department's parking area.

Chairman Renner stated that the following information needs to be made available:

- How many visits?
- How many children?
- What are the situations?
- What are the difficulties?
- Financial questions.
- More detailed budget.

Ms. Kelly indicated that the Family Visitation Center provides a more intensive, in-depth program that provides more help for fewer people with lots of problems, rather than a minimal service to a lot of people. She noted that during the exchanges, the parents do not see each other. Exchanges at a McDonald's do not offer that type of safety.

Chairman Renner stated that it is important to have comparative data from other Counties. Ms. Kelly responded that Counties who have levied part of the fee, the Centers have had to come back and ask for the fee to be increased to the maximum under the law.

After a lengthy discussion, the Committee concurred that the Family Visitation Center request to increase fees should be tabled until the June meeting so that more information is available.

Motion by Rackauskas/Cavallini to Recommend that the request for approval of an Assessment of Filing Fee Increase of \$8.00 on all civil cases for the Family Visitation Center be postponed to the June 3, 2008 Justice Committee Meeting.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Pieper and Ms. Kelly.

Mr. Scanlon presented a request for approval of State of Illinois First Renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and McLean County Office of the Chief Judge for the Child Support Hearing Officer. He advised that this is for State Fiscal Year 2009 that begins July 1, 2008. Mr. Scanlon stated that this is an on-going grant of \$33,400.00 from the State to pay for this position. He indicated that there is no obligation to the County to continue this position without the grant and no matching funds are required. Mr. Scanlon noted that this grant amount has stayed the same since 2000. He stated that the Hearing Officer is willing to continue in the position. Mr. Scanlon noted that there should be similar proposals from the Child Support Enforcement Office in the State's Attorneys Office and Circuit Clerk's Office.

Motion by Harding/Cavallini to Recommend Approval of State of Illinois First Renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and McLean County Office of the Chief Judge.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Scanlon.

Ms. Joan Naour, Director, Correctional Health Services, presented a request for approval of a First Amendment to the Agreement with Merle Pharmacy No. 1, Inc. and McLean County Board for Provision of Pharmaceutical Services for the McLean County Adult Detention Facility. She noted that, in 2007, when the County was faced with increasing pharmaceutical costs and a rising census,

several contract pharmacies that provide pharmaceutical services exclusively to correctional facilities were contacted. The initial goal was to see if they would be willing to service a facility of our size. Ms. Naour indicated that, in the past, representatives for contract pharmaceutical services were more interested in serving prisons and larger jails. She noted that she contacted four different companies and received bids from all four of them. Ms. Naour stated that, because we still have a contract with Merle Pharmacy, she contacted Mr. Martin and informed him of her contacts. Based on that conversation, Mr. Martin proposed this first amendment to the current contract for the remainder of 2008. Ms. Naour advised that this is a win-win situation for the County to receive the same services at the lower contract pharmacy price. She noted that she will be attending a National Correctional Healthcare Commission Conference and will be able to meet with representative from the national companies.

Ms. Rackauskas commended Ms. Naour on her negotiations.

Motion by Cavallini/Harding to Recommend Approval of a First Amendment to the Agreement with Merle Pharmacy No. 1, Inc. and McLean County Board for Provision of Pharmaceutical Services for the McLean County Adult Detention Facility.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Naour.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, presented a request for approval of the bid by Central Illinois X-Ray of \$34,370.00 for an X-Ray Machine and Processor. She advised that two bids were received from Classic X-Ray in Schaumburg, Illinois and Central Illinois X-Ray in Bloomington, Illinois.

Ms. Kimmerling introduced Mr. Seth Reynolds, a deputy coroner on the Coroner's staff. She indicated that Mr. Reynolds is the Morgue Manager. Ms. Kimmerling advised that Mr. Reynolds did the work on the bid information for the X-Ray Machine and Processor.

Ms. Kimmerling stated that, after careful review and consideration, the Coroner's Office recommends that the bid from Central Illinois X-Ray of \$34,370.00 be accepted and forwarded to the County Board for approval. She indicated that the bid falls within the budgeted amount of \$35,000.00.

Ms. Kimmerling stated that a maintenance agreement was not part of the bid process. She noted that, once the respective warranties expire, the yearly maintenance cost for Central Illinois X-Ray's combined equipment would be \$1,060.00 per year compared to \$8,680.00 per year for Classic X-Ray's equipment.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what is the current maintenance cost. Mr. Reynolds replied that the cost of maintenance would be the same.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the bid includes removal of the old x-ray machine and do we get any credit for the old x-ray machine. Ms. Kimmerling replied that it does include removal of the old machine, but no credit is received as the current machine is too old.

Ms. Harding asked if a digital x-ray machine is now available. Ms. Kimmerling replied that it is available, but too costly to be considered at this time.

Ms. Kimmerling indicated that, overall, Central Illinois X-Ray's bid was the most cost efficient and better matches the needs and day-to-day operation of the office. She advised that a detailed comparison was included in the packet.

Motion by Rackauskas/Butler to Recommend Approval  
of the bid by Central Illinois X-Ray of \$34,370.00 for an  
X-Ray Machine and Processor.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Kimmerling reported that the March statistics reflect that, in terms of McLean County cases, we are significantly ahead, and out-of-County work has evened off for the month.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Kimmerling.

Chairman Renner presented the Monthly Reports as submitted by Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chairman Renner presented the Monthly Caseload Report as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney presented his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report. He indicated he had nothing specific to point out.

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Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Yoder.

Ms. Judy Renner presented her Monthly Statistical Report for the Children's Advocacy Center and the CASA Report. She indicated that there was nothing specific to report.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Renner.

Chairman Renner presented the March 2008 Statistical Report and the First Quarter Statistical Report as submitted by Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk.

Chairman Renner presented the April 30, 2008 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor, as well as three Departmental transfers. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$2,485,463.23 and a Fund Total that is the same.



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Motion by Cavallini/Butler to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Department Transfers and the Bills as of April 30, 2008, as transmitted by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary