

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, September 8, 2003 at 5:15 p.m. in Room 700 of the McLean County Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner, Members Rodgers, Nuckolls, Johnson and Rackauskas

Members Absent: Member Kinzinger

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Mrs. Carmen Zielinski, Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center;
Mr. Bill Gamblin, 911 Administrator; Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services

Members of the
Public Present: None

Vice Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

Ms. Rackauskas recognized two constituents present at this evening's meeting.

Vice Chairman Johnson presented the Minutes of the August 4, 2003 Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by Rodgers/Rackauskas to recommend
approval of the August 4, 2003 Justice Committee
Minutes. Motion carried.

Chairman Renner entered the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, noted that on July 25th, a picnic was held for CASA attendees. This was considered the "In-Service" for the month and case problems were discussed and new social workers for the agencies were introduced. One volunteer has been assigned to a case this month. Ms. Larkin explained that there are cases awaiting volunteers that won't be assigned until the next class begins in the fall. Ms. Larkin is anticipating a fall class of 15-20 individuals.

Ms. Larkin informed the Committee that they have been seeking funding from other

sources for this year. Ms. Larkin stated that Ms. Laura Tuffentsamer and herself were asked by the Illinois Criminal Justice Victims of Crime grant monitor to attend a Leadership meeting scheduled in Chicago, Illinois, this fall. The McLean County CASA Program was highlighted because of its outcomes for children. Recent research showed how the McLean County CASA Program has made a difference in the lives of children since 1997.

Ms. Larkin reported that Ms. Rackauskas asked if there was a specific cause or reason for the almost 100% increase in cases during the last four years. Ms. Larkin explained that when the CASA Program was started in 1996, the numbers were low because of the initial startup. By the year 2000, better documentation has provided more accurate numbers.

Ms. Larkin expressed her concern regarding the fact that child abuse cases are down in McLean County. This issue is being addressed with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) just to make sure that no child is being overlooked, since the numbers are off by about thirty cases. Ms. Rackauskas asked if there is actually less child abuse in McLean County. Ms. Larkin answered that the figures point to less child abuse, but there are no prevention programs that collaborate and reflect the decrease in numbers.

Ms. Rackauskas asked for an explanation of First Interview and Juvenile Interviews. Ms. Larkin explained that the Monthly Statistics depict the reporting points that have to be reported to DCFS on a monthly basis. Also being reported are the Sibling/Witness Interviews. The Out-of-County Interviews record interviews that fall under the category where one of the parents is from Bloomington and the other parent is from another city, and the case is handled in McLean County.

Committee members did not have any further questions or comments regarding the Children's Advocacy Center Reports.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, 911 Administrator, noted that the Monthly Statistical Report was not available because the selective router was being updated. McLean County has two selective routers that handle various counties. The updating is to respond to a request for each router to have dual power supplies from different sources. The translations will be duplicated so if one of the router goes off line, there is a second router that can handle the 911 calls. In order to complete the update, a lock down of inputs and outputs has been initiated from the database and the router, except for address changes corrections. This update is due to be completed by September 28, 2003. Mr. Gamblin informed the Committee that for a period of four hours, 911 calls will be received and handled in a "basic 911 mode." The Illinois Commerce Commission and the telephone companies are aware of the update and will stand by to assist if there is a need.

Mr. Gamblin informed the Committee that MetCom has completed the installation of the new CAD version update for Phase II. With this installation, the interface software required to take wireless E-911 from Phase I to Phase II is provided. Mr. Gamblin stated that with this system up and running, letters requesting Phase II from the carriers are scheduled to be mailed out tomorrow. This letter starts a six month time-clock for the wireless carriers to comply with the requirement to be Phase II compliant within the projected six months.

Mr. Gamblin referred to the July Error Report. Mr. Gamblin noted that the numbers of known addressing database errors now stand at 47. The Postal Card system implemented to test numbers has worked well.

Mr. Gamblin referred to the distributed 911 CAD Response Report for August 2002 through July 2003. This report documents the actual CAD responses, which are "actual" responses by law enforcement and Fire/EMS agencies. Mr. Gamblin clarified that the numbers on this 911 CAD Response report are incidents when there was some response. This report does not document the significant amount of people time these calls generate.

Committee members did not have any further questions or comments regarding the E-911 Monthly Statistic Reports.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, was not present to discuss the Monthly Statistical Report. Ms. Rodgers asked for a clarification of the SVP category listed on the report. Mr. Yoder answered that SVP stands for Sexually Violent Persons.

The Committee did not have any questions at this time.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services, was not present to discuss the Monthly Statistical Report. Ms. Rackauskas asked for clarification of the figure documented for the adult officers on the report. Mr. Zeunik explained that this is a requirement mandated by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. Pursuant to Illinois law, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, is supposed to reimburse 100% of the Probation Officers' salary. These numbers are used as a standard to help guide the reimbursement for different counties. Because of the State's budget condition, McLean County is not being reimbursed at 100%, but rather at a 90% to 91% level.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what happens to the difference in the salary and the County's budget. Mr. Zeunik answered that the County must make up the difference between what is actually received in reimbursement versus what is to be reimbursed. Ms. Rackauskas asked if this is an expense that has been already accounted for in the County's budget. Mr. Zeunik answered that yes, it is an expense that is already accounted for.

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2003

Page Four

Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented the Monthly Statistical Report for July 2003. The Committee did not have any questions for Ms. Parker at this time.

Sheriff David Owens, McLean County Sheriff, was not present to discuss the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report.

Mr. Zeunik noted a change to the Sheriff's report was made on Page 28. Mr. Zeunik explained that at the August Justice Committee meeting, a request was made for a breakdown of the census based on male/female. This category has been added to the report at this time. Mr. Zeunik noted that the daily count by date has been provided. Of that count, the total In-House figure is then broken down further into Special Needs, Straight Sentence, Work Release and Weekenders. Ms. Rackauskas asked if there is a way to document how many, under each of these categories, are male or female.

Mr. Zeunik stated that he will ask the Sheriff to further breakdown the categories by female and male numbers.

Chairman Renner asked if members had any other questions. Members did not have any further questions.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, was not present to discuss the Coroner's Monthly Report. The Committee did not have any questions regarding the Coroner's Report.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented for approval a Contract Agreement between the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and McLean County and approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Children and Family Services of the State of Illinois and McLean County, Illinois. Mr. Yoder explained that on Friday, August 15th, the Board of Directors of the McLean County Child Protection Network agreed to be salary partners with the State's Attorney's Office for the hiring of an on-site Assistant State's Attorney at the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). They agreed to supplement the salary provided by the DCFS contract at a rate necessary to secure the hiring of an attorney with experience in child mistreatment, most specifically child sex and physical abuse cases and the prosecution of those cases. It is the understanding that the proposed attorney is an employee of the State's Attorney's Office, however, since the person is housed at the CAC and involved in activities of the multidisciplinary team, dual supervision will be given by both the State's Attorney and the CAC Director. The McLean County Child Protection Network agrees to this payment as long as the grant is viable and a candidate is available. This will be evaluated annually in anticipation of the County, DCFS or other grant sources who may take over funding the position in its entirety.

Motion by Johnson/Rodgers to recommend approval of a Contract Agreement between Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and McLean County, and Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Children and Family Services of the State of Illinois and McLean County, Illinois. Motion carried.

Mr. Yoder presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2003 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001, State's Attorney's Office 0020 to fund Attorney for the Children's Advocacy.

Motion by Nuckolls/Rackauskas to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2003 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001, State's Attorney's Office 0020 to fund Attorney for the Children's Advocacy Center. Motion carried.

Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services, presented a request for approval of Work Order Number 12 for a Professional Services Agreement with Northrop Grumman Space and Mission Systems, Inc. – Sheriff's Department Inmate Commissary Fund.

Mr. Nelson stated that Work Order Number 12 provides a vehicle by which to pay Northrop Grumman to assist the County to configure the Integrated Justice System to handle commissary funds that are currently maintained by the Jail in an alternative system. The transfer of these procedures within the Integrated Justice System provides better accounting services and addresses the issues raised by the external auditor.

Mr. Nelson estimates the total cost not to exceed \$10,000.00, but expects to only spend \$5,000.00. The \$10,000.00 has been budgeted for this project at the present time.

Motion by Nuckolls/Rodgers to recommend approval of Work Order Number 12 for a Professional Services Agreement with Northrop Grumman Space and Mission Systems, Inc. – Sheriff's Department Inmate Commissary Fund. Motion carried.

Chairman Renner presented the bills, as transmitted and recommended by the County Auditor, for review and approval by the Justice Committee.

Motion by Johnson/Rackauskas to recommend approval of the bills, as presented by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time,
Chairman Renner adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski
Recording Secretary

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