

## Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, June 4, 2001 at 5:18 p.m. in Room 700 of the McLean County Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sommer, Members Emmett, Renner, Kinzinger and Johnson

Members Absent: Member Pokorney

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

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials  
Present:

Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender; Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Ms. Joan Naour, Director, Correctional Health Services; Mr. Charles Reynard, State's Attorney; Ms. Beth Carlson, Coroner; Sheriff Dave Owens, Sheriff Department; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Mr. Bill Gamblin, Administrator, E-911

Members of the  
Public Present: Ms. Barbara Stuart

Chairman Sommer called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. Hearing no objections, the minutes of the May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001 meetings were approved and placed on file as presented.

Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk, reviewed the Monthly Statistical Reports for the Circuit Clerk's Office with the Committee.

Chairman Sommer requested from Ms. Parker provide a more detailed breakdown of monthly reports for Sections A,B,C and D illustrating a comparison of the current year to the past year. Ms. Parker agreed to work on this comparison for next month's reports.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, addressed the Committee with the request for Approval of Contract regarding Special Public Defender John L. Wright, Jr. Ms. Davis stated that there is a necessity to provide additional assistance to the Public Defender's Office in the handling of conflict cases as assigned by the Courts to the Public Defender. McLean County will pay the contract Special Public Defender for the professional services furnished under the proposed contract a fee of \$2,838.68 per month.

The Special Public Defender will pay all current and applicable city, county, state and federal taxes, licenses, assessments, including federal excise taxes. The proposed contract will commence on August 1, 2001 and terminate on December 31, 2001.

Chairman Sommer noted that the health insurance cost is listed at \$1,800 per full-time employee. Chairman Sommer stated that as of January 1, 2001, the health benefit cost increased to \$2,100 per full-time employee. Ms Larkin advised that the needed funding can be added by adjusting another line item.

Motion by Renner/Emmett to recommended approval of a Contract Agreement between the McLean County Public Defender's Office and Special Public Defender John L. Wright, Jr. Motion carried.

Chairman Sommer stated that Item B-1(b), regarding a Contract Agreement between Special Public Defender Patrick J. O'Rourke would not be discussed at this time.

Ms. Davis briefly discussed the Monthly Caseload\Disposition Reports.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Children's Advocacy Center, reported that the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority informed her that the Authority has approved the request for a designation increase to cover salary increases for Grant #2854. McLean County's increase was \$8,028.00 from the original \$73,561.00, to \$81,589.00. The revised designation amount requires a match of \$20,397.00. The increase is retroactive to July 1, 2000.

Motion by Renner/Johnson to recommend approval of a request of an Amendment to Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Agreement for Salary Increases. Motion carried.

Ms. Larkin presented the Monthly Statistical Reports for the Children's Advocacy Center and CASA.

Ms. Joan Naour, Correctional Health Services, addressed the Committee regarding a request for approval of a Contract between McLean County and Dennis Krug, DDS, for Dental Clinician Services in the McLean County Adult Detention Facility. Ms. Naour stated that the current contract with Dennis Krug, DDS, for the provision of dental clinician services for the Adult Detention Facility expired on April 30, 2001. Ms. Naour asked that the contract be renewed for a 20 month term, from May 1, 2001 through December 31, 2002. The new expiration date of the contract would coincide with McLean County's fiscal year. Compensation would be paid at an hourly rate of \$122.40

portal to portal, in addition to a monthly stipend of \$91.93. These figures represent a 3% increase.

Motion by Renner/Emmett to recommend approval of a Renewal of a Contract between McLean County and Dennis Krug, DDS, for the Provision of Dental Clinician Services for the McLean County Adult Detention Facility.

Mr. Kinzinger asked what are the parameters used to provide dental care to inmates under Illinois State law. Ms. Naour replied that accreditation standards require that a three month assessment be performed on anyone in the jail who is held for three months or longer. Dr. Krug performs all of the assessments, along with services to inmates in need of dental care. Dr. Krug provides on-site dental evaluation and treatment once a week.

Mr. Kinzinger asked if inmates are presently charged for any of the dental services and does McLean County have the authority to charge inmates. Ms. Naour answered that inmates are not charged for these services and the present set-up within the Adult Detention Facility does not permit these types of charges. Ms. Naour stated that the Adult Detention Facility spent \$16,845.00 during a contract period with a budget of \$18,000.00.

Mr. John Zeunik, McLean County Administrator, explained that mandates related to dental services may be more difficult than with medical services. The County does try to identify other payors that the County can bill for medical services. Even with the effort the staff undertakes in the Correctional Facility to try to identify a third party that may be responsible for any portion of medical bills, the experience has been rare to find any other party stepping forward and paying for any part of these bills. A number of years ago, the State accepted responsibility. A detainee could qualify under a Medicaid Program, but the State discontinued this program and the County's experience on finding a medical payor has been dismal.

Chairman Sommer asked would any of the data collected by the Public Defender's case management personnel apply to the ability of offenders to pay for medical and dental expenses. Mr. Zeunik answered only in the sense that the information that the Public Defender's Office gathers determines whether the individual has the ability to retain private counsel. This may show some indication as to their financial status. Mr. Zeunik stated that this issue has been discussed in the past, not only in McLean County but other counties, and not just for dental issues, but also for medical issues. The discussion has touched on the fact that a nominal "co-pay" could be assessed to any inmate who has the ability to pay.

Chairman Sommer called for a vote on the previous motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Charles Reynard, McLean County State's Attorney, presented the State's Attorney's Caseload Report for the month of April, 2001.

Chairman Sommer noted that the Asset Forfeiture receipts increased by a substantial amount. Mr. Reynard explained that the increase was due to a \$9,000.00 forfeiture asset deposit from a single case.

Chairman Sommer stated that in July an \$85,000.00 transfer into the General Fund is scheduled.

Ms. Beth Carlson, Coroner's Office, introduced Deputy Steve Knight. Mr. Knight is the other Full-Time Deputy in the Coroner's Office. Ms. Carlson presented a certificate Mr. Knight received for attending and passing an Entomology Class at Kankakee Community College. Mr. Knight commented that two weeks after completing the entomology class, he was able to use what he had learned on an unknown forensic case.

Ms. Carlson discussed the Coroner's April Report. Ms. Carlson stated that of the four inquests held during the month of April, two were ruled suicides and two were ruled accidents.

Ms. Carlson showed the Committee a "Notice of Receipt of Business Education Partnership" award from the McLean County Chamber of Commerce.

Sheriff Dave Owens, Sheriff Department approached the Committee with a Request for Approval of Interagency Agreements for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program with the Town of Normal, Village of Hudson, City of LeRoy, Village of Gridley, Village of McLean and the Village of Stanford.

Chairman Sommer stated part of a grant was approved a few months back to purchase bulletproof vests as an Interagency Agreement with six other entities.

Motion by Kizinger\Renner to approve Interagency Agreements for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program with the Town of Normal, Village of Hudson, City of LeRoy, Village of Gridley, Village of McLean and Village of Stanford. Motion carried.

Sheriff Owens informed the Committee that the Detention Center received its accreditation. Sheriff Owens expressed special thanks to James, Jail Operations Officer for his hard work and direction in achieving this accreditation.

Sheriff Owens stated that the jail population decreased in May but increased back to 228 as of this morning. The problem of housing inmates outside of the County is very real. Five counties were contacted today looking for room for these inmates and finally temporary bed space was found in Sangamon County. Sheriff Owens just wanted to update the Committee on the fact that this is an on-going problem.

Chairman Sommer asked what the "hold in reserve" number is for the weekend period. Sheriff Owens stated that holding approximately a 15% of bed space is the recommendation for classification purposes. Over the weekend, the jail population increases from weekenders assigned to confinement and from weekend custodies.

Mr. Emmett asked what is the worst case scenario if bed space was not found. Sheriff Owens stated that the inmates would have to sleep on mattresses on the floor in a secured area.

Chairman Sommer asked if this is permissible under the present jail standards. Sheriff Owens replied that it is a violation of jail standards and McLean County has been in violation of this regulation, specifically in regards to female inmates, in the past.

Chief Deputy Derrick Love, stated that it is not permissible to have any inmate sleep on the floor, but there are no other options available.

Mr. Kinzinger asked what distance does the Sheriff Department travel in order to house inmates. Sheriff Owens answered that the maximum traveled is a 60 to 90 minutes radius. If an inmate that is housed 60 to 90 minutes away is needed at court, transportation cost increases because two officers need to be present. The two transportation teams used for new prisoners are the same team that does the pick-ups of inmates outside of McLean County.

Chairman Sommer asked what facilities are likely to come on line with additions or are rapidly becoming full within the radius of travel time. Sheriff Owens stated that Livingston County and Tazewell County plan on building new facilities. Woodford County is in the process of finishing a new facility. LaSalle County is pretty close to capacity. McLean County has been fortunate to find space in Ford and Dewitt counties, but both of these counties contract out to the U. S. Marshall, thus obligating a certain number of beds to the U. S. Marshall's Office.

Chairman Sommer asked if there is an opportunity for inter-county cooperation. Sheriff Owens stated that McLean County could contract out for a certain number of beds with some other county on a monthly basis. Jail population is not constant, so other counties may not have space available on a regular basis.

Mr. Zeunik informed that the reports requested by the Committee regarding jail population and intergovernmental agreements for centralized booking are being distributed today.

Mr. Renner wonder if there's any information where two or more counties have joined together in order to build a Greenfield Site shared jail facility. Sheriff Owens stated that he is aware that there are three counties in Southern Illinois that share a jail facility, but he does not have any information on the situation.

Mr. Renner stated his concern is the accuracy of the predictions for additional jail beds in the LZT space study. The information that has been provided to the Committee is full of faulty methodology and the numbers may show a much wider margin of error than anticipated. Some of the margin of error may be offset if Dewitt, Tazewell and McLean Counties shared a regional jail facility. Dewitt County has a new jail that meets their needs, and are able to rent out space, thus making money off the available space. Champaign County is close to capacity. Sheriff Owens said that the only county that he is aware of that is not building a facility at this time is Logan County and they have a 50 to 60 bed jail.

Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, commented that the idea was explored at length between Peoria and Tazewell Counties. Peoria County was at a stage in their jail expansion where they were sizing infrastructure and had property available, and it would be a relatively marginal cost addition to add a significant number of beds. The problem with this arrangement was that the beds were only available for the time that Peoria County agreed to as the host County. If Tazewell County needed the beds, the rented out beds would have to be vacated. The same scenario occurred with the juvenile facilities. Because of shortages of beds for the juveniles, more space was created. McLean County is presently in the bottom position for juvenile space. Peoria County built a large juvenile facility and are able to accommodate juveniles from other counties, but they too will eventually face the over- crowding issue.

Mr. Zeunik stated that there is an intergovernmental agreement in place between McHenry County and Kane County. Kane County built a large Juvenile Detention Facility and had extra beds available. McHenry County had a large Adult Detention Facility with extra beds available. McHenry and Kane Counties entered into an

intergovernmental agreement where Kane County agreed to house McHenry County's juvenile inmates and McHenry County agreed to house Kane County's adult inmates. All intergovernmental agreements are subject to annual review and approval by both governing bodies because circumstances can change.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Court Services, requested approval of a Form Contract with Graduate Assistants. Ms. Castleman explained that each academic year, McLean County Court Services enters into an agreement with Illinois State University to provide the office with graduate assistants. These graduate assistants aid the adult probation office by providing services to the intake, community services and pre-sentence report units. The graduate assistants sign agreements to provide services during the summer months and other holidays when the University is not in session. The service is funded through the probation service fees and is supported by the Chief Judge. The graduate assistants change, at a minimum, yearly and sometimes at mid-semester. Due to the fluctuation, Ms. Castleman requests that the McLean County Board approve a single master contract, which would be in place for the balance of 2001.

Motion by Emmett Renner to approve a Form Contract for Graduate Assistants for the Court Services Department.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Castleman briefly discussed the Monthly Statistical Reports for Court Services and for the Juvenile Detention Center.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, Administrator E-911, distributed a 911 Tasks List and Status Sheet and proceeded to explain some of the information enclosed within this report. Mr. Gamblin stated that during the final error resolution phase being completed by Verizon, his staff would be participating in Training Curriculum due to start in September, and working with the Post Office in regards to the rural route post box addresses.

Mr. Gamblin praised two 911 Dispatchers in his office. A 911 call was received from St. Louis, Missouri. The two dispatchers in Bloomington were able to assist the caller, even though the call was from such a great distance. The 911 call was a choking baby emergency and the two dispatchers were able to find the address of the caller and have emergency medical personnel dispatched to the site.

Chairman Sommer opened discussion pertaining to the LZT Study. Chairman Sommer invited Ms. Barbara Stuart, League of Women Voters, to join in the discussion.

Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that he received an E-mail communication from Mr. John Maher, LZT Associates, apologizing for the disruption to LZT's telephone systems they experienced today. They were able to receive calls but were not able to make phone calls. Mr. Maher indicated that the materials used and referred in the section "Alternatives to Incarceration" that are not referenced or sited, will have back-up documentation provided by tomorrow. Mr. Zeunik will distribute this information out to all involved. Mr. Maher indicated that he is in contact with the consultant used to achieve the population projections. Mr. Maher communicated to that firm some of the concerns raised at the joint Committee meeting. Mr. Zeunik will contact Mr. Maher tomorrow to confirm the understanding that the issue is not "what type of model is being used, as much as it is using the correct methodology with the model." The focus seems to presently be on identifying different models than the regression model. The problem is not with regression but with the data elements used.

Chairman Sommer complemented the members of the Board for the quality of questions raised during the initial review of the report.

Mr. Renner commented that he is not pleased with their intent of helping the Board members as mentioned in the past meeting. This just amplified the lousy workmanship they presented. Mr. Renner understands that their firm is not used to doing statistical projections. At this point, in the year 2020, LZT's projections may be right on target but there is a lot of money at stake.

Ms. Stuart distributed summaries of the Alternatives to Jail Committee Report.

Ms. Stuart read from the LZT Report that stated, "that regardless of whether you build cells or not, you need to put in place alternatives to jail." She stated that it was not an either/or option for them, it just needs to be done. The League of Women Voters looked for alternatives that are nearby because they are easier to visualize. Mr. Dennis Maloney made recommendations to alternative options. Supplement D, included in the report distributed today, talks about Electronic Monitoring Program. It shows how to run this type of program presently being used by Tazewell County. A wire-imbedded ankle strap with small electronic units is locked on and tuned to a device plugged into the phone or an electrical outlet. The strap can be set to allow for short or long range of movement from the plug-in up to 100 feet. A black box for each unit, is retained at the office. It records times, presence and absences. It can also be set to designate any time to leave the monitor area for work, treatment, education, etc. The officers check up by calling\visiting the home or work, at random times, and doing drug testing.



Mr. Kinzinger asked if implementation of the alternative incarceration rests on the discretion of the Judges. Ms. Stuart answered that the programs presently in place have been started by joint actions between the Chief Judge and State's Attorneys.

Mr. Renner commented on the "One Church-One Offender" program mentioned on Supplement E. Where is the funding for this program coming from. Ms. Stuart explained that the "One Church-One Offender" program is a faith-based alternative to incarceration being used in the Fort Wayne, Indiana area. Churches, in collaboration with "One Church-One Offender", the Courts and Court Services agree to sponsor an offender who has volunteered for the program as an alternative to incarceration. Mentor teams are formed and meet weekly with the offender. The team provides an intensive circle of support and helps the offender set obtainable goals and address the behaviors, obstacles and struggles that resulted in the choice of crime. The team also monitors the offender's compliance with probation requirements, such as payment of court ordered fines, court ordered treatment for substance abuse, and domestic violence.

Ms. Stuart discussed Drug Court as another form of alternative incarceration. Drug Court is restorative justice, providing an opportunity for drug abusers to stay out of jail in order to obtain treatment, make social restitution required by adjudication and work toward the development of productive life-skills. It is a combined effort of the Drug Court Judge, the State's Attorney's Office, the Public Defender, Court Services and drug treatment professionals. The offenders are required to come before the Judge at frequent intervals for an assessment of their progress. Offenders must complete treatment and undergo periodic drug testing with negative results.

Chairman Sommer commented on item #2 of the "Recommendation" section. It reads, "The County Board should hold one or more public hearings that would concentrate on jail and justice system needs." Chairman Sommer continued reading from the same section, "If renovation and/or expansion proves necessary, alternatives to jail and in-jail programs should be part of the planning." Chairman Sommer would like to change part of that statement to read, "When renovation or expansion plans are discussed, ...". Chairman Sommer suggested that the Committee take time to review the report and discuss it at a later time.

Chairman Sommer opened discussion on the Integrated Justice Information System Project.

Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that work had started on the Probation Module which is the largest piece of work to be completed under the present work order. A Probation Module was designed for Wichita, Kansas, by TRW in Wichita, Kansas.

This could be a starting point to the extent that it could be used as part of the contract. McLean County receives the benefit of this work at no extra charge. Also, Ms. Mary Reynolds, Chief Technology Officer for the State of Illinois in the Governor's Office, is putting together a one-day conference in Chicago. Ms. Reynolds contacted McLean County and asked that McLean County participate in the conference as an example of a Best Practices in Illinois for county government. The panel would meet from 9:30 to 10:30 am, at the Westin Hotel in Chicago. Other members of the panel include representatives from the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago. Government Technology magazine expects about 150 to 200 attendees at the conference.

Chairman Sommer presented the bills as reviewed and recommended by the County Auditor, for the approval of the Committee.

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Motion by Kinzinger\Renner to approve the bills as presented by the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Sommer adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski  
Recording Secretary

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