

## Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner; Members Rackauskas, Wendt, Rankin, Hoselton, and McIntyre

Members Absent: None

Other County Board  
Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator; Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator; and Ms. Judith LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials  
Present: Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator - Eleventh Circuit Court; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Sheriff Mike Emery; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Ms. Cathy Waltz, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center; Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center

Others Present: Lieutenant Brent Wick, Sheriff's Department

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the minutes from the January 5, 2010 Committee meeting and the December 15, 2009 Standup Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by McIntyre/Rankin to approve the Minutes of the January 5, 2010 and December 15, 2009 Stand-up Committee Meetings.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, presented his December 2009 Statistical Report and the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009 Statistical Report. He noted that he had nothing to add to the reports.

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

Chairman Renner presented the State's Attorney's Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report as submitted by Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Court Administrator, Circuit Court, presented a request for approval to participate in the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) Child Protection Data Collection project. He stated that in September 2009, the AOIC solicited participation from counties in the development of case disposition standards and other measures within the Juvenile Abuse and Neglect Courts to apply to pilot a data collection Study. Mr. Scanlon advised that, since McLean County has been through a review of juvenile court practices within the Redeploy Illinois program (2008), and had recently participated in a Child and Family Services Review by DCFS (August 2009), the juvenile court judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and other staff believed that McLean County would be well suited to participate in such a program.

Mr. Scanlon indicated that in January 2010, the AOIC notified him that three counties had been selected – Kankakee, Madison and McLean. He noted that a fourth county will also be included in the project. Mr. Scanlon stated that Kankakee represents a small county, McLean County represents a medium size county and Madison represents a larger county. These four counties will be conducting performance measures on nine different aspects of the court system including safety, permanency, due process and timeliness within the termination process. Mr. Scanlon noted that some of the safety measures include the following:

- Children are protected from immediate abuse/neglect;
- Children are protected from risk of harm;
- Children have permanency and stability in placement;
- The continuity of family relationships and connections are preserved through visitation or therapeutic visits (as part of functional family therapy);
- Families have training and education to provide for a child's needs;
- Children are receiving services to meet educational needs;
- Children are receiving services to meet health needs.

Mr. Scanlon advised that the end goal will be to form a partnership between the AOIC, NCSC and local courts to develop an expanded number of case dispositions and performance measures for the participating courts and make recommendations on similar benchmarks for other courts in Illinois.

Mr. Scanlon stated that the AOIC is offering a grant to McLean County in the amount of \$18,750.00 to participate in the three-year study to collect and provide data. The grant funds will be used to purchase a laptop computer, software, and money for an intern for data collection. Mr. Scanlon noted that this project is to begin in March 2010 and go through September 30, 2012.

Mr. Scanlon stated that McLean County will be required to provide supplies and office space for an intern, but the 25% match will be taken from the participation of the two judges and the Circuit Court Administrator. Mr. Scanlon indicated that there is no fiscal outlay for the match from McLean County.

Mr. Scanlon advised that he supports this project and believes that the data collection will be beneficial to the justice community in terms of managing cases internally.

Mr. Wendt asked if the money is received up front or if we must wait for the State to make the payment. Mr. Scanlon replied that the money will be reimbursed by the State. He noted that the AOIC has already received the first year's allocation.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what the ramifications would be if we did not participate. Mr. Scanlon responded that there are no ramifications if McLean County should decide not to participate.

Ms. Rackauskas asked why a county would opt to not participate. Mr. Scanlon replied that some counties would not want to do the work involved with the project.

Mr. Wendt asked if the amount of time spent on this project would be beneficial to the County. Mr. Scanlon replied that it would be beneficial to the County.

Mr. Wendt asked what benefit is expected from this project. Mr. Scanlon responded that it is hoped that the performance data will help determine how efficiently we are using court time and help define the participation of various outside agencies.

Mr. Rankin commented that this research is unique and the project provides an opportunity to collect important data.

Motion by Hoselton/Rankin to Recommend Approval to accept a grant from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts in order to participate in the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts Child Protection Data Collection Project.

Motion carried.

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

Chairman Renner presented the Public Defender's Monthly Caseload Report as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender. There were no questions on the report.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner, presented her December 2009 Monthly Report. She noted that she expects the year-end report to be ready for the April meeting. Ms. Kimmerling added that there are ten outstanding death investigations from 2009 that must be cleared before the year-end report can be completed.

Ms. Kimmerling advised that, in 2009, the number of autopsies was over the projected number, but the actual number of deaths was lower. She indicated that the out-of-County autopsies provided a \$20,000 excess over the projected revenue. Ms. Kimmerling stated that the inquest and coroner's ruling statistics reflect non-natural deaths. She pointed out that from 2008 to 2009, there were a lot more autopsies, fewer death investigations and fewer non-natural deaths. Ms. Kimmerling projected that the year-end report will show that a lot of people died suddenly, but from natural or medical processes. She added that these would likely be cardiovascular or cancer deaths.

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

Sheriff Mike Emery presented a request for approval to enter into a Contract with Thompson Electronics Company for a McLean County Law and Justice Center Video Arraignment project. He explained that in FY'2008, the Sheriff's Office began researching the potential purchase and installation of a teleconferencing system for use by the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit in Mclean County. Sheriff Emery indicated that the justification that initiated this process was based on the number of custodies for custody cases escorted to court from the jail and then returned. He noted that a committee was formed consisting of the State's Attorney's Office,

Public Defender's Office, Information Technologies, Trial Court Administrator for the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit and the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Emery noted that on December 13, 2009, a public notice request for bids was advertised. On January 5, 2010, a pre-bid meeting was conducted for the five vendors who attended. Sheriff Emery indicated that on January 15, 2010, bids were received, opened and inspected. He advised that three bids were received from two vendors, namely Zeller Digital Innovations (ZDI) and Thompson Electronics (Thompson).

Sheriff Emery stated that all proposals indicate that the equipment would be fully installed and operational in March 2010. He added that both companies have next day service, have installed projects in local institutions and have good reputations.

Sheriff Emery indicated that on January 22, 2010, the committee met for the purpose of examining the bids. He reported that, upon conclusion of this meeting, the committee was in agreement that its recommendation would be that Thompson Electronics Company be awarded this project. Sheriff Emery noted that this was the medium price bid.

Mr. Hoselton asked if there is a monetary advantage to video arraignment. Sheriff Emery replied that, last year, there were over 6,600 custody transports from the Jail to the Courts last year, of which two-thirds were for custody hearings, arraignments and status hearings. He added that these hearings are where inmates are taken before the Judge for five to fifteen minute hearings. The transfers to the courtroom take much longer and require a lot of manpower. Sheriff Emery distributed a report that reflects the high number of inmates transported to the courtrooms on one single day. He noted that this amount of inmate transfers reflects the potential for violence and disruptions in the courtroom. Sheriff Emery stated that the video arraignment will eliminate the potential for violence and alleviate staffing resources.

Mr. Wendt asked if the staff can be reduced. Sheriff Emery responded that he cannot answer that question at this time. He noted that the staff pulled from inmate transportation can be reassigned to other areas that are understaffed. Sheriff Emery added that the staffing issues need to be studied before any determination can be made to reduce staff.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the video arraignments are also being taped. Sheriff Emery replied that they are not taped. Mr. Scanlon added that these types of arraignments in the courtrooms are not currently being taped and do not need to be taped.

Mr. Rankin asked if the bids included replacement software. Sheriff Emery replied that the contracts come with a two-year warranty on the equipment, after which an extended warranty would be considered.

Mr. Wendt asked why there was such a difference in the size of the inmate monitor. Lieutenant Brent Wick responded that the initial self-contained unit had only a 12 inch monitor which would restrict the viewing of the deputy that was with the inmate. He indicated that the second system is tailored to what is needed because it has a 32 inch television inside a secure case.

Ms. Rackauskas expressed her appreciation to Sheriff Emery for his radio interview explaining the video arraignment project.

Motion by Rankin/Wendt to Recommend Approval to enter into a Contract with Thompson Electronics Company for a McLean County Law and Justice Center Video Arraignment Project.  
Motion carried.

Sheriff Emery reviewed the McLean County Detention Facility population Report for January 2010. He noted that the population went up slightly in January. Currently five inmates are being housed out-of-County.

Sheriff Emery indicated that there are five inmates in custody with mental health issues who have been found unfit to stand trial. He stated that they cannot secure a bed in a state facility to move them out. Sheriff Emery noted that this is a negative effect of the state budget cuts and closing of mental health facilities.

Ms. Rackauskas asked how many total officers are in the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Emery replied that there are a total of 153 staff members; 76 are assigned to the Corrections Division, 28 administrative personnel and approximately 57 sworn law enforcement officers.

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

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, reviewed the Court Services Adult/Juvenile Division Statistics for December 2009, as well as the Juvenile Detention Center statistics. She advised that she is working on the 2009 year-end report.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, arrived at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Rankin asked for a status report on receipt of the State money due to Court Services. Ms. McCormick replied that she received over \$38,000 last week for the Redeployment project. She added that they have been successful in receiving the Redeploy and Drug Court grant money.

Ms. Rackauskas asked how Court Services was able to receive the monies that are due from the state. Ms. McCormick replied that she has not received the Probation Officer allocations due from the state. Mr. Lindberg advised that we are hoping to get \$941,000 combined Juvenile and Adult Probation reimbursement. He noted that so far \$173,000 has been received.

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

Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), presented the CAC Monthly Statistical Report and the CASA Report. She noted that there is nothing unusual in the reports.

Ms. Renner advised that CAC received \$29,000 from the state, and expects to receive another \$29,000 in the next few weeks.

Ms. Rackauskas informed the committee that she will be a waiter at the CAC's February 20<sup>th</sup> major fundraising "Tip a VIP" event, and her husband will be a waitress. She encouraged the Committee members to attend the event. Ms. Renner indicated that the event will be held at Central Station's Loft. She noted that Central Station has given CAC the entire venue for free. Ms. Renner noted that 350 dinner seats have been sold out, but party tickets are still available for that evening.

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

Mr. Yoder apologized for being late, noting that he was involved in another meeting. He stated that he does not have anything specific to point out in his reports.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the van that is being stored at the Highway Department could be moved. Mr. Yoder advised that Mr. Hoselton is referring to a van that was evidence in a murder case in the late 1990s. He indicated that evidence in murder cases must be kept forever. Mr. Yoder noted that this law causes a real problem with space in evidence rooms.

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Mr. Lindberg stated that there is a problem with accumulation of large, bulky evidence in the lower level of the Law and Justice Center. He advised that we are securing another 4,000 feet of lower level space for the Sheriff's Department evidence storage.

Chairman Renner presented the final December 31, 2009 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a prepaid total of \$759,979.37 and a Fund Total that is the same.

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Motion by Rankin/Rackauskas to recommend approval of the Justice Committee bills as of December 31, 2009.

Motion carried.

Chairman Renner presented the January 31, 2010 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Pending Total of \$827.24 and a Prepaid Total of \$1,996,201.51 for a Fund Total of \$1,997,028.75.

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Motion by Rankin/McIntyre to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills as of January 31, 2010, 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 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary