

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday April 6, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Rackauskas; Members Wendt, Rankin, O'Connor, McIntyre and Wollrab

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: Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner; Sheriff Mike Emery; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Ms. Cathy Waltz, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center; Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator - Eleventh Circuit Court; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center

Others Present: None

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

Chairman Rackauskas welcomed the two new members of the Justice Committee, namely Ms. Sonny O'Connor and Ms. Laurie Wollrab.

Chairman Rackauskas presented the minutes from the March 2, 2010 Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by McIntyre/Wendt to Approve the Minutes of
the March 2, 2010 Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Rackauskas 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, distributed pens and announced that April is the National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Month.

Ms. Kimmerling invited new Committee members to tour the Coroner's Office.

Ms. Kimmerling presented her Monthly Report for February 2010. She noted, for the new members, that the report contains statistics on McLean County autopsies, out of County autopsies, inquests and Coroner Rules. Ms. Kimmerling added that inquests are waning with the change in the law. She explained that Coroner Ruling is when she makes the manner of death ruling without presenting it to a jury, which is why inquests are down.

Ms. Kimmerling stated that February was a slow month, with only routine deaths.

Ms. Kimmerling informed the Committee of the death of Dr. Bryan Mitchell, Pathologist. She indicated that Dr. Mitchell was the pathologist for McLean County for nine years. Ms. Kimmerling noted that Dr. Denton is the current pathologist for McLean County.

Ms. Kimmerling indicated that Dr. Mitchell was the pathologist for cases north of I80; Dr. Denton performed the autopsies between I80 and Springfield, and Dr. Ralston did the cases in Springfield and south. With the death of Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Denton has been traveling north to help some of the other counties. Ms. Kimmerling added that there may be a slight increase in autopsies in McLean County due to the autopsy needs from those other counties.

Ms. Kimmerling stated that Dr. Denton lives in Bloomington and provides McLean County autopsies. She noted that, because there are so few pathologists, Dr. Denton has been offered incentives to move to other counties. Ms. Kimmerling advised that McLean County is very lucky to have Dr. Denton.

Ms. Wollrab asked what is the Morgue Fee. Ms. Kimmerling replied that the morgue is made available to other counties when Dr. Denton conducts their autopsies. Those counties, including Vermillion, Champaign, DeWitt, Woodford, Livingston, LaSalle, Ford, and Iroquois, are charged a fee for use of the morgue.

Ms. O'Connor asked if Ms. Kimmerling still does school tours of the morgue. Ms. Kimmerling replied that school tours are still conducted. Ms. O'Connor asked that the Committee be apprised of the next tour, as she would like to attend. Ms. Kimmerling responded that she will e-mail the Committee members when the next tour is scheduled.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, she thanked Ms. Kimmerling.

Sheriff Mike Emery presented a request for approval of a 2010 squad car bid with Geiser Ford for the McLean County Sheriff's Office. He advised that in order to secure dealer incentives and higher trade-in value on the returned squad cars, it was necessary to commit to a contract with Geiser Ford. Sheriff Emery stated that the usual procedure is to obtain approval from the Justice Committee and the Board before committing to a contract. He explained that the timing made it necessary for him to proceed with the contract.

Sheriff Emery advised that \$124,800 was budgeted in the General Fund for the purchase of the new vehicles. He noted that with the incentives and trade-in value of \$5,000 per squad car, he was able to get the General Fund expenditure down to \$113,000. Sheriff Emery stated that of that \$113,000 expense, \$56,900 was taken out of the Sheriff's Drug Asset Forfeiture Line and \$17,500 was taken out of a special revenue line that provides court supervision fees specific to the purchase of squad cars. He concluded that the final cost to the General Fund for 2010 purchase of squad cars was \$39,425.

Mr. Rankin asked how many squad cars are being traded in. Sheriff Emery responded that seven vehicles are being traded in. Mr. Rankin asked what is the typical life span of County vehicles. Sheriff Emery replied that in the Fleet Maintenance Program, seven fleet vehicles are traded annually out of the 32-vehicle fleet. He added that every four years there is a total roll-over in fleet vehicles. Sheriff Emery stated that the danger of not having a fleet maintenance program with high mileage vehicles is that repair expenses increase and the trade-in values decrease.

Sheriff Emery indicated that a squad car that has been in service in the patrol fleet less than four years, but has accumulated in excess of 100,000 miles, is stripped down and placed in the unmarked fleet. The unmarked vehicles can be kept for two years longer without experiencing a loss on trade-in value.

Motion by O'Connor/McIntyre to Recommend Approval
of a 2010 Squad Car Bid with Geiser Ford for the
McLean County Sheriff's Office.
Motion carried.

Sheriff Emery reviewed the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report for March 2010. He noted that the first-quarter cost of out-of-County housing has significantly decreased over previous years, as follows

2007:	\$168,000
2008:	\$153,000
2009:	\$43,000
2010:	\$16,000

Sheriff Emery advised that towards the end of 2008 the County enacted the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, which is a justice leadership group working together to manage the jail population. As this Council continues its efforts in managing the jail population, the County should continue to see financial benefits.

Chairman Rackauskas commended Sheriff Emery on his efforts to fund the vehicles in a way that protects the General Fund.

There was a brief discussion regarding the future change of squad cars from the Crown Victoria to the Ford Taurus, which will be renamed the Interceptor.

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

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, presented a request for approval of a Redeploy Service Agreement between Chestnut Health Systems and the County of McLean. She indicated that the Chestnut Health Systems agreement to provide Redeploy services to eligible Adjudicated Youth ends on April 21, 2010. Ms. McCormick stated that Ms. Hannah Eisner, First Assistant Civil State's Attorney has been working with the Court Services Department to continue this agreement.

Ms. McCormick advised that the agreement provides for the same services as the previous agreement, but continues until the end of the Redeploy Grant period, which is June 30, 2010. She indicated that she does not know if this grant will continue beyond this date.

Ms. Wollrab asked for a description of the Redeploy Program. Ms. McCormick replied that the Redeploy Illinois is a program that has taken funds from the Department of Corrections and reprogrammed them into certain communities in Illinois. Ms. McCormick stated that the goal is to use the Corrections money in the community to keep youth who might be sent to Corrections in the community with

as many services as possible. She informed the Committee that Redeploy Illinois grant was approved in January 2009. Ms. McCormick added that evidence-based programs are being used through Chestnut Health Systems, Catholic Charities, Heartland Community College and other local organizations.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of
a Redeploy Services Agreement between Chestnut
Health Systems and the County of McLean.
Motion carried.

Ms. McCormick reviewed the Court Services Adult/Juvenile Division Statistics for February 2010, as well as the Juvenile Detention Center statistics. She pointed out that there was a small increase in the Adult Division over last month. Ms. McCormick noted that a seven-person unit handles 1,091 cases, which means 156 clients per person.

Ms. McCormick advised that the County has a 26-bed Juvenile Detention facility. She invited the Committee members to call and make an appointment to tour the facility. Ms. Cathy Waltz, Superintendent of the Juvenile Detention Center reiterated that invitation and added that she would be glad to answer any questions about the facility. She noted that the population is down today.

Ms. McCormick reminded the Committee that the fifth Drug Court graduation is April 15 at 4:30 p.m. in the Law and Justice Center Jury Assembly Room. She stated that there are four graduates. Ms. McCormick encouraged the Committee members to attend the graduation ceremony and celebration.

Ms. McCormick advised that the Drug Court annual fund raising luncheon is scheduled on April 26 at the Second Presbyterian Church. She indicated that she can provide tickets to the luncheon for Committee members if they would like to attend.

Chairman Rackauskas asked who the speaker is for the luncheon. Ms. McCormick responded that the speakers will be former graduates of the program. Chairman Rackauskas encouraged the Justice Committee members to attend the luncheon. She noted that she will be unable to attend as she will be out of town.

Ms. McCormick expressed her appreciation to the Justice Committee and the Board for allowing Court Services to apply for the Mental Health Court Planning and Implementation Grant.

Mr. McIntyre asked if the number of referrals for acceptance into Drug Court has increased. Ms. McCormick replied that there are an increasing amount of referrals. She indicated that individuals are turned away because they are trying to maintain a limit of 45-50 individuals in Drug Court. Ms. McCormick stated that the average number of individuals in Drug Court is 42-47. She added that, as of today, there are two Probation Officers assigned to Drug Court. She noted that Drug Court individuals are seen at least five times per week. Ms. McCormick indicated that Drug Court can be observed any Thursday at 4:30 p.m. on the 4th Floor of the Law and Justice Center. She invited the Committee members to contact her if they are interested in observing Drug Court. Ms. McCormick noted, however, that Drug Court on April 15th will be held at 3:30 p.m. and the graduation at 4:30 p.m.

Ms. Wollrab asked if Drug Court is for drug addicts only or alcoholics as well. Ms. McCormick responded that Drug Court is for drug addiction first and alcohol can be a secondary addiction.

Mr. McIntyre asked how often the individuals in Drug Court are tested for drugs. Ms. McCormick responded that they are tested from two to five times per week.

Ms. Wollrab asked what offense these individuals have committed. Ms. McCormick responded that they have committed felony offenses.

Ms. McCormick stated that each person graduating from Drug Court must be employed, must have paid off all their fines and fees, and they must have been drug free for nine months.

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

Chairman Rackauskas presented the Jury Commission Quarterly Report as submitted by Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Commission. There were no questions on the report.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator, Eleventh Circuit Court, invited the Justice Committee to tour the Circuit Court. He also reiterated Ms. McCormick's invitation to attend the Drug Court graduation on April 15th.

Mr. Scanlon presented a request for approval of a renewal of State of Illinois Intergovernmental Agreement between Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and McLean County Circuit Court Chief Judge, Agreement No. 2011-55-008-K, IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program.

Mr. Scanlon stated that this three-year grant has been in existence since 1999 and requires an annual renewal that runs from July 1 to June 30th. He indicated the \$33,400 pays for the hearing officer and one phone line. Mr. Scanlon noted that the Child Support Enforcement Program involves the following three departments:

- The Circuit Clerk's Office portion of the grant is for filing Child Support cases;
- The State's Attorney's Office portion of the grant is for enforcement of the Program;
- The Circuit Court portion of the grant is to fund a Hearing Officer and one phone line.

Mr. Scanlon advised that all of the cases get filed go through the Circuit Clerk's Office. He added that only those cases that need enforcement go through the State's Attorney's Office and those that need to see a judge go through the Circuit Court., which is the smallest portion of the grant.

Ms. Wollrab asked if the Hearing Officer receives County benefits. Mr. Scanlon replied that this is a contractual position that does not qualify for benefits. He added that, should the State end its funding for this program, the position would go away.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of a Renewal of State of Illinois Intergovernmental Agreement between Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and McLean County Circuit Court Chief Judge, Agreement No. 2011-55-008-K, IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program.
Motion carried.

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

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, presented a request for approval of a renewal of State of Illinois Intergovernmental Agreement between Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and McLean County Circuit Clerk, Agreement No. 2011-55-007-KG, IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program. He explained that this grant, in the amount of \$36,110, has also been in existence since 1999.

Mr. Everhart advised that up until 2008, this grant was funding one full-time FTE, but has not kept up with salary costs. He noted that these are functions that the Circuit Clerk's Office is required to do.

Mr. Lindberg stated that the amount of this grant has been almost the same since 1999, which has resulted in the need to pick up part of this FTE expense out of the General Fund. He added that this position cannot be reduced to less than one FTE and still do the necessary work.

Motion by McIntyre/O'Connor to Recommend Approval of a Renewal of State of Illinois Intergovernmental Agreement between Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and McLean County Circuit Clerk, Agreement No. 2011-55-007-KG, IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program.
Motion carried.

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, presented his February 2010 Statistical Report. He noted that the reports were unremarkable. He explained to the new members that these are statistics that are provided to the AOIC each month.

Mr. Everhart reported that the use of credit cards to pay fines has resulted in an increase in payments and may even be reducing the need to send payments out for collections. He stated that since the inception of credit card payments for fines on February 17 through April 2nd, the Circuit Clerk's Office has taken in \$38,728.46 in payments, with 84% of that being handled through the Traffic Division, 9% in the Criminal Division and 7% in the Civil Division.

Mr. Everhart advised that the change in the Court handling of overdue fines has increased revenue. In the past, cases where individuals did not pay their fines were postponed under the "Pay or Appear" status, which means that the cases and payment of fines were continually extended. Mr. Everhart stated that the policy on collecting fines was changed in February 2010 from the "pay or appear" status to forwarding fines that have not been paid to a collection agency after 45 days of non-payment. He noted that over 9,700 cases, or fines totaling more than \$1.3 million, were submitted in February for collection. To date, over \$51,000 has been collected.

Mr. Lindberg credited much of the work on this policy change to Mr. Pablo Eves, Assistant Civil State's Attorney who worked with the Judges to get this process changed.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Everhart.

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Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), presented the CAC Monthly Statistical Report and the CASA Report. Ms. Renner announced that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. She indicated that "blue kid" signs and other yard signs are planted throughout the area.

Chairman Rackauskas announced that she has extra "blue kid" signs at her home and encouraged Committee members to help themselves to a sign.

Chairman Rackauskas suggested that the signs be made available in March so that signs can be distributed to all of the County Board members.

Ms. Renner offered to provide a tour of the CAC to the new Justice Committee members.

Ms. Renner pointed out that the CAC Monthly statistics are up from last year at this time.

Ms. Renner indicated that a new CASA training class started yesterday.

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

Chairman Rackauskas advised that Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, was unable to attend the meeting. She noted that his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report are on pages 77 and 78. There were no questions on the reports.

Chairman Rackauskas indicated that she will work on a schedule for Committee members to visit the various Justice departments. Mr. Lindberg pointed out that if a majority of a quorum of members goes on a tour together, it will be necessary to post a meeting 48 hours in advance. Ms. Rackauskas stated that she will try to schedule multiple tours to avoid posting a meeting.

Chairman Rackauskas presented the March 31, 2010 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$2,339,062.84 and a Fund Total that is the same.

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Motion by Wollrab/Rankin to Recommend Approval of
the Justice Committee Bills as of March 31, 2010, as
transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

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Chairman Rackauskas asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, she called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by McIntyre/Wendt to Recommend that the
Justice Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:35 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary