

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday June 1, 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 (4:34 p.m.)

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: Sheriff Mike Emery; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney

Others Present: None

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

Chairman Rackauskas presented the minutes from the May 4, 2010 Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by O'Connor/Rankin to Approve the Minutes of the May 4, 2010 Meeting.
Motion carried.

Sheriff Mike Emery presented a request for approval of the 2010 G.E.D. Contract between the McLean County Sheriff's Department, Jail Division, and Heartland Community College.

Sheriff Emery advised that previously the County had a G.E.D. contract with the Regional Office of Education (REO) at a cost of \$16,000. Six months ago, the board approved a contract with Heartland Community College (HCC) at a cost of \$8,200. Sheriff Emery stated that this request is for a six month extension to that contract. He distributed a corrected contract.

Sheriff Emery reported that in 2009, 13 inmates tested to take the G.E.D. program, and 8 inmates passed the G.E.D. He noted that in 2010, during the same time period, 12 inmates tested to take the G.E.D. program and 11 inmates received diplomas. Sheriff Emery indicated that when the Sheriff's Department entered into this agreement, it was with the hope that those inmates would have an opportunity to transition to Heartland Community College to further their education. He added that one inmate has transitioned into Heartland Community College. Sheriff Emery added that Heartland provided a grant to that individual. Sheriff Emery stated that, as this program evolves, he expects to see a lot of benefit with inmates going on to college for a higher education. He asked the Board to approve the contract for another six months with Heartland Community College.

Mr. Wendt asked how many of the inmates who begin the program continues it once they have been released from Jail. Sheriff Emery replied that, currently, he is only tracking those inmates who are still in custody. He added that he will attempt to find out if inmates who are released from Jail prior to finishing the program complete the program. He added that inmates enrolled in the program are encouraged to continue the program upon their release from custody.

Sheriff Emery advised that he is Chairman of the McLean County Youth Impact, which consists of several organizations in the school districts that meet once a month to discuss issues relevant to youth. He indicated that Mr. Mark Jontry, Director, REO, had mentioned at the last meeting that it is likely that ROE will drop their Adult Literacy Program, but will continue to be a testing site for G.E.D. Currently, ROE is the only testing site in McLean County. Sheriff Emery noted that Heartland Community College has applied to the State Board of Education to be a testing site. He indicated that Heartland may be the only entity locally that will offer the G.E.D. program.

Mr. McIntyre asked how long it takes for an inmate to go through the program and receive a G.E.D. Sheriff Emery replied that each program is specifically based on the educational level of the inmate. He added that the program is an accelerated training program. Mr. McIntyre pointed out that there are five categories in the program (i.e. Math, English, etc.) and individuals only need retake the section(s) of the test that they failed. He asked if the time frame for each individual is different. Sheriff Emery replied that the length of the program is different for each inmate.

Mr. McIntyre asked how individuals within the community pay for the G.E.D. program. Sheriff Emery responded that Heartland Community College receives grant money to run the G.E.D. program. If individuals cannot pay for their G.E.D. program, the College will pay for it and will then bill the State Board of Education for the funding.

Chairman Rackauskas asked Sheriff Emery to clarify the substitute teacher section of the contract. The original contract indicated that HCC will provide a substitute instructor after five absences, and the distributed contract stated that a substitute instructor will be provided when needed. Sheriff Emery responded that HCC will provide a substitute instructor as needed. He noted that the distributed contract is correct.

Motion by O'Connor/Rankin to Recommend Approval
of the G.E.D. Contract between the McLean County
Sheriff's Department, Jail Division, and Heartland
Community College.
Motion carried.

Sheriff Emery reported that the McLean County Detention Facility population continues to be at a level where the inmates can be housed within McLean County. He added that no inmates were housed out-of-County in the last three months.

Sheriff Emery reminded the Committee that there was a question on the "Arrest Record" on the 2009 Annual Report from last month. He noted that there was a discrepancy on the number of crimes versus the number of arrests (i.e. 2 murders/0 arrests; 11 criminal sexual assaults/1 arrest; 26 Assault and Battery offenses/11 arrests; etc.). Sheriff Emery explained that this discrepancy was due to the EJS entry process. He indicated that the perpetrator of the one murder investigated in 2009 was arrested on an initial charge of violating an Order of Protection, which is what the EJS system picked up on, so it did not include the arrest for the first-degree murder. Sheriff Emery reported that this was a systems entry process glitch. He stated that Information Technologies Department corrected the issue so that, in the future, arrests will be reported in a hierarchy, i.e. with murder being greater than an Order of Protection.

Mr. Rankin asked that the Committee be provided with a corrected report. Sheriff Emery replied that he will provide a corrected report.

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 to apply for grant funding from the United States Department of Justice to assist with the expenses of conducting the Recovery Court (Mental Health Court). She noted that Recovery Court started last week with its first client who was accepted by Judge Foley who is the judge that will oversee Recovery Court.

Ms. McCormick advised that she became aware of this grant opportunity on May 13th by Chestnut Health Systems. The grant applicant must be a unit of local government that will collaborate with a treatment program that is clinically appropriate and can provide comprehensive treatment. Ms. McCormick stated that the grant is due to the Federal Government on or before June 3, 2010. She noted that, due to the short time frame, she received authorization from Mr. Terry Lindberg to begin the collaboration with Chestnut Health Systems prior to the Justice Committee Meeting on June 1, 2010.

Ms. McCormick stated that she recently applied for Federal Grants to assist with the implementation of a Mental Health Court in McLean County. She noted that she is, once again, requesting authorization to apply for grant funding through the United States Department of Justice. Ms. McCormick indicated that this grant would be a two-year Second Chance Reentry Demonstration Program targeting offenders with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders, funded at \$300,000 per year with no match required. She stated that the Grant Information form as included in the packet is for one year knowing that she would come back to the Committee next year for approval to renew the grant for the second \$300,000.

Ms. McCormick advised that, if the grant is approved and received, a Recovery Court Coordinator would be hired to oversee the day to day responsibilities of Recovery Court in regards to collaborating with the Judge, Probation, Chestnut Health Systems, Center for Human Services and all of the other agencies involved.

Ms. Wollrab asked if this person would be a social worker. Ms. McCormick replied that the Recovery Court Coordinator would be hired as a Probation Officer.

Mr. Wendt asked if this position will be paid out of the \$300,000. Ms. McCormick responded that the salary and fringe benefits will come out of the \$300,000. She added that other parts of that grant would include psychiatric services treatment, clinical services, and recovery coaching. Ms. McCormick noted that the recovery coaches are the people who will make sure that the clients get to their appointments, making sure they take their medication, etc. She added that the grant will also provide expenses for office supplies, computers, and cell phones. Ms. McCormick indicated that currently a Deputy Director is overseeing the project, as well as four Probation Officers who, along with their regular duties, have agreed to be the Recovery Court Probation Officers right now.

Ms. McCormick advised that anyone placed in Recovery Court would be on Adult Probation, would have to have an Access One diagnosis, and the offense that they are charged with must be related to their diagnosis. She noted that a lot of effort goes into the assessment as well as the monitoring.

Ms. O'Connor asked if Chestnut Health Systems provides the assessment. Ms. McCormick responded that, with this grant, Chestnut Health Systems would do the assessment. She pointed out that the Center for Human Services has experienced severe cuts and may experience more cuts in the future. Ms. McCormick noted that the Center for Human Services is still committed to Recovery Court, but, because they can only take Medicaid clients, there are a lot of people that are not going to be able to receive treatment if placed in this program.

Ms. Wollrab asked what type of person would go through the Recovery Court program. Ms. McCormick replied that one example would be an individual who is bi-polar.

Ms. McCormick indicated that this proposal is a collaborative effort and includes the Judiciary, State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Department, Court Services, Chestnut Health Systems and countless other organizations within McLean County. She added that the demonstration program is anticipated to increase the level of psychiatric services and pre-release planning within the Jail, linkage with supervision, treatment, and resources prior to release and risk-based supervision within the County.

Mr. Wendt asked what happens with the program if grant funding is not available after the first two years. Ms. McCormick responded that there are a number of other areas of grant funding that will be explored. She noted that the Drug Court grant will be completed in August 2011. Ms. McCormick stated that they are exploring grant extensions that are available for programs that are already in place.

Chairman Rackauskas asked what the limit is on people who can be in the Recovery Court program. Ms. McCormick stated that no more than ten clients can be in Recovery Court at this time.

Motion by O'Connor/McIntyre to Recommend Approval
of to Apply for Grant Funding from the United States
Department of Justice.
Motion carried with Mr. Wendt voting "no."

Ms. McCormick reviewed the Court Services Adult/Juvenile Division Statistics for March 2010, as well as the Juvenile Detention Center statistics.

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

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, presented his April 2010 Statistical Reports. He noted that there was nothing significant to report.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any questions on the report. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Everhart.

Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), presented the CAC Monthly Statistical Report and the CASA Report. She indicated that the CAC numbers are higher than they were this time last year. Ms. Brucker added that this increase is consistent throughout the state according to DCFS.

Ms. Brucker noted that six new CASA volunteers have been sworn in, so the Court is sending new cases to CASA.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if the number of cases that the Court can turn over to CASA is dependent upon how many volunteers are available. Ms. Brucker replied that CASA volunteers cannot accept more than 30 cases. She added that there are approximately 280 McLean County children who do not have a CASA appointed to them at this time. Ms. Brucker stated that the cases referred to CASA are determined by a recommendation by the Court, and are typically the very bad cases.

Ms. O'Connor asked what happens to the children who do not receive a CASA volunteer. Ms. Brucker responded that those children rely solely on their case workers.

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

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report. He indicated that he would be happy to answer any questions. There were no questions.

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.

Justice Committee
June 1, 2010
Page Seven

Chairman Rackauskas presented the County Coroner's Monthly Report for April 2010 as submitted by Ms. Beth Kimmerling. Chairman Rackauskas indicated that Ms. Kimmerling was unable to attend the meeting.

Chairman Rackauskas presented the May 31, 2010 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor, as well as a transfer within the Circuit Clerk's Office of \$29,894. The Justice Committee bills include a Pending Total of \$909.44 and a Prepaid Total of \$1,777,221.70 for a Fund Total of \$1,778,131.14.

Justice Committee
June 1, 2010
Page Eight

Motion by Wendt/Rankin to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills as of May 31, 2010, as transmitted by the County Auditor, as well as a transfer within the Circuit Clerk's Office of \$29,894.
Motion carried.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary