

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday April 3, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Rackauskas; Members McIntyre, Schafer, Rankin, Wollrab and McKibbin

Members Absent: None

Other County Board
Members Present: None

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Sheriff Mike Emery; Mr. Ron Dozier, State's Attorney; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center

Others Present: Mr. Ron Lewis, Assistant Public Defender; Ms. Cathy Waltz, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center

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

Chairman Rackauskas presented the minutes from the March 6, 2012 Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by Wollrab/McIntyre to Approve the Minutes of
the March 6, 2012 Meeting.

Motion carried.

Mr. Ron Lewis, Assistant Public Defender, stated that while it is still early in the year to determine a trend, there is an increase in most cases at this time.

Chairman Rackauskas asked what "Post-Conviction & SVPCA Cases" are. Mr. Lewis replied that when someone gets convicted for a crime and appeals their case that appeal is usually restricted to what is already in the record. However, there is an Appellate procedure that allows people to go back and revisit some issues with material that was not in the record, which can result in more appeals.

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Mr. Lewis indicated that the SVPICA (“Sexually Violent Person Commitment Act”) cases are civil proceedings. Mr. Lewis noted that the County has very few of these cases. He indicated that the Attorney General pursues cases involving sexually violent persons about to be released from prison and examines each case to determine if a petition should be filed to have the person civilly committed.

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

Chairman Rackauskas presented the first quarter 2012 Jury Commission Report as submitted by Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Commission.

Sheriff Mike Emery reviewed the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report for March 2012. He stated that the population continues to maintain a manageable level. Sheriff Emery recognized that this population control is attributed to everyone’s efforts within the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. He announced that the quarterly CJCC meeting is Thursday, April 5th, 1:00 p.m. in the County Board Room.

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

Mr. Ron Dozier, State’s Attorney, reviewed the State’s Attorney’s Office Case Load Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report.

Mr. Dozier advised that a big sweep was conducted on synthetic drug sales today. He stated that the Attorney General directed a sweep in 20 cities. He indicated that the local law enforcement authorities in Bloomington, Normal, and McLean County prepared for the sweep by checking out the locations of drug sales in the area. Mr. Dozier reminded the Committee that the chemical compound structure of the synthetic drugs changes every time one compound is declared to be illegal. He explained the difficulties and expenses the crime labs face every time a new derivative of a synthetic drug is created and must be analyzed.

Mr. Dozier stated that the Attorney General determined that distributing or possessing products that contain chemicals banned under the Illinois Controlled Substances Act, 720 ILCS 570/100 is a Felony. In addition, these products may also violate the Illinois Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act, 410 ILCS 620/1, which is a Class C Misdemeanor. The Attorney General has introduced Legislation that should become a law in May that will make this a Class 2 Felony in regard to these types of substances.

Mr. Dozier indicated that the Attorney General, via the local law enforcement officials, visited retailers where these synthetic drugs are sold and warn them that some of the drugs they are selling are illegal. They ask the retailer to sign a "Synthetic Drug Community Protection Agreement" whereby they will relinquish their inventory of synthetic drugs to the Illinois Attorney General's Office and authorize the destruction of these products.

Mr. Dozier advised that the effort has been successful in getting retailers to give up their supply of synthetic drugs. He noted that 5,200 packages were retrieved in Bloomington-Normal today. Mr. Dozier stated that one retailer said that he would have to sell 100 gallons of gasoline to make the same profit as one bag of the synthetic drug.

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

Chairman Rackauskas presented the Coroner's Monthly Report for February 2012 as submitted by Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner.

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the McLean Circuit Clerk's Office, Agreement 2011-55-007-K3G, Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Grant. He explained that this is a yearly renewal of the Child Enforcement Program, which pays for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an FTE for a Family Division Staff position.

Mr. Wasson indicated that this is the first of several grant renewals for the Child Enforcement Program from different departments. The remaining grant renewals should be received over the next two months.

Chairman Rackauskas pointed out that this grant does not keep pace with the cost and asked if the program is cut back to keep pace with what is received. Mr. Wasson responded that the program is adjusted to reflect the grant.

Mr. McIntyre asked what the future of the program is if it continues to get cut back. Mr. Wasson stated that the reductions have not been significant over the past several years in these health and family services grants. He noted that there has been some reductions in revenue and associated changes have been made in the budget to address the reductions.

Motion by Rankin/Schafer to Recommend Approval of a Renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the McLean County Circuit Clerk, Agreement No. 2011-55-007-K3G, IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program.
Motion carried.

Mr. Everhart reviewed his Statistical Reports for February 2012. He stated that there was nothing unusual to point out in the report.

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

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, reviewed the Court Services Adult/Juvenile Division Statistics for February 2012, and the Juvenile Detention Center statistics.

Ms. McCormick reminded the Committee that the next Drug Court graduation is April 12th, at 4:30 on the fifth floor of the Law and Justice Center in the Jury Assembly Room. She noted that there are currently 12 graduates, which is the largest graduating group.

Ms. McCormick announced that April 23rd is the 5th annual Drug Court Fundraiser from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Second Presbyterian Church.

Chairman Rackauskas and Ms. McCormick encouraged Committee members to attend the Drug Court graduation.

Ms. McCormick stated that there is a Recovery Court fundraiser, which is a golf outing that will be held in late summer.

Chairman Rackauskas noted that currently there are 46 individuals in Drug Court and 24 individuals in Recovery Court.

Ms. Schafer asked what the maximum number of people can be in Drug Court. Ms. McCormick replied that the maximum is 50, but 40 is a more manageable number.

Ms. McCormick advised that many of the grants that Court Services' have require an evaluation. She stated that four grant evaluators will be here the end of April for four or five days to review Drug Court and Recovery Court as well as treatment. Ms. McCormick added that the evaluation site plan is completed.

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

Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, reviewed the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Monthly Statistical Report and the CASA Report. She stated that if the Advocacy Center continues to be as busy as it is right now, it will double the numbers from last year.

Ms. Brucker indicated that CAC partnered with the State CAC Office to produce a Child Abuse Awareness postcard with information to go out to the McLean County CAC's mailing list. She added that CAC also had the opportunity to partner with the State Office in their collaboration with billboard companies statewide to provide billboard space for the month of April with the message that "It is Everyone's Job to Protect a Child" at a minimal fee.

Ms. Brucker reminded the Committee of the following events:

- April is Child Abuse Awareness Month;
- The Champion for Children Walk is Saturday, May 12, 2012 in partnership with Evergreen Cemetery at Evergreen Cemetery.

There was a brief discussion of a potential "cyber" walk. Ms. Brucker noted that one of the centers in the state did that last year.

Ms. Brucker advised that the Information Technologies Department developed an e-mail address for CAC, namely bluekids@mcleancountyil.gov.

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

Chairman Rackauskas presented a request for approval of an Agreement between the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court, the County of McLean, and the Children's Home and Aid as submitted by Mr. Will Scanlon, Administrator, Circuit Court who was unable to attend the meeting.

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Mr. Wasson stated that this Agreement with the Children's Home and Aid is a continuation of a current agreement for the Children's Waiting Room.

The Committee discussed the positive value of the Children's Waiting Room.

Motion by McIntyre/Rankin to Recommend Approval of an Agreement between the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court, the County of McLean and the Children's Home and Aid.

Motion carried.

Ms. Schafer noted that she may not be able to attend the meeting in May.

Chairman Rackauskas presented the March 31, 2012 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$750,623.08 and a Fund Total that is the same.

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Motion by Schafer/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills as of March 31, 2012, as transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

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 Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend that the Justice Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:15 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary