

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday May 1, 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, Wollrab and McKibbin

Members Absent: Member Rankin

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; Ms. Joan Naour, Director, Correctional Health Services; Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator - Eleventh Circuit Court; Mr. Ron Dozier, State's Attorney; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center

Others Present: Mr. Mark Benson, Counselor, Real Change Clinical Services (RCCS); Ms. Cathy Waltz, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center

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

Chairman Rackauskas presented the minutes from the April 3, 2012 Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by McIntyre/Wollrab to Approve the Minutes of the April 3, 2012 Meeting.
Motion carried.

Sheriff Mike Emery presented a request for approval of an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Memorial Day Highway Safety Project Agreement for dedicated traffic enforcement over the Memorial Day weekend. He noted that the County has previously participated in these grant programs. Sheriff Emery added that the Sheriff's Department staffing level is up, which makes it possible to participate in this program.

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Sheriff Emery stated that the total of the grant is \$1,530 and will be utilized to hire Deputies for overtime hours to patrol in addition to the regular patrol shifts.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there is an analysis of the effectiveness of this program. Sheriff Emery replied that his annual report provides traffic statistics that shows that when traffic enforcement is up, accidents are down.

Motion by McIntyre/McKibbin to Recommend Approval
of an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
Memorial Day Highway Safety Project Agreement.
Motion carried.

Sheriff Emery reviewed his 2011 Annual Report. He noted that there has been a steady decline over the years of crashes reported, from 437 in 2007 to 290 crashes in 2011. Sheriff Emery stated that these numbers reflect that traffic enforcement is beneficial.

Sheriff Emery reported that crashes with injuries are up slightly from 73 in 2010 to 88 in 2011. He pointed out that there were two fatalities in crashes, which are down from 5 deaths in 2010.

Sheriff Emery advised that DUI arrests were up in 2011 considerably from 124 in 2010 to 221 arrests in 2011. He pointed out that in 2010 staffing was reduced and positions were not being filled. Sheriff Emery indicated that the Sheriff's Department has filled additional vacancies and the increase has resulted in more DUI arrests.

There was a brief discussion regarding the statistics on crashes and DUI arrests as they relate to increased traffic enforcement.

Mr. McKibbin commended Sheriff Emery on his annual report.

Sheriff Emery introduced Ms. Joan Naour, Director, Correctional Health Services, and Mr. Mark Benson, Counselor, Real Change Clinical Services (RCCS), to discuss the mental health issues at the Correctional Center. He noted that the County has a contract with RCCS for counseling services. Sheriff Emery added that the psychiatric care for the inmates has been inconsistent. He stated that Ms. Naour and Mr. Benson have been working with Mr. Wasson to find reliable psychiatric care and have identified an option to stabilize the psychiatric services in the jail.

Mr. Wasson advised that the discussion today is informational only. He indicated that a formal proposal and contract is expected to be received relative to provisions for psychiatric services. Mr. Wasson added that if a contract is received within the next few days, a stand-up meeting will be held prior to the County Board Meeting on May 15th to recommend approval of the contract.

Ms. Naour explained that the effort to find psychiatric care for the Jail has been an on-going process since last November. She noted that Mr. Benson is one of the licensed clinical professional counselors who provide services at the Jail for the inmates and is also one of the co-founders of Real Change Clinical Services (RCCS). Ms. Naour stated that RCCS has been providing services since January 2010.

Ms. Naour indicated that in November 2011, the psychiatrist associated with RCCS resigned effective December 31, 2011. She noted that, since that time, every effort has been made to find a replacement. Ms. Naour indicated that, at one point, they thought a replacement had been found. She stated that the retired psychiatrist who had been offered the job was out of the country in January and February. When she returned, she declined the offer when she realized that she would have to reactivate her malpractice insurance, for a contract that was for two hours a week or four hours every other week.

Mr. Benson reported that research was conducted related to tele-psychiatry. He indicated that it is difficult to find a psychiatrist willing to come into a correctional facility. Mr. Benson stated that the group that is currently being considered is a good organization that specializes in corrections.

Ms. Naour advised that the company under consideration is called Correctional Healthcare Companies (CHC) and their regional office is in Peoria. She indicated that their proposal is that they would provide a psychiatrist for two hours per week or four hours every other week. Ms. Naour noted that four hours every other week is the preferred schedule as it is more time efficient. The company would also have on-call coverage after hours and coverage if the psychiatrist is unavailable, which is a service that has been unavailable in the past. Ms. Naour stated that the cost of this would be \$33,400, which is 6% more than the current contract pays, but there would be additional services and oversight that was not available previously. She indicated that these psychiatrists provide services in Peoria County and Champaign County and they have been very satisfied with the service.

Mr. Wasson stated that for this fiscal year, the cost will be budget neutral because there has been limited psychiatric care provided over the last five months and that care was paid on an hourly basis. Those savings would go towards the County's

ability to meet the fiscal year budget for 2012. The 6% increase will be incurred in the following year.

Ms. Naour pointed out that Correctional Healthcare Companies also has a preferred medication list, which will provide additional savings to the County in pharmaceutical costs. She noted that the County has had savings in pharmaceutical costs of approximately 16% over the years, but this should provide additional savings.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if this service is provided by teleconference and would the inmates have the same psychiatrist each time. Ms. Naour responded that this would be an on-site psychiatrist. She noted that video conferencing was investigated, but the initial cost of equipment ranged from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Ms. Naour added that video conferencing has not been ruled out in the future, but now there will be more time to research that service. She stated that the inmates would have the same on-site psychiatrist each time.

Mr. Wasson indicated that CHC has experience with tele-psychiatry as well. He noted that the company has offered to work with the County on tele-psychiatry periods when the psychiatrist is not on-site. This would give the County the opportunity to experience that type of service for potential future use.

Ms. Schafer asked if a 6% increase is a standard percentage increase in that industry. Mr. Wasson replied that the 6% increase is based upon the healthcare cpi. He indicated that proposals were received from some other agencies a couple years ago and they were considerably more than the 6% increase.

Mr. Wasson advised that CHC provides across-the-board healthcare for corrections facilities. He stated that one of the advantages of the County working with CHC in this specific area is that we will be able to begin to assess whether these types of contractual relationships may be positive for the County in the future in an effort to finding other cost savings based upon the scope and size of their organization.

Sheriff Emery pointed out that with the state closing mental health facilities, the County Jail has become a mental health facility.

Mr. McIntyre asked if a contract will be ready for review at a stand-up meeting on May 15th. Ms. Naour responded that she hopes to have a contract available at that time.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Sheriff Emery, Ms. Naour and Mr. Benson.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Administrator, Circuit Court, presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the McLean County Office of the Chief Judge, Agreement 2011-55-008-K3, Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Grant. He noted that this is grant is for the cost of a Child Support Hearing Officer.

Mr. Scanlon indicated that this is the second of three grant renewals for the Child Enforcement Program from different departments. The other departments are the Circuit Clerk's Office, which was approved last month, and the State's Attorney who will be presenting a request today.

Mr. Scanlon stated that this program is in effect from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. He advised that should the state not renew these grants, the Hearing Officer position would be eliminated.

Ms. Schafer pointed out a typographical error on the grant date on the Grant Form. Mr. Scanlon indicated that the form would be corrected for the County Board packet.

Motion by McIntyre/Schafer to Recommend Approval of a Renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the McLean County Office of the Chief Judge, Agreement No. 2011-55-008-K3, IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program.
Motion carried.

Mr. Scanlon thanked Ms. Schafer for visiting and observing Court cases on April 24th.

Mr. Ron Dozier, State's Attorney, presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the State's Attorney's Office, Agreement 2011-55-013-K3, Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Grant. He noted that the grant was cut by 7.44%. He noted that this grant supports two attorneys and two staff people.

Motion by McIntyre/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of a Renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the State's Attorney's Office, Agreement No. 2011-55-013-K3, Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program.
Motion carried.

Mr. Dozier advised that currently there is an effort to pass enabling legislation that would put enforcement into the Constitutional provision in the Illinois Victim's rights portion of the Illinois Constitution. He noted that the State's Attorney's Association has been working with the leadership in the House and Senate to take some of the more onerous provisions out of the drafts of the bill. Mr. Dozier noted that these provisions affect the Courts, the Circuit Clerk's Office and law enforcement in terms of the amount of notifications that have to be made to the victims of crimes and their rights to participate in every hearing involving the defendant.

Mr. Scanlon added that most of the provisions are to provide resources for victims to provide them the opportunity to speak in every aspect of the criminal justice process, even those processes in which the Court and the Circuit Clerk's Office are supposed to remain neutral, such as bond hearings.

Mr. Scanlon noted that this bill has not been passed through the House or the Senate at this time. Mr. Wasson added that the County lobbyists, the State's Attorneys Association, and the Circuit Clerk's Association continue to voice their opposition to this bill.

Mr. Dozier expressed his concern about the difficulty and potential expense of prosecuting identity theft. He noted that prosecution of the cases requires that the County bring witnesses in from across the country to testify to the fraudulent transactions.

Ms. Schafer asked if teleconferencing could be used to interview the victims from across the country thereby alleviating the expense of transporting the victims. Mr. Dozier replied that this may be an alternative in the future.

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

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, presented her Monthly Report for March 2012. She pointed out that the revenue numbers at the end of the first quarter were already at the 65% mark.

Ms. Kimmerling reported that beginning St. Patrick's Day weekend and for the next four weeks the number of deaths was extremely high. She noted that over St. Patrick's Day weekend there were 17 deaths, which is very unusual.

Ms. Kimmerling stated that there were over 100 out-of-County cases in March. She indicated that there is a chance that there may be as many as 600 cases at the end of the year including in-County and out-of-County cases. Ms. Kimmerling stated that the two forensic pathologists are working a split schedule to handle all of the cases.

Ms. Kimmerling advised that the morgue is being "used hard." She cautioned that she may come to the Committee to ask for additional maintenance to the morgue to deal with the large number of cases.

Ms. Schafer asked if the morgue has lost out-of-County usage or gained other counties. Ms. Kimmerling replied that the usage has remained consistent.

Mr. Wasson advised that the budget was prepared on the premise that there would be less usage of the morgue by other counties. He noted that the morgue fees were budgeted at \$17,000 to reflect that decrease, and that amount has already been surpassed. Ms. Kimmerling stated that a \$12,000 deposit was made this week. Mr. Wasson indicated that when additional expenditure requests are reviewed, those would be off-set by revenue that we had not projected.

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

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, presented his Statistical Reports for March 2012 as well as the First Quarter 2012 Statistical Reports. He stated that there was nothing unusual to point out in the report.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any 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 invited the Committee members to attend the following events:

- First Recovery Court Graduation, May 24th, 4:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room.
- Recovery Court Golf Outing, Friday, September 21st, Ironwood Golf Course.
- 5K Mud Run is in September, at the Carlock Stables, which includes an obstacle course. It is a fundraiser for Drug Court.

Ms. McCormick advised that the evaluators from the National Center for State Courts are here all week.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any 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 CASA statistics are very interesting. Ms. Brucker indicated that there is an average of 45-60 volunteers offering between 600-700 hours per month. She noted that there is currently a CASA class in training with graduation later this month.

Ms. Brucker advised that the CAC statistics are very high, with a 143% increase over last year. She stated that, with the end of April numbers, the statistics show that 89 children have been interviewed in the first quarter of 2012 as opposed to 62 children last year.

Ms. Brucker reminded the Committee of the following event:

- The Champion for Children Walk is Saturday, May 12, 2012 in partnership with Evergreen Cemetery at Evergreen Cemetery.

Ms. Brucker informed the Committee that Chairman Rackauskas is the Honorary Chair of the Walk.

Ms. Brucker reminded the Committee that CAC 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." The billboards are located at the following sites:

- Market Street (as you come from Veteran's into Bloomington);
- White Oak Park (across from Greenfield); and
- Main Street (going north, behind Monical's)

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Ms. Brucker stated that the first day the first billboard went up she received a phone call from a gentleman and he told her that he was an adult survivor of child abuse and the billboard reminded him that it is time to reach out and help kids.

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

Chairman Rackauskas presented the Public Defender's March Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender, presented the March 2012 Caseload Report.

Ms. Wollrab pointed out a typographical error on the Public Defender's Report on Page 58 of the packet. The DUI line shows an increase from 59 cases in 2011 to 68 cases in 2012 and not decreases of 15% as it reflects on the report.

Chairman Rackauskas presented the April 30, 2012 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$1,070,749.70 and a Fund Total that is the same.

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Motion by McIntyre/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills as of April 30, 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 Wollrab/Schafer to Recommend that the Justice Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:36 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary