

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday June 5, 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, Rankin and McKibbin

Members Absent: None

Other County Board
Members Present: None

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present:

Ms. Joan Naour, Director, Correctional Health Services; Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Technologies; Mr. Ron Dozier, State's Attorney; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender; Sheriff Mike Emery

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

Chairman Rackauskas called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Chairman Rackauskas presented the minutes from the May 1, 2012 Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by Rankin/McIntyre to Approve the Minutes of
the May 1, 2012 Meeting.
Motion carried.

Ms. Joan Naour, Director, Correctional Health Services presented a request for approval of a contract with Correctional Health Care Companies (CHC) for the provision of mental health services at the McLean County Detention Facility. She introduced Mr. Mark Benson, Counselor, Real Change Clinical Services (RCCS).

Ms. Naour reminded the Committee that this contract was discussed last month, but the contract was not ready to be signed. She noted that the initial contract will be eighteen months beginning July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013. Ms. Naour stated that, according to this Agreement, the Psychiatrist from Correctional Healthcare Companies will provide on-site services for four hours every other week. The Psychiatrist will evaluate the inmates, prescribe medication, if needed, and provide continuity of care.

Ms. Naour stated that the base amount for these services will be approximately \$50,100.66 for an 18 month period of time. She added that this amount is only slightly higher than what was contracted this year with RCCS, but a saving has occurred that will compensate for the slight increase.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if Ms. Naour will interview the psychiatrist. Ms. Naour replied that she has not interviewed the psychiatrist, but if the psychiatrist is not acceptable, another one will be provided. She added that she spoke with the nurses who work in Peoria and Champaign and they are both very satisfied with the psychiatrist.

Motion by Rankin/McIntyre to Recommend Approval of
a Contract with Correctional Health Care Companies
(CHC) for the Provision of Mental Health Services at
the McLean County Detention Facility.
Motion carried.

Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Technologies, presented a request for approval of a Work Order for enhancements to Image Management in the Integrated Justice System. He explained that this work order would add much additional efficiency in the State's Attorney's Office as their procedures and processes relate to how images and documents with images are managed.

Mr. Nelson stated that State's Attorney Dozier has consented to the funding, which is available in the FY'2012 budget.

Motion by Wollrab/Rankin to Recommend Approval of
a Work Order for Enhancement to Image Management
in the Integrated Justice System.
Motion carried.

Mr. Ron Dozier, State's Attorney, distributed a 2012 Drug Caseload Update Report for January 1st to May 31st 2012. He pointed out Page 3 provides a Laboratory Report from last January on two cases involving a synthetic cannabis called

“spice.” He noted that one of the two was not included as a scheduled substance in the Illinois Statutes at the time of the offense and could not be prosecuted.

Mr. Dozier announced that three Assistant State’s Attorney’s joined the office in May, and there are now three leaving in June.

Mr. Dozier submitted his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report.

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

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, presented her Monthly Report for April 2012. She advised that the Coroner’s Office was extremely busy in March, April and the first part of May. Ms. Kimmerling stated that she intends to prepare a report for the Committee that includes all of the hours worked and the times of day and week to illustrate how busy the office has been.

Ms. Kimmerling reviewed an Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association proposed IC&MEA Mutual Aid Agreement. She stated that the Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association have determined that it is in the best interests of local governments to form mutual aid alliances and pacts to provide for the coordination of planning, development of model procedures and guidelines, training, assets and resources, personnel augmentation and other necessary functions to further the provision of protection of life and property and provide for fatality management during an emergency or disaster.

Ms. Kimmerling stated that currently this type of mutual aid is provided on an informal basis and has been very successful as such. She noted that IC&MEA want the agreement to be more formalized. Ms. Kimmerling indicated that the County has three choices concerning this Agreement, namely:

- Not sign the Agreement;
- Have the Coroner of the jurisdiction sign the Agreement;
- Have the County Board sign a Resolution.

Chairman Rackauskas asked how many counties are included in the Association. Ms. Kimmerling replied that she is not sure how many are part of the Association, but there are 102 counties in Illinois that could sign this Agreement.

Ms. Schafer asked if the County would have the option to not respond to a disaster in another county if McLean County was too busy. Ms. Kimmerling replied that there is a section in the Agreement that says the County can deny the request for assistance.

Ms. Wollrab stated that she would assume that the County would be willing to assist with a major disaster in another county even without the formal Agreement. Ms. Kimmerling agreed and indicated that this is why she is comfortable continuing the more informal understanding that aid will be rendered.

Chairman Rackauskas asked what instigated the initiative to propose this formal Mutual Aid Agreement. Ms. Kimmerling replied that she does not know what instigated the proposed Agreement. She added that she wants to wait and see what other counties decide regarding the Agreement before she makes any recommendation to the Committee. Ms. Kimmerling added that she wonders if the agreement may be the result of a concern about how much "Federal" help may be forthcoming in emergencies.

Mr. Wasson advised that there are similar Intergovernmental Agreements for mutual aid that include law enforcement and emergency medical assistance already in existence. He indicated that this Agreement is not inconsistent with those types of agreements already in place. Mr. Wasson added that this Agreement references the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act and the Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners into one Agreement. He noted that time needs to be spent evaluating the contract from a legal perspective and that this is not an action item at this time.

Ms. Kimmerling reviewed the May 2012 Forensic Science Seminar Program held in conjunction with the Mclean County Funeral Directors Association, which was held on May 3, 2012. She reminded that the Committee the Coroner's office co-hosts a Forensic Science Seminar every other year for the McLean County Funeral Directors Association. Ms. Kimmerling noted that the Coroner's Office helps secure speakers and suggest topics for the seminar which is part of a continuing education requirement for the Funeral Directors Association.

Ms. Kimmerling noted that the McLean County Funeral Directors Association provides a \$1,000 contribution to the Coroner's Office for this service. She indicated that she will come before the Finance Committee when she has determined how she intends to spend the money.

Ms. Kimmerling reviewed the receipt of the IDPH Death Certificate Surcharge Grant. She advised that these monies come as a result of the Death Certificate Surcharge Fund. Ms. Kimmerling noted that this is the first time in several years that the money has been appropriated to the Coroner's Office. Each coroner in the State of Illinois received a one-time grant of \$4,000 for Fiscal Year 2012. These funds are to be used for equipment and/or supplies. Ms. Kimmerling noted that she will inform the Committee when she has determined what equipment will be purchased. She stated that potential equipment would include web-based reporting software and a new OR light in the morgue.

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 April 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 April 2012, and the Juvenile Detention Center statistics. She noted that she will have an action item next month.

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

Ms. Margie Jordan, Children's Advocacy Center, thanked Chairman Rackauskas for being the Honorary Chairman of the Champion for Children's Walk. She indicated that Chairman Rackauskas was a very inspirational "champion" for the children.

Ms. Jordan reviewed the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Monthly Statistical Report and the CASA Report. She stated that CASA has been very busy, noting that CASA has seen 25 children in a two-week period. Ms. Jordan indicated that last month the CASA volunteers advocated over 1,000 hours and the records show that 1,043 hours have been advocated in May.

Ms. Jordan reported that CAC has also been very busy. The numbers for last year at this time were 87 interviews and this year there have been 112 interviews. Ms. Jordan expressed appreciation for the support CAC receives from the Justice Committee.

Ms. Jordan invited the Committee members to attend the "Child Protection Network Night" at the Normal CornBelters game on Friday, June 22nd as part of a fundraising effort. She noted that she has tickets available for \$11.00.

Ms. Schafer asked if Ms. Jordan believes there is a correlation between the economic climate and the high number of CAC cases. Ms. Jordan replied that there are no statistics available to prove that the economy impacts the number of cases, but she believes that it does.

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

Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender, presented a request for approval of a contract between Jeff Brown, Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's office.

Motion by Rankin/McIntyre to Recommend Approval of
a Contract between Jeff Brown, Special Public
Defender, and the Public Defender's Office.
Motion carried.

Ms. Campbell presented a request for approval of a contract between Keith Davis, Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's office.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of
a Contract between Keith Davis, Special Public
Defender, and the Public Defender's Office.
Motion carried.

Ms. Campbell presented a request for approval of a contract between Alan Novick, Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's office.

Motion by Wollrab/Schafer to Recommend Approval of
a Contract between Alan Novick, Special Public
Defender, and the Public Defender's Office.
Motion carried.

Ms. Campbell presented a request for approval of a contract between David Rumley, Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's office.

Motion by Schafer/McKibbin to Recommend Approval of a Contract between David Rumley, Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's Office.
Motion carried.

Ms. Campbell presented a request for approval of a contract between John Wright, Jr., Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's office.

Motion by McKibbin/Rankin to Recommend Approval of a Contract between John Wright, Jr., Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's Office.
Motion carried.

Ms. Campbell reviewed her Monthly Caseload Report. She pointed out the felony caseload is up 40%. Ms. Campbell added that she is currently down one felony attorney, but a new attorney is starting on Monday.

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

Sheriff Mike Emery presented a request for approval of an On-Line Training Agreement between Essential Learning, LLC ("EL") and the McLean County Sheriff. Sheriff Emery explained that this is on-line educational courses for Correctional Officers. He indicated that the on-line courses will make it possible for the Officers to study the courses and take their tests during work hours, which will be cost-effective for the Department. Sheriff Emery stated that the American Jail Association, the ATA and Sam Houston University in Texas have all provided their stamp approval on this course.

Sheriff Emery advised that McLean County is fortunate in that the Assistant Superintendent of the Jail, Jamey Kessinger, is one of only seven certified Jail Administrators in the State of Illinois. He stated that Mr. Kessinger was recently elected to the National Board for the American Jail Association, which has resulted in several opportunities for the County, including a 15% reduction in cost for this training.

Sheriff Emery indicated that this type of in-house training will save on General Fund expenditures for training jail staff and will reduce expenses to the Mobile Team Unit that is more geared toward law enforcement training as opposed to Correctional training. He advised that it will be possible to use money from the Federally funded State Criminal Alien Assistance ("SCAP") Grant to pay for the \$4,100 cost of the training.

Sheriff Emery stated that the term of this Agreement is for one-year, with automatic renewal for a second year at the same cost. The Agreement can be renewed for a third year with no more than a 3% increase in cost.

Sheriff Emery reminded the Committee that he is committed to education and training of the Sheriff's Department staff. He believes that the statistics through Risk Management would show that the training reduces the liability of lawsuits and Worker's Compensation claims.

Sheriff Emery indicated that the \$2,500 one-time implementation fee is a setup fee to get on-line. He reiterated that the in-house, on-line training is a cost-effective method of training, including savings of overtime pay for replacement staff that would be necessary if the Officers needed to go off-campus for the training.

Sheriff Emery noted that there is a 60-day termination policy should he feel it is necessary. He is confident that the program will be successful.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if the Sheriff will preview the program. Sheriff Emery replied that all three administrators in the Jail and he will preview the program.

Ms. Wollrab asked if the on-line training will make it easier to track the training for each of the Officers. Sheriff Emery replied that it will make it much easier to track the training. Ms. Wollrab asked if the County would still have access to the records should the contract be terminated in the future. Sheriff Emery responded that if the contract is terminated, he would make sure that all of the training records were collected first.

Sheriff Emery noted that Illinois has passed Legislation for Correctional Facilities, called PREA (Prison Rate Elimination Act), which also applies to county detention facilities. This is mainly for facilities that houses 1,000 or more inmates. Sheriff Emery noted that those counties with 1,000 or more inmates will be expected to hire a coordinator specific to the Prison Reduction Elimination Act to make sure their facilities are following all of the guidelines within this legislation. He indicated that it will not be necessary to create or hire a coordinator position.

Motion by Wollrab/McIntyre to Recommend Approval
of an On-Line Training Agreement between Essential
Learning, LLC and the McLean County Sheriff.
Motion carried.

Sheriff Emery stated that he will provide periodic reports on the training.

Sheriff Emery reviewed the Jail Population Report. He indicated that the County has gone nine months without having to house any inmates out-of-County. Sheriff Emery stated that it is his goal to go an entire year (August 2nd) without housing prisoners out-of-County. He reminded the Committee that successful management of the Jail population has been accomplished by the efforts of a lot of people within our system, including the Chief Felony Judge, State's Attorney's Office, Court Services, etc.

Mr. McIntyre asked what would happen if an Officer failed to pass one of the tests on the on-line courses. Sheriff Emery replied that the Jail Administration will be notified and the employee is given another opportunity to study the material with the assistance of Jail Administration and take the test again. He noted that the employee will not be given the answers to the test, but assistance will be provided to help the officer understand the policies and procedures.

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

Chairman Rackauskas presented the May 31, 2012 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$920,680.97 and a Fund Total that is the same.

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Motion by Wollrab/McKibbin to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills as of May 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 McIntyre/Schafer to Recommend that the Justice Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:35 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary