

McLean County
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Executive Committee Meeting
June 13, 2012

Present: Judge Robert Freitag, Sheriff Mike Emery, Kim Campbell, William Scanlon, Dr. Frank Beck and Dr. Ed Wells (ISU Stevenson Center)

William Scanlon discussed his concerns about the availability of language interpreters in the courtroom. He is interested in determining if other jurisdictions use a process or screening tool to determine if a defendant speaks English or understands English. He shared with the group that the IL Supreme Court is considering adopting rules requiring certification of interpreters. This will reduce the available pool of interpreters and may increase the costs of interpreter services. The matter was tabled following a brief discussion.

Dr. Frank Beck and Dr. Wells outlined the problems which arose with the analysis in May of the April 2012 data set from McLean County. They have taken several steps to try to identify the problem, but have not been able to do so. Dr. Beck will be looking at January, May and June simultaneously to try to determine if this is a software or data issue.

There will still be a data report from the Stevenson Center for the July 5 meeting.

William Scanlon was asked to check with the EJS Database Administrator (John Jongky) to determine if any of the table structures have been altered since April. (Ed. – *Initial reports are that all changes were to the financial processing functions and should not affect the table structure for the data elements being reported to ISU, but the EJS personnel will double check and report back.*)

There was a long discussion regarding possible avenues for new research –

- The process to quantify variations in sentencing between judges, over time and between defendants was discussed. The lack of consistent data on previous criminal history will make this virtually impossible to complete.
- Time to disposition in felony cases - time from arraignment to plea, from plea to sentence, and from arraignment to trial, number of appearances prior to disposition and total number of judges who hear the case. Following discussion, this is the most likely avenue for further data analysis.

William Scanlon was asked to circulate disposition guidelines to the Executive Committee and ISU Stevenson Center.

The Executive Committee will consider a process for strategic planning in July (informally) and will discuss at the August meeting.

Next Meetings: **CJCC Council – July 5 at 1: 00 p.m.**
 Executive Committee – August 8 at 7:45 a.m.