

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Caisley; Members McIntyre, Soeldner, Rankin, Schafer, and Wollrab

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. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney

Others Present: None

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

Chairman Caisley presented the March 5, 2013 Justice Committee Minutes for Approval.

Motion by Soeldner/Schafer to Approve the Minutes of the March 5, 2013 Meeting.
Motion carried.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, reviewed her February 2013 Monthly Report. She advised that she has added a page called "Out of County Autopsy Breakdown." Ms. Kimmerling pointed out that the February breakdown sheet was incorrect and she distributed a corrected copy.

Ms. Kimmerling noted that Sangamon County had the most out-of-county autopsies with 22 autopsies performed in January, and Tazewell County had the most in February with nine autopsies.

Ms. Wollrab suggested that the heading "Autopsies" be changed to "McLean County Autopsies." Ms. Schafer suggested that the section "Scene Responses" be made into a table rather than script to match the rest of the report.

Mr. Soeldner asked what "Private" means on the Autopsy breakdown report. Ms. Kimmerling replied that "private" means that the family has requested an autopsy at their own expense after the Coroner deems one unnecessary.

Ms. Kimmerling reported that Mr. Patrick Fox, a part-time Deputy Coroner, recently attended a Crime Scene Technology school, and is now certified to photograph and collect evidence at crime scenes.

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

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk presented his February 2013 Statistical Reports. He indicated that there was nothing unusual in the reports.

Chairman Caisley asked Mr. Everhart if he was planning to attend the Information Technologies "field trip" to Rantoul to learn about document storage. Mr. Everhart replied that he is planning to attend.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Everhart.

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, presented a request for approval to apply for a grant through the U.S. Department of Justice for Smart Probation funding. She indicated that the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance has a three year grant award for Smart Probation funding up to \$250,000 per year available with a deadline for application of May 9, 2013. Ms. McCormick stressed that she is only in the beginning stages of determining whether or not to apply for the grant.

Ms. McCormick advised that the goal of this program is to develop and test innovative strategies and to implement evidence-based probation approaches that increase community safety and reduce violent crime by effectively addressing individuals' risk and needs, and reduce recidivism.

Ms. McCormick stated that she would foresee that this proposal would be a collaborative effort including those entities that are members of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, as well as partnering with a research organization that has demonstrated expertise in conducting work of this type.

Ms. Wollrab asked what types of programs might be developed. Ms. McCormick replied that this is what she will be exploring. She stated that she talked with the National Center for State Courts because it would require a research evaluation component and it would have to be an organization that the Bureau and the Federal Government knows and has a good relationship with. Ms. McCormick added that the National Center that is doing the evaluation of the SAMHSA Grant has indicated that they would be willing to be a partner in this endeavor.

Ms. McCormick stated that there are many evidence-based programs that could be considered for this grant, including the list she provided on her memo in the packet. She indicated that the goal would be to do the best in regards to the whole County and not just probation.

Chairman Caisley asked if this program would need to continue after the three years without a grant. Ms. McCormick replied that it depends upon the program. The goal would be for the program to become sustainable.

Motion by Wollrab/McIntyre to Recommend Approval to
Apply for a Grant through the U.S. Department of
Justice for Smart Probation funding.
Motion carried.

Ms. McCormick reviewed her Monthly reports.

Ms. Wollrab asked if the Probation Officers' schedules are increasing. Ms. McCormick replied that it is very cyclical; it goes up and it goes down.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he 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 noted that the CAC statistics are running about the same as this time last year.

Ms. Brucker reminded the Committee that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. She noted that yard signs are available in the Administrator's Office or in the CAC Office.

Ms. Brucker stated that they are starting again on the Darkness to Light Education and Prevention Program for adults who are working in either a professional capacity or a volunteer capacity to be trained to recognize what to look for in child abuse and how to respond appropriately.

Ms. Brucker announced that this is the 6th year for the annual Champion for Children Walk. This year it is called the "Superhero Walk" and will be held at Evergreen Cemetery (302 East Miller Street, Bloomington) on May 4th at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Brucker indicated that she recently heard a presentation by Mr. Juan Ortiz who speaks nationally and internationally on issues related to child victimization of abuse and neglect. She noted that he is now Senior Vice President for a Fortune 500 company. Ms. Brucker stated that Mr. Ortiz talks about his personal experience having been a child victim and what has happened to him as an adult in his survivorship role. She advised that she was able to meet with him and he has agreed to come here for the CAC Fall Training on September 27th. Mr. Ortiz will provide a morning presentation that will be partnered with the ISU School of Social Work and will be held at the Bone Student Center.

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

Chairman Caisley presented the Public Defender's February Monthly report as submitted by Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender. There were no questions on the report.

Chairman Caisley presented the Sheriff's Department March Detention Facility Population Report as submitted by Sheriff Mike Emery. There were no questions on the report.

Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney, reviewed his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report. He noted that he and two staff members plan to attend the trip to Rantoul.

Chairman Caisley explained to the Committee that one concern discovered in the Committee's visits to offices in the Law and Justice Center is the need for records management. He indicated that he talked with Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Technologies, and told him about the storage issues. Chairman Caisley advised that Mr. Nelson had recently received some information about a company in Rantoul, Illinois that is presenting a program on April 10th, "A Roadmap to a Digital Future," particularly as it relates to document lifecycle

management. He stated that the company has invited McLean County representatives to attend this presentation and tour. Chairman Caisley invited members of the Committee to attend. None of the Committee members were available.

Mr. Wasson advised that the biggest concern is the day to day access to files and file storage. He noted that most departments are aggressively working to manage storage issues but are limited by time. This presentation may offer alternatives to assist in storage management.

Mr. Chambers indicated that many of the file problems in the State's Attorney's Office are with closed cases that are required to be kept for three years. He added that there are some files in the office that are ten years old that physically need to be referred to from time to time, so there is no digital fix for that.

Chairman Caisley suggested that a portion of the Fairview Building might be considered as a facility to store documents and digitize recording.

Mr. Soeldner asked for an update on the Beaman Certificate of Innocence Case as it relates to the article in the *Pantagraph*.

Mr. Chambers stated that the State's Attorney's Office asked to be an intervener in the Certificate of Innocence Claim in 2009 or 2010 to make sure that the investigation was thorough. He indicated that based on recent information received he determined that it was prudent to end the opposition to Mr. Beaman's request for a Certificate of Innocence. Mr. Chambers reiterated that this is separate from whether or not the Governor will grant him executive clemency.

Mr. Chambers explained that someone can be granted a Certificate of Innocence and still be re-tried and convicted of the crime. If someone receives a pardon or executive clemency, they can no longer be tried for the crime.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Chambers.

Mr. Wasson stated that if a Board member would like to have a tablet to be used for County business only, please let the Administrator's Office know. Mr. Soeldner indicated that he would like to be added to that list. Mr. Wasson indicated that instructions and information will be provided in the next few days.

Mr. Wasson stated that April 22nd is the “Drug Court Recovery Starts Today” luncheon. The County Administrator’s Office will have at least one table and maybe two tables. Mr. Wasson asked the Committee members who are interested in attending on April 22nd at 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Second Presbyterian Church to please contact the Administrator’s Office.

Chairman Caisley noted that there are a few more departments to tour, including the Juvenile Detention Center, Court Services and a return trip the Circuit Clerk’s Office at the request of Mr. Everhart. After a brief discussion, the Committee decided to meet at the Juvenile Detention Center on Tuesday, May 7th at 2:30 p.m. for a tour of that facility prior to the Justice Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Caisley advised that a meeting was held with Mr. Wasson, Ms. Eisner, Mr. Walt Howe, Health Department Administrator, and he to discuss getting mentally ill inmates that have been discharged from the County Jail into treatment on an expedited basis. He noted that the inmates are discharged from the jail with two weeks’ worth of medication and there can be a four-week wait for them to be seen.

Mr. Wasson reviewed the meeting, noting that the general discussion was focused on the two programs available through the Mental Health Board, namely:

- Crisis Intervention;
- Program for non-Medicaid eligible individuals.

Mr. Wasson advised that there was discussion on possible remedies to address the wait not only for released inmates, but for the community in general. He noted that there are a limited number of options relative to psychiatric services.

Mr. Wasson indicated that Sheriff Emery was working on increasing statistical information to assess the recidivism rate of mentally ill inmates by instituting new tracking measures.

Mr. Wasson stated that Mr. Howe expressed a willingness discuss options to try to address these issues. Mr. Wasson noted that the potential of receiving additional information from the Stevenson Center and CJCC will assist in this process.

Mr. Wasson stated that there was some discussion on whether it would be possible to utilize other providers to assist with this problem, particularly with respect to medication. He added that once those statistical numbers are available, it would be possible to engage in an active discussion of what can be done to address the issues of mental health within the community.

Chairman Caisley advised that the County's Mental Health levy currently yields about \$960,000 a year in tax revenue, which is distributed, by contract, to a number of local agencies including Project Oz, PATH, and Chestnut Health Systems. He noted that the largest beneficiary of that is the McLean County Center for Human Services and they get approximately \$690,000 per year. Chairman Caisley indicated that we are not levying at the maximum amount that we could for mental health, but any increase in the levy would raise the County's tax rate, which may not be a viable solution at this time. Chairman Caisley expressed concern that the County should ensure that they have more input in the distribution of the funds.

Mr. McIntyre asked what the Crisis Intervention program is. Mr. Wasson replied that the Crisis Program is for those individuals who are a threat to themselves or a physical threat to others.

Ms. Wollrab asked if the issue is that when a mental health inmate leaves the Jail with two weeks' worth of medication, the individual still has to wait four weeks for treatment. Mr. Wasson replied that the two week gap is one of the major concerns to discuss.

Mr. McIntyre asked if a person is in a program and on medication before being incarcerated, can't the individual return to their program upon release from Jail. Mr. Wasson advised that the goal would be to get someone into treatment within two weeks to keep them medicated without the gap. He stated that Mr. McIntyre's question is certainly part of the issues that we are trying to solve. Mr. Wasson noted that both Sheriff Emery and Mr. Howe are willing to work on this issue by collecting data and meeting with the necessary people to discuss ways to address the problems.

Ms. Schafer asked if the Health Department is accountable to the County Board for how the funds are spent. Mr. Wasson replied that, under statute, the Board of Health is entitled to make decisions relative to the expenditure of those funds. Mr. Wasson added that we are working to develop better communication with the Board of Health regarding such issues.

Ms. Schafer indicated that she would like input into how the funds are expended by the Health Department and Board of Health. Mr. Wasson responded that the Board of Health will be involved in discussions in the future. Mr. McIntyre noted that Mr. Owens is the County Board representative on the Board of Health.

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Ms. Wollrab asked if some of these issues might be resolved after January 1, 2014 when the President's Healthcare Reform Act goes into effect. Mr. Wasson replied that he is not sure at what level the benefits will be to do this. He stated that he does not believe the Program will replace the Indigent Pharmaceutical Program with the plans available with the exchanges.

Chairman Caisley presented the March 31, 2013 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$602,510.13 and a Fund Total that is the same.

Motion by McIntyre/Schafer to Recommend Approval of
the Justice Committee Bills as of March 31, 2013 as
transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

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Chairman Caisley asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary