

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

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. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Will Scanlon, Circuit Court Administrator; Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Sheriff Mike Emery; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Ms. Jeanene Payne, Director, Correctional Health Services

Others Present: Dr. Frank Beck, Stevenson Center, Illinois State University; Ms. Shelly Butler, Clinic Nurse for Health Services, McLean County Jail

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

Chairman Caisley presented the December 3, 2013 Justice Committee Minutes for Approval.

Motion by Soeldner/Rankin to Approve the Minutes of the December 3, 2013 Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Caisley presented the Coroner's November 2013 Monthly Report as submitted by Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner. He pointed out that the County continues to service Sangamon County.

Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, reviewed the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Monthly Statistical Report and the CASA Report. She pointed out that the CAC statistics ended the year a little bit higher than last year, which was predicted. The CASA statistics ended the year a little bit lower because there were seven fewer CASA volunteers advocating this year. Ms. Brucker noted that CASA advocated for 139 children providing almost 9,000 hours of advocacy.

Ms. Brucker stated that the Advocacy Center interviewed 261 children year to date, which is over the 237 children last year. The CASA volunteers advocated for 139 children with 60 active CASA volunteers. The number of CASA volunteer hours was 8,961.5.

There was a discussion on the fact that there were seven fewer CASA volunteers. Ms. Brucker indicated that there is part of a general ebb and flow of volunteers as new volunteers come in while others take a break after a long case.

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

Mr. Will Scanlon, Circuit Court Administrator, introduced Dr. Frank Beck of the Stevenson Center at Illinois State University.

Mr. Scanlon distributed the Jury Commission Annual Report submitted by Mr. Jason Dazey, Jury Coordinator.

Mr. Scanlon reported that beginning October 1st a change in policy was instituted by the Court to not feed the jurors unless they were in deliberation. He stated that prior to instituting that policy the average cost for juror meals was \$1,752 a month. Currently, that cost is \$215 per month.

Mr. Scanlon presented a request for approval of an Amendment to the Children's Waiting Room Agreement. He reviewed the history of the Agreement between the County and the Children's Home & Aid Society to provide a Children's Waiting Room facility in the Law and Justice Center. Mr. Scanlon noted that the Waiting Room annually handles around 1,000 children throughout the year when parents are involved in court issues. He indicated that this is funded through an \$8.00 fee attached to Civil Filing, through statute, and approved by the County Board in 2004. Annually, the filing fee brings in approximately \$33,000.

There was a discussion on the occupancy and the cost of the maintaining the room. Mr. Scanlon noted that the cost never goes above the available funds. He added that, when the waiting room is at capacity, they have had to turn people away, but that is very rare.

Motion by Schafer/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of
an Amendment to the Children's Waiting Room
Agreement.
Motion carried.

Mr. Scanlon presented a request for approval of the renewal of the contract with Illinois State University Stevenson Center for consulting services for the McLean County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). He reminded the Committee that, since 2010, the ISU Stevenson Center has provided data analysis of the jail population, mentally ill population and comparisons with the population of McLean County and other similarly sized counties in Illinois. Mr. Scanlon reviewed the history of services provided by Dr. Beck and the Stevenson Center, as well as projects done by Dr. Wells, who recently passed away.

Mr. Scanlon advised that this is essentially the same contract that has been presented every year to the Committee, except that the Stevenson Center, which is on a state fiscal year, has asked the County to move the contract to a state fiscal year model (July 1 – June 30) to assist them in planning their budgeting and staffing for the project. He noted that to assist in that effort, this contract is for the period of January 1 – June 2014. Mr. Scanlon added that, in May, an extension will be requested to continue with the state budget cycle.

Mr. Beck distributed and reviewed statistical reports provided by Stevenson Center, including the following:

- Numbers of Separate Bookings by Year, Comparison of 2007-2013;
- Number of Separate Bookings by Severity of Charge and year, Comparison of 2007-2013;
- Total Bed Days Used by Severity of Charge and Year, Comparison of 2007-2013;
- Average Bed Days Used by Ethnicity and Year, Comparison of 2007-2013;
- Median Length of Time for Case Processing by Interval and Class of Felony (2007-2010);
- Median Length of Time for Case Processing by Interval and year for Felonies (2007-2010).

Mr. Beck stressed that the statistics are just that, statistics. He advised that the statistics show that the jail is being managed for more serious offenses, but what policies exist in order to create that and what the demographics are of the community are separate things. Mr. Beck stated that the statistics show that the jail usage has changed, but does not provide information on how.

Mr. Scanlon indicated that some of the programs that have been developed over the past six or seven years have contributed to the changes in the jail population, including Pre-trial Services and Diversion Programs such as Drug Court and Recovery Court.

Mr. Rankin stated that the numbers are not an attempt to suggest why the values are what they are, but simply show that this is the truth in numbers, such as how many booking there have been and how long the length of stay is. He cautioned that these numbers are not trying to tell a story of why things are the way they are. Mr. Rankin asked if the data provides information to be interpreted so that a direction to take can be determined. Mr. Beck responded that that is the intention of the statistics.

Mr. Rankin expressed concern that statistics can be very misleading because statistics don't provide the appropriate background to draw the correct conclusions. Mr. Scanlon replied that the CJCC is aware of the limitations that are present in the data. Dr. Beck stated that as the CJCC and its committees review the data, they will come up with questions and those questions will guide what the Stevenson Center does in answering those questions. He indicated that the goal of the CJCC is to guide the direction of the analysis.

Dr. Beck advised that the CJCC has directed the Stevenson Center to complete the following tasks in 2014:

- Additional services to provide case management and case processing data to the Circuit Court;
- Refocus certain data analysis efforts on a common definition of recidivism, and determine if there are strategies or conceptual models which may assist Court Services or other entities in reducing recidivism;
- Begin multivariate analysis which may assist the Court and jail staff in making determinations regarding length of stay in custody.

Motion by Soeldner/Schafer to Recommend Approval of the Renewal of the Contract with Illinois State University Stevenson Center for Consulting Services for the McLean County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.
Motion carried.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Scanlon and Dr. Beck.

Ms. Jeanene Payne, Director, Correctional Health Services, presented a request for approval of a 2014 Physician Contract Amendment between OSF Healthcare Systems and McLean County Correctional Health Services. She indicated that the amendment to the two-year contract is a 4% compensation increase.

Mr. Wasson noted that this contract is consistent with the contract approved last month for the Juvenile Detention Center.

Motion by Schafer/Rankin to Recommend Approval of a 2014 Physician Contract Amendment between OSF Healthcare Systems and McLean County Correctional Health Services.
Motion carried.

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

Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney, reviewed his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report.

Mr. Rankin asked how useful the statistics prepared by the Stevenson Center are to the State's Attorney's Office. Mr. Chambers replied that the statistics are a valuable internal tool.

Mr. Chambers advised that he believes that the people who need to be in jail are the ones who are a potential danger to the public or those who are charged with a severe crime and who will not show up for court.

Mr. Soeldner pointed out that the Juvenile Delinquent arrests have doubled in the past year. Mr. Chambers replied that one of the causes for the increase is that the age changed to include 17-year olds. Other causes for the increase include a change in the reporting and an increase in delinquency in the summer months, as well as mental health issues.

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

Chairman Caisley presented the Public Defender's November Monthly Report as submitted by Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender who was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, presented his November 2013 Statistical Reports. He noted there was nothing significant to note.

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

Sheriff Mike Emery expressed his appreciation on the approval of the Stevenson Institute contract. He advised that they are an integral part of the CJCC in providing the data and guidance on what the CJCC needs to do.

Sheriff Emery presented a request for approval of a bid by Ray O'Herron Co. for Uniform and Equipment Purchase. He advised that, on October 31, 2013 requests for bids for uniforms and equipment were sent to vendors. Sheriff Emery indicated that the only bid received was from Ray O'Herron Co. who has been the vendor for several years. He recommended that Ray O'Herron Co. be the preferred vendor for uniforms and equipment in 2014.

Sheriff Emery advised that the bid with Ray O'Herron basically sets a maximum price for the year, but does not limit the Sheriff's Department from making purchases from other vendors at a reduced price.

Mr. Soeldner asked if the prices increase every year. Sheriff Emery replied that the prices usually increase by approximately 2.5% overall, but some items can actually be less.

Motion by Schafer/McIntyre to Recommend Approval of
the Bid by Ray O'Herron Co. for Uniform and
Equipment Purchase.
Motion carried.

Sheriff Emery reviewed the December 2013 Detention Facility Population report.

Mr. Rankin asked how the Stevenson Center statistics assist the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Emery replied that the information is useful to the entire Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. He advised that the data provided by the Stevenson Center shows what is happening in "real time."

Sheriff Emery indicated that it has been necessary to house inmates out-of-County since 1995. Sheriff Emery credits the recent reduction of housing inmates out-of-County to the institution of the CJCC in 2009, after which the Stevenson Center was contracted to provide statistics. He noted that with the EJS System, information was being entered into the system that could then be taken out and used as a valuable tool. Sheriff Emery indicated that the Stevenson Center has created this data from that information for the CJCC to assist in determining where the County needs to look to see what needs to be done to solve problems in the system to manage the population.

Sheriff Emery pointed out that the Stevenson Center is an independent agency. He noted the honesty and integrity within that system with the Stevenson Center. Sheriff Emery expressed to the Committee how valuable he believes the CJCC and the work being done by the Stevenson Center are to the County.

Chairman Caisley announced that the Board of Health will be meeting tomorrow night, January 8th at 5:30 p.m. in Room 322, 200 W. Front Street. He encouraged Committee members to attend. He indicated that an effort will be made to persuade the Board of Health to develop some type of contractual relationship that will care for people who have been discharged from the County jail to make sure they receive continued medication.

Ms. Schafer asked if the Sheriff's Department will receive a list of people who have applied for a "concealed carry" license and will they have the ability to deny the license to some individuals. Sheriff Emery replied that every Sheriff's Office and Police Agency in the State of Illinois will have access to the objection application database by Administrative Order of the Director of the State Police. The Sheriff's Department can go in and view all McLean County applications that have been filed by citizens and do a local records-check that the Illinois State Police may not have access to. Sheriff Emery indicated that the Sheriff's Department can file, on line, an objection and provide that information.

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

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, presented her Monthly reports.

Ms. McCormick answered the question about delinquency petitions. She indicated that the reporting system changed mid-year, which caused the statistics to show an increase in Pre-Sentence Investigations (PSI's).

Ms. McCormick advised that she has been fortunate to be part of the Executive Committee on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and believes that the collaboration among that Executive Committee is something that she wishes would have always been there. She stated that she believes that one of the strengths of the Stevenson Center is that it is a neutral entity that is able to question why things are done the way they are. Ms. McCormick indicated that the collaboration that has happened and the strategic planning that has been done are essential in moving forward.

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

Mr. Wasson advised that while we have done much work in identifying and obtaining the statistics that we need, we are just beginning the process of cause and effect analysis.

Mr. Wasson indicated that a few weeks ago there was an article in the *Pantagraph* where Mr. Barr from the Center for Human Services stated that they had been sharing proposals and ideas, via Kathy Sallee of the Center for Human Services who has been at the last two Justice Committee meetings relative to the challenges the County has encountered with referrals for former inmates of the Adult Corrections Facilities. Mr. Wasson noted that the Center for Human Services is, in fact, sharing proposals and ideas with the County relative to the issues and we have asked for additional data and information.

Mr. Wasson stated that the County has been able to streamline communications, which he credits to the Jail Staff and the Health Department staff working together, and to CHS staff. He indicated that improvement has been seen in referral processes and hope that it continues as information continues to be shared. Mr. Wasson added that the Health Department is also looking at this issue in an attempt to identify possible solutions to meet these challenges long-term.

Mr. Rankin referred to Article 7, Section 4, Paragraph C of the Illinois Constitution that states that each county shall elect a Sheriff, County Clerk and Treasurer; and may elect or appoint a Coroner, Recorder, Assessor and an Auditor and other such offices as provided by law. He indicated that of the "may elect or appoint" two of

the four have become appointed positions. Mr. Rankin noted that two other positions, namely the Coroner and Auditor, are still elected. He stated that he will discuss the position of Coroner as it is under the purview of the Justice Committee.

Mr. Rankin asked for information about the options of potentially changing the office of the Coroner, but not eliminating the functions of it in any way. He indicated that this office has concerned him because a Coroner is an elected official with no required qualifications outside of an electoral victory. Mr. Rankin asked for the following information:

- What is the deadline for getting a ballot initiative on the November General Election ballot to change or modify the elected position of the County Coroner?
- If we modify the position, what are the legal alternatives such as the appointment of a coroner or medical examiner?
- What are other counties doing and do other counties operate with something other than an elected Coroner's position?

Mr. Rankin advised that none of this request is because he does not like the job the Coroner is doing or has any personal feelings about the individual. He indicated that he believes the current Coroner does a fantastic job, but he is concerned that the next Coroner that is elected may not be as qualified.

Chairman Caisley stated that the Medical Examiner position in Cook County was set up by statute. Mr. Rankin acknowledged that it would take a County-wide referendum to eliminate the Office of the Coroner, changing the functions into an office of the Medical Examiner to do all of the same functions and policies as done previously.

Mr. Wasson stated that he can provide information next month.

Ms. Wollrab asked that a spreadsheet be prepared that shows the various percentage or dollar amount increases in contracts in all of the various departments so that we know at budget time next year that these are things that we have agreed to after having done our due diligence in getting the best prices possible. She pointed out that the County has consistently found ways to accommodate these increases without increasing taxes. Mr. Wasson replied that a spreadsheet could be prepared for contractual service items that come to the Board. He indicated that a draft can be prepared for next month that he will share with Ms. Wollrab to see if they meet her desires.

Justice Committee
January 7, 2014
Page Ten

Chairman Caisley presented a request from the Auditor for inter-departmental transfers in the Court Services Department in the amount of \$30,400.

Motion by Soeldner/Schafer to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills and transfers as of December 31, 2013 as transmitted by the County Auditor.

Chairman Caisley presented the December 31, 2013 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$595,395.10 and a Fund Total that is the same.

Motion by McIntyre/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills and transfers as of December 31, 2013 as transmitted by the County Auditor.

Motion carried.

Justice Committee
January 7, 2014
Page Eleven

Chairman Caisley asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary