

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, May 6, 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, Schafer, Wollrab and McIntyre

Other County Board
Members Present: Member Soeldner

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney; Mr. Will Scanlon, Circuit Court Administrator;

Others Present: Mr. Rusty Thomas, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Lt. John Sandage, Sheriff's Department; Ms. Cathy Waltz, Superintendent, JDC

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

Chairman Caisley presented the April 1, 2014 Justice Committee Minutes for Approval.

Motion by McIntyre/Rankin to Approve the Minutes of the April 1, 2014 Meeting.
Motion carried.

Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, reviewed the Children's Advocacy Center report. She noted that at the end of April the statistics were the same as last year, with 79 children being seen since January.

Ms. Brucker stated that there are 45 active CASA volunteers serving 87 children. There are eight new CASA's in training.

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

Chairman Caisley indicated that the State's Attorney, Circuit Court and Circuit Clerk Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Grants will be considered together, as follows:

- Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney presented a request for approval of the Renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the State's Attorney's Office, Agreement 2014-55-013-K2E.
- Mr. Will Scanlon, Circuit Court Administrator presented a request for approval of the renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the McLean County Office of the Chief Judge, Agreement 2015-55-008-K, Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Grant.
- Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, presented a request for approval of a Renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Circuit Clerk's Office, Agreement #2015-55-007-KK, Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Grant.

Mr. McIntyre asked if the collection of child support has improved. Mr. Chambers replied that if the economy picks up, payments will increase.

Chairman Caisley asked if the Circuit Clerk's Office is still using the Gavel System. Mr. Everhart replied that the Gavel System is still being used for Child Support, but other options are being investigated.

Mr. Scanlon noted that the Courts portion of this contract for a Hearing Officer will end on June 30, 2015. He indicated that a full-time judge will be assigned to those cases on July 1, 2015. Mr. Scanlon stated that he will return to the Justice Committee in June with a request for a revised Hearing Officer contract that reflects that change.

Chairman Caisley asked why this contract is expiring. Mr. Scanlon replied that the Department has made a more stringent cost benefit analysis test and we are one of the few counties with a Hearing Officer and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services has set the bar at a performance level that we are unlikely to meet, so they are going to terminate the contract. Mr. Chambers added that the Department of Healthcare and Family Services has been looking to make cuts on this program state-wide. He noted that the State's Attorney's Office may be the only program not asked to take a cut. Mr. Scanlon acknowledged that the Family Court Judges will have to pick up another full day of court each after July 1, 2015.

After a brief discussion on potential options to avoid putting additional work on the judges, the Committee determined that this program will be evaluated further during the planning cycle for the 2015 budget.

Chairman Caisley asked for a motion to recommend the grants.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of the Renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the State's Attorney's Office, Agreement 2014-55-013-K2E, to Recommend Approval of the renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the McLean County Office of the Chief Judge, Agreement 2015-55-008-K, Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Grant; and Recommend Approval of a Renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Circuit Clerk's Office, Agreement #2015-55-007-KK, Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Grant.

Motion carried.

Mr. Chambers reviewed his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report. He pointed out that the statistics were up for April. Mr. Chambers indicated that the figures go up and down.

Mr. Chambers referred to previous conversations regarding uses of the Asset Forfeiture Funds. He distributed a picture of the State's Attorney's file storage room that illustrated the need for new filing cabinets. Mr. Chambers stated that money from the Asset Forfeiture Funds will be used to purchase file cabinets at a cost of about \$15,000. He noted that the bulk of that cost will be for rolling filing cabinets that slide.

There was a discussion on potential spaces to house some of these files, including the facility in Rantoul, as well as a discussion on the potential of digitizing the closed files. Mr. Chambers stated that Asset Forfeiture Funds could be used for storage costs and some of the cost to digitize the files. He cautioned that there would likely be personnel costs related to digitizing the files. Mr. Chambers added that it would also be necessary to develop a new document retention contract with the State in order to digitize and then destroy the physical files.

Mr. Chambers stated that Asset Forfeiture Funds have also been used to purchase tablets for Assistant State's Attorney's to do screening in the courtroom while they are waiting for trials to begin.

Mr. Rankin asked Mr. Chambers to provide a written report sometime in the future on the potential of digitizing the files.

Mr. Chambers noted that the University of Illinois has a Fellowship Program where they will pay a stipend to a new graduate to practice as an ASA in a county, which

is about half of what would be paid as salary to someone. The graduate would be sworn in as an Assistant State's Attorney in whichever county they are working and the county is required to provide office space, mentoring and allow them to practice as an Assistant State's Attorney. Mr. Chambers stated that for the cost of the office space and mentoring them, the County would get a free Assistant State's Attorney. He indicated that he just receive eight resumes yesterday, but has only one available office to place someone.

Mr. Wasson referred back to the issue on file retention, and clarified that the facility in Rantoul stores files and can provide electronic documents upon request to the public agency while they are storing the files to meet the record retention requirements for the public entity. He asked if this is the intent of the Committee for Mr. Chambers to review. Mr. Rankin replied that that would be one option. He added that he would like to explore various options for storage. Mr. Wasson noted that there is another company in Lincoln, Illinois that does similar work.

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

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk reviewed his March 2014 Statistical Reports and the Quarterly Statistical Reports. He stated that there was nothing unusual in the reports.

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

Mr. Rusty Thomas, Chief Deputy Sheriff, presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the County of McLean regulating the use by the County of McLean of the Police Shooting Range facility of the City of Bloomington. He noted that there was no increase in cost this year.

Motion by Schafer/McIntyre to Recommend Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the County of McLean regulating the use by the County of McLean of the Police Shooting Range facility of the City of Bloomington.

Motion carried with Ms. Wollrab voting "Present."

Mr. Thomas reviewed the April 2014 Detention Facility Population report. He noted that the population average went up just a little bit, which is normal. Mr. Thomas noted that no prisoners are being housed out-of-County.

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

Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA presented a request for approval to apply for a State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Fuel System Credit Card for the McLean County Emergency Management Agency. He indicated that the credit card will be used for approved fuel and fuel related expenses only. Mr. Hawk advised that he will provide the credit card to each of the vehicles within the fleet and monitor the purchases only with prior approval of all charges. There are no set up fees or card fees, and the program will track the amount of fuel used per vehicle in the fleet with a monthly statement.

Chairman Caisley asked if this is for fuel purchased outside of the County exclusively. Mr. Hawk replied that it is only for fuel purchased outside of the County.

Motion by Wollrab/Rankin to Recommend Approval to Apply for a State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Fuel System Credit Card for the McLean County Emergency Management Agency.
Motion carried.

Mr. Hawk reported that the Illinois Emergency Service Disaster Agencies Association Conference was held last week and he was elected Vice President of the Association, and will be president next year in April. The Committee congratulated him.

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

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, presented a request for approval of an Agreement between CAMS Systems and McLean County for monitoring services. She indicated that this would continue the use of electronic/GPS monitoring equipment for both Adult and Juvenile Court Services at a reduced rate beginning May 1, 2014. This agreement lists all services and device options that will be available to the office. Ms. McCormick added that it will allow CAM Systems to use the most effective technology for each individual that is ordered to be monitored. She noted that this is a decrease in cost.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of a request for approval of an Agreement between CAMS Systems and McLean County for monitoring services.
Motion carried.

Ms. McCormick presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2014 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance Fund 0001 General Fund, Court Services Department 0022 (Juvenile Justice Planning Grant). She explained that this is

based upon the County's acceptance of the Juvenile Justice Planning grant through the Department of Human Services that will be used for the development of a local juvenile justice system map and programming that will enhance services to the juvenile justice population. Ms. McCormick noted that this was the grant that was approved in February and the money needs to be put into Revenue so that it can be spent.

Motion by Wollrab/Rankin to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2014 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance Fund 0001 General Fund, Court Services Department 0022 (Juvenile Justice Planning Grant).
Motion carried.

Ms. McCormick presented a request for approval to apply for and accept an Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission – Juvenile Justice Council Project Implementation Grant. She advised that this application of an Implementation Grant coincides with the planning grant that was received in February of this year which is assisting the Juvenile Justice Council in formulating a Delinquency Intervention Plan through the compilation of data to determine barriers and gaps in services. Ms. McCormick stated that on March 23 she received notification that in order to ensue funding for SFY'15, it was necessary to request funding for the implementation phase of the Juvenile Justice Project by April 2nd. She noted that the request was sent to the Juvenile Justice Commission for \$90,000 for adolescent domestic battery programming and licensed therapists starting July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015.

Ms. McCormick indicated that with preliminary data, the Juvenile Justice Council anticipates focusing attention on diversion programs that could include mental health assessments, counseling for youth and families, and development of a continuum response to effectively manage adolescent domestic violence at both the prevention and intervention stages of the Juvenile Justice system.

Motion by Wollrab/Schafer to Recommend Approval to Apply for and Accept an Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission – Juvenile Justice Council Project Implementation Grant.
Motion carried.

Mr. McIntyre pointed out that the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument showed that, of the 216 assessments, 48% were flagged as having mental health issues. Ms. McCormick responded that there is a computerized assessment tool that all Juvenile Probation Officers in the State of Illinois use, and there are certain criteria that is used based on questions that a Probation Officer will ask or history of

violence or abuse in the home that are taken into consideration. She advised that mental health issues in juveniles are extensive.

Ms. McCormick reviewed her Monthly Reports.

Chairman Caisley noted that there are 23 people in the JDC who are technically not minors and asked if this causes a problem with the segregation of prisoners and juvenile detainees. Ms. Cathy Waltz, Superintendent, JDC replied that anyone 18 years old or older who are held under a juvenile delinquency petition are kept separate from the other juveniles. She stated that there haven't been any problems.

Mr. Wasson advised that a budget amendment will be brought to a Stand-up meeting for Court Services. He indicated that Court Services traditionally has contracted with Illinois State University for staffing services. Court Services has been notified that through the process, the individual will not be able to be maintained during the summer. Mr. Wasson stated that Court Services wishes to employ this individual as a seasonal/occasional worker for the three months of the summer and then return back the University contract in the fall. He indicated that money will be moved from Contractual Services or Non-Contractual Services in the Probation Fees Fund to the Season/Occasional line.

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

Chairman Caisley presented the March 2014 Coroner's Report as submitted by Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, who was unable to attend the meeting. There were no questions on the report.

Chairman Caisley presented the Public Defender's Monthly Report as submitted by Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender, who was unable to attend the meeting. There were no questions on the Report.

Chairman Caisley presented the April 30, 2014 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$1,663,304.64 and a Fund Total that is the same.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills and transfers as of April 30, 2014 as transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Caisley asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary