McLean County
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
April 8, 2015 Meeting

ISU Stevenson Center Report

Dr. Frank Beck led the team report - Using data from E-Justice, covering cases filed 2007-2013, this report focuses on preliminary analysis of case processing time.

Case Processing Time: Per what is available in the E-Justice case management system, and per discussion with the Executive Committee, we measure processing time as the number of days between case filed date and disposition date.

Looking at case processing time by filed year, we see a high point in 2008 with a trend downward to 2011; then it starts trending back up. This is true for all classes except for Class X, where its lowest point was in 2013.

Overall, cases with less severe charges take less time to process. Felony murder cases take significantly longer (391 days) to move through the system than all other kinds of felonies. Class X cases take 217 days, on average. All other felonies average less than 192 days. The felony average—overall—was around 187 days.

Generally, felony cases with a violent offense take more time to process than those without a violent offense. This is largely true within charge category; only Class 4 felonies show a slight difference in the opposite direction.

Surprisingly, felony cases with a drug offense take less time to process than those without a drug offense. This is true overall and by charge category. This pattern could be the result of defendants in drug cases being in custody more; therefore, they move through the system more quickly. More analysis is needed.

There is no significant relationship between number of counts and case processing time or number of felonies and case processing time. Also, case processing time does not differ much by race/ethnicity or sex.

The next step in this analysis is to incorporate "time-in-custody." From previous analyses we know that the cases of those in custody proceed more quickly than those not in custody, but we do not know if that holds true within different charge categories or other factors.

Recidivism: Significant progress was made in studying recidivism, but more work is needed. We are able to examine recidivism by severity of charge, violent and drug offenses or otherwise, demographic characteristics, and length of time to subsequent conviction. However, without access to release date from DOC, we feel the data and analysis are incomplete. We also note that the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) assessment is in a text-field only.

Contributions for this report were made by Christina Davila, Julia Neaves and Dr. Frank Beck

Committee Reports

- o   Executive Committee – see report on bylaw amendments (below)

- o   Best Practices – working with the ISU Stevenson Center on case disposition standards.

- o   Community Relations – working on development of CJCC website.

- o   Data Management – have had meetings with one Case Management System (Justice Systems, Albuquerque, NM), and have met with the Illinois State Police regarding the adoption of the TRaCS Citation software (developed by the Iowa Department of Transportation). There will be a meeting with Tyler Technologies in the near future regarding their case management system.

- o   Jail Utilization – have been working to provide data to the jail assessment team.

Update on McLean County Adult Detention Facility Report

Sheriff Sandage reported the assessment is completed, and the report is available on-line:

http://il-mcleancounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?nid=979

Members were encouraged to read the report and provide any feedback to the committees.

The McLean County Property Committee will be leading the review of the report.

Grant Opportunities

The Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) has asked McLean County to work with the Arnold Foundation on a pre-trial assessment pilot project. The other pilot counties will be Cook and Kane Counties. This is a revised pre-trial assessment tool to assist in setting bond. The tool does not require an interview, but relies on measure available in the defendant's arrest report and criminal history. There will be a site visit by the Arnold Foundation on April 28-29, 2015. This will be a 15-month pilot project.

The County is also pursuing a grant opportunity with the MacArthur Foundation on pre-trial incarceration and pre-trial supervision. The grant was submitted on March 31, and if awarded will involve a large effort by Court Services and justice agencies on review of pre-trial incarceration.

Lori McCormick thanked Liz Barnhart for all her work on the MacArthur grant.

Proposal to Amend CJCC Bylaws

The bylaw amendments were circulated with the agenda. In summary, the changes involved moving the County Administrator (or designee) from a non-voting to a voting member, and making that person a member of the Executive Committee.

The CJCC Executive Committee has reviewed the changes and approved them. Following a short discussion the proposal was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 12:35 p.m.

Next Meetings -

CJCC Meeting Dates (12:00 – 1:00 p.m.):

July 8
October 14

Executive Committee Meeting Dates (7:45 a.m.):

May 13
June 10
August 12
September 9
November 10 (Tuesday)
December 9