

McLean County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Executive Committee Meeting
May 13, 2015

Present: Chief Judge Kevin Fitzgerald, Judge Robert Freitag, Sheriff Jon Sandage, Jason Chambers, Carla Barnes, Lori McCormick, Greg Allen, Jamie Kessinger, Bill Wasson, Hannah Eisner and William Scanlon

ISU Stevenson Center: Dr. Frank Beck and Christina Davila

Judge Freitag welcomed the new members (Bill Wasson, County Administrator, and Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator)

ISU Stevenson Center Data Report

Dr. Frank Beck and Christina Davila gave an overview of the case processing time tables for those in custody. Case processing time is defined as the time from case filing date to date of disposition of the case. The term “in custody” refers to any defendant who spends 30 days or more in custody during the case processing time.

The data was sorted by average number of processing days, then by charge category and by race/ethnicity. There is little variation for the cases with less severe charges (CM, Class 4, Class 3 and Class 2). The largest deviation occurs in Class 1 cases. The small number and complexity of Class M cases (charge of murder) makes it difficult to draw conclusions regarding processing time. In general, the less severe the charge, the shorter the processing time.

Judge Freitag observed that the existing case processing goals allows 180 days for 90% of felonies to be disposed of. In review of this data, it appears that the goal is being met. One caveat – this only includes those in custody, the data does not include those not in custody.

The data was also presented by charge category over the time period of 2007-2013. Again, the data shows that the more severe the charge, the longer to disposition, which is expected.

Ms. Davila will be conducting a multi-variant analysis in June for the Executive Committee.

Dr. Beck discussed some of the limitations with the recidivism analysis – the release information from the Illinois Department of Corrections is still needed. Mr. Scanlon will make contact with the IDOC to try to obtain the data. (*Ed. – the IDOC was contacted on 5/13 and will provide the data on or about June 1, 2015*)

There are other data inconsistencies which will make the recidivism analysis difficult, problems with data availability and data quality may limit the value of any analysis.

The ISU Stevenson Center can provide data on simple recidivism in McLean County which hovers around 33-35% for those convicted of a felony, but program analysis is the goal.

Members of the committee asked about the reconciliation of the booking data in EJS versus the daily population count. ISU moved their data report to a 6:00 a.m. count to match the jail, and that, along with some other adjustments have been able to provide a clearly picture (and more accurate picture) of the average daily population.

Pre-Trial Assessment Pilot Project

Lori McCormick, Director of Court Services, provided an update to the Arnold Foundation / AOIC pilot project on pre-trial assessment. There have been several conference calls and a 2-day site visit on April 28-29 to review the various departments and evaluate if the County is an appropriate location for the pilot. The reviewing committee is very satisfied with the status and readiness of the County to participate in this project. Kane and Cook County are also pilot sites.

Mrs. McCormick reviewed some of the challenges facing the project:

- There are statutory requirements for a face-to-face interview to qualify for pre-trial services, the PSA (pre-trial services assessment) does not require an interview. All clientele will be interviewed following the assessment process.
- Personnel – Court Services is asking for three additional officers to complete the pilot. Recruitment and hiring has not been initiated. It will be late July or August before the hiring can be completed.
- Identifying data elements – the PSA is dependent upon accurate reporting of failure to appear for court appearances, and jurisdictions vary in their definition and reporting of FTA.

There will be many more meetings and reports on this project in the next 15 months, but all the participants are excited to begin.

McLean County Jail Assessment

Bill Wasson announced that a peer review of the MCJ assessment will occur within 60-70 days.

The mental health committee reports will be finalized on May 19, and will include a 60-90 day action plan for program expansion and development of targeted services. There was discussion regarding revenue streams for mental health services, including community services outside the criminal justice system.

Development of a 708 Board is unlikely.

Other

William Scanlon announced that the Bloomington City Council representative will be David Sage. He replaces Karen Schmidt.

Lori McCormick announced there will be a Best Practices meeting on Thursday, May 28 at 8:15 a.m. in RM 702.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 a.m.

Next Meetings:

Executive Committee:

June 10

August 12

September 9

CJCC:

July 8