

**McLean County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
July 8, 2015 Meeting**

Chief Judge Kevin Fitzgerald called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees and guests.

ISU Stevenson Center Data Report

Christina Davila gave the report regarding her work on case processing time:

- a. There are several related variables in cases – charge severity, number of counts, number of appearances, whether the person is in custody or not in custody and whether the offense includes drug charges or violent offenses.
- b. There are several characteristics related to the defendant, but not directly related to the case – age, race, ethnicity, sex and the year the case was filed.
- c. Over the period of 2007-2013, the following variables effect the processing of cases-
 - i. Severity of charge (increases case processing time)
 - ii. Violent offenses (increases case processing time)
 - iii. Drug offenses (decreases the time to process)
 - iv. Persons in custody 30 days or more (decreases case processing time)
- d. Average time to disposition peaked in 2008-09, was the shortest in 2011, and is now increasing over the past 2 years studied.
- e. Ms. Davila described the ability to combine variables within the analysis and compare groups. She has the following conclusions –
 - i. The effect for number of appearances stays consistent, regardless of which other variables are considered
 - ii. Cases for which the defendant stayed in custody over 30 days have faster case processing times
 - iii. Gender and race differences in case processing time decrease when also accounting for case-related variables
 - iv. For the model with both types of variables, we see that differences by race/ethnicity decrease and the differences by case-filed year generally increase.

Judge Freitag discussed how the determination of “in custody” was set – a person who remains in custody 30 days or more during the term of their case is usually in custody a majority of their case. He also stated most defendants ultimately waive a speedy trial demand during the course of their case for a variety of reasons.

Jason Chambers, McLean County State’s Attorney, commented on the need to include some data elements which have not been coded in the analysis – discovery time, type of defense attorney (private vs. public defender), attorney visits with clients and judicial assignments.

Ms. Davila answered questions from the Council. She will be leaving the Stevenson Center on July 15 due to the end of her fellowship. Judge Fitzgerald thanked her for her invaluable work.

Chestnut Health Systems – Crisis Stabilization and Detox Unit

Mary Young, Program Director, gave an overview of the new program at Chestnut Health Systems

- The unit opened in April 2105
- The mission statement and philosophy were discussed
- There is staffing including nurses, APN, licensed social workers, recovery specialists and others
- The primary goal of the unit is to provide safety to the patient and their family, provide treatment and a comprehensive plan to reduce the likelihood of re-occurrence of crisis
- She provided a virtual tour of the facility

Ms. Young reviewed the admission criteria and screening process. The unit does take persons with pending felony charges (non-custody) and those under sentence.

The previous Detox unit closed in 2011.

Pre-Trial Services Assessment (AOIC pilot)

Lori McCormick, Director of Court Services, provided a status report on the pilot project with the Arnold Foundation and the Administrative office of Illinois Courts on a new pre-trial assessment tool.

She anticipates hiring 3 additional court services officers, and increasing the number of pre-trial reports from approximately 350 to 1200. This is a 15-month assessment project.

McLean County Behavioral Health Coordinating Council

Bill Wasson, County Administrator, reported:

- There are two separate committees being formed – (1) a Behavioral Health Coordinating Council, with members appointed by the Chair of the County Board. This committee will focus on the community strategies on behavioral health and will include medical professionals, social service agencies, large employers, advocacy groups and government officials; and (2) a Mental Health Advisory committee to the Board of Health focused on the delivery of coordinated services and implementation of coordinated recovery strategies.
- The County Board is also considering an oversight committee for the Health Department and behavioral health services.
- The County Board is also considering priorities for funding of local services for behavioral health services over FY 2015-16.

Committee Reports

- Jail Utilization – no report
- Community Relations – no report

- Best Practices – continuing work with agencies and departments on specified functions regarding case processing and jail management
- Data Management – members are attending the Court Technology Conference in September 2015 with a goal of initiating discussions on a new court case management system in the 2016-2018 timeframe.

Meeting adjourned: 1:06 p.m.

Next CJCC Council Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 12:00 noon