

**McLean County  
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
Executive Committee Meeting**

**November 9, 2016**

Present: Judge Robert Freitag, Bill Wasson, Hannah Eisner, Jamie Kessinger, Cassy Taylor, Ron Lewis and William Scanlon

ISU Stevenson Center: Dr. Frank Beck and Jonathan Monsma

League of Women Voters: Stacey Tutt and Laurie Bergner

**ISU Stevenson Center Report**

Jonathan Monsma reported on the analysis of those reporting a mental illness at the time of booking:

- Only about 26.4% of persons booked reported a mental illness (5177 or 21569 persons)
- The average number of bookings for persons reporting a mental illness has been booked twice as often as those not reporting a mental illness
- Since 2011, the number of persons reporting a mental illness has increased. It is unclear if this is simply a focus on the issue or if there is an actual increase in the number of those arrested
- The Stevenson Center has looked at the outliers in the data, and with the removal of the top/bottom 5%, the ratio of 2 to 1 mental illness bookings to those without remains the same
- There are still a disproportionate number of African-Americans booked in comparison to the demographics within the community

A review of gender of those reporting mental illness will be done for the December meeting.

Dr. Beck reported on the McLean County booking data:

- Bookings are up slightly from 2015 (Jan – Oct). The largest increase is in the traffic/other violations and in misdemeanors. Felony bookings (Class 1-4) are down.
- The average number of bed days used per booking has slight changes
- Total bed days are up for non-felony cases

The information prompted a lengthy discussion on the length of stay and number of bed days used by misdemeanor and non-felony traffic cases. The introduction of the Pre-Trial Services Assessment (PSA) in January, coupled with the revision of the policy allowing the jail staff to release persons without further review, have led to more non-felony cases being held in custody. The PSA has identified cases previously not investigated which have a significant risk of either failing to appear or re-offending (or both). The reduction in the number of bond review hearings being conducted, and the length of time until a bond review hearing has also contributed to the increase.

There is a movement within the State of Illinois which may have significant impact on this discussion – the Illinois Supreme Court, AOIC and others have joined the *Three Days Count* organization (a program of the Pretrial Justice Institute – [www.pretrial.org](http://www.pretrial.org)) in an effort to review the pre-trial release and bond

making decisions in non-felony cases. Part of what is being discussed is a no cash bond requirement for most non-felony cases.

There was a suggestion to analyze the booking data and remove those who have less than a 48-hour stay to determine the nature of the charges and demographics of that population. Dr. Beck will review that suggestion.

### **League of Women Voters**

Laurie Bergner and Stacey Tutt appeared on behalf of the League and discussed a project on the decision-making process in the criminal justice system. They will be conducting interviews and developing surveys to measure qualitative information – the why of the decision-making process.

The goal is to provide a public information and education product on criminal justice decision-making.

There was discussion of some data measures which may provide background information to this study. The CJCC Executive Committee will have to govern any data requests.

The project may begin in November 2016, and likely to have results during the summer of 2017.

### **HB 5003 – Establish a Veteran’s Court**

Jason Chambers discussed the mandate established by the General Assembly – by 2018 all Circuits must have at least one Veterans and Service Members Court specifically dedicated as a treatment court for that population. In the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, it is likely to be the McLean County Recovery Court. Governance of the court is to be discussed beginning in December.

Adjourned: 8:45 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 14 at 7:45 a.m.**