

**McLean County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
October 12, 2016 Meeting**

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

**ISU Stevenson Center Data Report**

Dr. Frank Beck gave the report regarding the work on jail population trends:

- a. Chart 1 - The number of bookings by charge severity where the defendant reported some form of mental illness
- b. Chart 2 – average length of stay by mental illness reported and charge category. Persons with a reported mental illness spend slightly more time in jail.
- c. Bed days used by the mentally ill have increased, but peaked in 2011. In 2015, 17% of the incarcerated population reported a mental illness.
- d. There are slightly more persons with a mental illness who have committed a violent offense, and they are more likely to be charged with a felony offense.
- e. The distribution of usage of the jail by charge severity has remained relatively steady, but there were fewer bookings.
- f. The percentage of bed days used by felons has decreased from 2015, but is still approximately 84% of all usage.

**Court Services**

The new director of McLean County Court Services was introduced – Cassy Taylor. She previously was Director in Ford County and previously worked with the specialty courts in McLean County.

**Decriminalization of Marijuana – PA 99-897**

On August 1, 2016, Governor Rauner approved legislation decriminalizing the possession of paraphernalia and the possession of up to 10 grams of marijuana. The cases are now classified as civil law violations (CL cases). Carla Barnes, Public Defender, gave an overview of the current status of cases pending before the Court. Almost all misdemeanor cases were offered and accepted deferred prosecution. Only 28 Civil Law cases have been filed, most marijuana offenses are now filed as ordinance violations by the Town of Normal and City of Bloomington.

**New Legislation**

The Illinois Supreme Court has invalidated PA 98-1132. This changes the number of jurors available in a civil trial, the jury per diem and other minor changes. All of those elements will revert to the previous amounts in place in May 2015.

**Specialty Courts**

Cassy Taylor, Director of Court Services, gave an update on the Drug Court and Recovery Court.

- The goal under the SAMSHA grant is to service 160 clientele, and currently, the programs have served 97 persons. There have been 184 referrals, 184 case reviews, 115 clients screened and 36 persons admitted to Drug Court.
- The specialty courts are working on a certification process with the AOIC.
- The Drug Court and Recovery Court teams attended the Illinois Association of Problem-Solving Courts conference in early October.

**2017 Meeting Schedule (all at 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.)**

January 11  
 April 12  
 July 12  
 October 11

**Other**

- A federal lawsuit has been filed in Cook County regarding the time in detention for those juveniles arrested without a warrant. The standard for adults is 48-hours from time arrest to a probable cause hearing; with juveniles it is 40-hours, but excludes holidays and weekends, so in some cases, juvenile defendants were spending 60-90 hours in detention before a hearing.

In response, Cook County is moving to a 7 day a week detention hearing schedule. Few, if any, counties have the resources to match that. A detention hearing may require a court reporter, public defender, state’s attorney and notice to parents.

A resolution on this issue for other counties is not in place, but the tenor of the federal court is clear, and a solution will have to be found.

- On October 29, Prairie States Legal Services is hosting a free legal clinic for civil and family matters, including employment law.
- The League of Women Voters has initiated a project to estimate the cost and impact of the commission of a felony in McLean County. Laurie Bergner and Stacey Tutt are co-chairs of this project.

Meeting adjourned: 12:46 p.m.

**Next CJCC Council Meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 12:00 noon**