

**McLean County
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**

July 12, 2017 Meeting

Chief Judge Kevin Fitzgerald welcomed everyone and led introductions.

Development of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Veterans' Court

Judge Robert Freitag reported that there is an ad hoc work group of State's Attorneys, Public Defenders, court services officers, judges and treatment providers discussing the idea of a centralized veteran's court or a county-based veteran's court. There is a legislative mandate for all counties to create such a court by January 1, 2018.

The clientele eligible for a veteran's court would be those who have a qualifying offense, are eligible for Veteran's Administration services and have a disposition of probation. There are two site visits scheduled to review existing court models – Effingham (August 18) and Peoria (August 30). There are a number of logistical and procedural problems to solve.

Judge Charles Feeney III (Woodford County), a marine veteran, has volunteered to be the supervising judge.

McLean County Jail Remodeling

Eric Schmidt, Assistant County Administrator, updated the group – the foundation is finished and walls are being poured. The steel framing will begin to be erected in mid-August. The goal is to close the building up and begin the inside work by December 1, 2017.

Remodeling of the existing jail will not begin until the primary construction on the addition is finished.

E-filing Update

William Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator, stated that e-filing of appellate cases began on July 1, 2017. There have been some technical issues in those filings, and the Appellate Clerk (Carla Bender) has some frustrations about the approach and process. The technical issues should be resolve within the next 2-3 weeks.

The McLean County Circuit Clerk is testing e-filing from one law office to their office (small claims cases) and hopes to expand that testing.

Software development continues to improve the e-filing process within the case management system.

Logan County lost power and lost connectivity following a thunderstorm on July 10. This highlights the perils of relying on a purely electronic process with aging infrastructure in certain sections of the state.

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Collaborative Grant

Bill Wasson, County Administrator, reported that McLean County was one of five successful jurisdictions within Illinois to obtain this grant. This is a two-fold grant:

1. Technical assistance with further data analysis for jail population demographics, recidivism and related matters. The assistance is through the Loyola University of Chicago, College of Criminal Justice Policy and Practice. There was a group meeting to outline criminal justice processes for review on June 21-22.
2. A joint ICJIA/Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance grant for additional funding and support for personnel to assist the CJCC.

As part of the grant agreement the ISU Stevenson Center is established as a partner with the ICJIA for data analysis, and allows the Stevenson Center access to the ICJIA state data to expand measures of recidivism.

Representatives of the ICJIA will begin attending CJCC meetings in the next year.

ISU Stevenson Center Data Report

Brian Stuart and Jon Monsma gave the data report:

- Number of bed days for the period of January – May is down compared to previous years
- Average bed days used is down or less for most case categories
- Total bed days used are less than the previous 10 years (similar to 2013)
- Number of felony bookings is down from 2016 and similar to 2012-2013

There was a review of the recidivism data. The analysis examined those defendants who had multiple cases where the defendant had at least one CF, CM or DT conviction between 2002 – 2017:

- There was analysis of those defendants who have charges filed while another case was pending and those who offended within two years of the original disposition and two years following a period of supervision.
- The recidivism rate for those released from IDOC is difficult to calculate as information about the release date is not readily available.
- There were 31,499 cases studied involving 18,521 defendants
- The overall recidivism rate for all defendants is 28.5%; of those 47% committed the offense while on supervision

Filtering out related cases does not substantially affect any of the data.

The data analysis will refine this data and look at average time to recidivism, recidivism rates by charge category and the rate within a cohort group in the future.

Appointment of Officers of the CJCC

The following persons were nominated as officers of the CJCC:

- a. Chair – Chief Judge Kevin Fitzgerald
- b. Vice Chair – Sheriff Jon Sandage

- c. 2nd Vice Chair – Judge Robert Freitag
- d. Secretary – Carla Barnes, Public Defender
- e. Member-at-Large – Cassy Taylor, Director of Court Services

Nominations were closed, and the slate was elected unanimously.

Other

The YWCA is offering a training program for mentors within the Labyrinth Program. This 10-hour program prepares volunteers to mentor women who have experienced trauma. The YWCA is looking for partner agencies within the criminal justice system to recruit mentors. Please contact them if interested.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:48 p.m.

Next Meetings: August 9 Executive Committee meeting
 September 13 Executive Committee meeting
 October 11 CJCC Meeting