

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

---

**JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Monday, October 6, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Brookens Administrative Center, Lyle Shields Meeting Room**

**1776 E. Washington, Urbana**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anderson, Ammons, Carter, Gladney, Hunt, James, Nudo, Putman, Sapp

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kay Rhodes (Administrative Secretary), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Honorable Thomas J. Difanis (Presiding Judge), Roger Holland (Courts Administrator), Kathleen Liffick (Head Start Director), Jonte Rollins (C-U Area Project), Pius Weibel (County Board Chair)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call established a quorum present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

**MOTION** by Ammons to approve agenda/addendum; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by James to approve Justice & Social Services Committee August 4, 2008 minutes; seconded by Carter.

Weibel requested an amendment to the minutes reflecting his attendance at this meeting.

**Motion carried as amended.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Nancy Greenwalt discussed the Smile Healthy dental clinic and the partnership with Head Start to provide dental exams to all children enrolled in the Head Start program. Mike Lehman spoke as a representative of the Green Party. He raised concerns regarding the jury selection process. He stated although improvements have been made, he felt more could be done. He felt jurors should receive a higher rate of

compensation for their time. He also raised concerns regarding a question listed on the jury questionnaire, which asks if family members had a felony conviction. Patricia Avery also spoke regarding the jury selection process. She suggested the creation of a commission to study the jury selection issues. Patrick Thompson discussed the jury selection process as well. He felt there was not enough minority participation.

### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

**MOTION** by Gladney to receive and place on file the Animal Control July and August 2008 reports; Court Services June and July 2008 reports; and the EMA September 2008 report; seconded by Ammons. **Motion carried.**

### **CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

**MOTION** by Ammons to recommend to the County Board approval of National Children's Alliance Program Support Grant renewal; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

**MOTION** by Ammons to recommend to the County Board approval of Intergovernmental Agreements for Animal Impound & Control Services with the Villages of Ludlow and Savoy; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried.**

### **HEAD START**

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the monthly reports for August & September 2008; seconded by Carter.

James discussed an issue brought up at a recent Board of Health meeting regarding the use of dental facilities in Decatur for a child from Champaign County. James said he had asked why the dental services were not provided within Champaign County. James stated that after hearing Ms. Greenwalt speak during public participation about the dental services provided by Smile Healthy, he had a better understanding. James felt the County should strive to keep all dental services within Champaign County. James questioned why more providers within Champaign County did not offer their services. Liffick explained that one deterrent is the low Medicaid reimbursement paid to providers that serve low-income families. Liffick acknowledged the Smile Healthy program for providing the needed services to low income families that many local providers do not. Anderson agreed that local providers' participation is not mandatory.

Nudo questioned the large increase in services from June to July 2008. Liffick explained the school year ends in May and they spend June and July doing paperwork and data entry. Liffick felt this caused what appeared to be an increase in services from June to July. Liffick also explained for the benefit of new committee members, that the county does not contribute any funds to the operation of the Head Start Program. All funding comes from federal and state funds or local grants. **Motion carried.**

## **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS**

Rollins stated Peter Tracy could not attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. Rollins presented the Quarter Cent for Public Safety Post-Detention Programs Status Report to the committee. Rollins invited committee members to attend a consultation with Dr. Scott Sells, Ph.D., on October 21 at the Mental Health Board meeting and October 22, location to be determined. The consultation is to answer questions regarding the Parenting with Love and Limits Program.

Rollins said she has not received official notice regarding the SAMHSA award; however, it looks like they will not receive it. They were encouraged to re-submit another application. Rollins will notify the committee when she receives an official notice.

Ammons requested the receipt of future reports with the rest of the committee meeting information in order to have sufficient time to review them prior to the meeting. Ammons asked if the SAMHSA grant is not approved would the Mental Health Board still have the funding to participate in the Parenting with Love and Limits Program. Rollins indicated participation would go forward and will be in collaboration with Probation and Court Services, so the Mental Health Board will not be solely responsible for funding. James indicated he is comfortable receiving the reports at the meetings because they are reports of what took place during the month. If there were, an agenda item or issue they need to discuss then they would need prior notification. Ammons clarified it is important to her because of her field of endeavor, she may know of some type of assistance that could be made available at the county level. Ammons hopes the committee will look at programming from the Justice Committee that can assist this juvenile piece more directly instead of indirectly or hands off. Anderson added that Mr. Tracy is very available and always willing to talk. Anderson encouraged the committee to contact him with any questions they may have. Carter stated he would like to be more involved with this program.

Rollins discussed each section of the report and the variables effecting juvenile recidivism in each program. Rollins stated the last page indicated the total unduplicated JDC participants in either program. Rollins indicated there are several more pages of the report and if anyone would like to review them please let her know. James was shocked that 1/3 of the total participants in the program are female. Rollins responded there has been an increase of females in JDC over last year's statistics. Weibel asked if this was a local phenomenon or a national phenomenon. Rollins stated it is a national occurrence. After examination of the issue, it seems that crimes were committed in the past; however, they have become more severe. We are now finding that they are holding young women just as accountable as the young men. Putman expressed her disappointment that they did not receive the SAMHSA grant and asked for some insight as to why the Mental Health Board did not receive it. Rollins stated the denial letter should contain those insights. Rollins said they were the only applicant that applied under the state that they know of. Rollins stated that although it is disappointing, the efforts put into the preparation of the application have made project access stronger. The communication and willingness to work together has brought youth agencies together. Anderson agreed. Anderson encouraged everyone to contact either Rollins or Tracy with any questions because they are always willing to work with the committee.

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the Quarter Cent for Public Safety Post-Detention Programs Status Report; seconded by Gladney. **Motion carried.**

### **CIRCUIT COURT**

Difanis discussed the jury selection process and compensation rates. Difanis stated survey results show all counties including Champaign County pay \$10.00 per day. Exceptions to this are Peoria and Sangamon, which pay \$15.00 per day. The Champaign County mileage rate is .20 cents per mile. The counties of Macon, Peoria, and Rock Island pay less than this. Will County's rate is .30 cents per mile and Kankakee's rate is .49 cents per mile. Difanis suggested the county raise the mileage rate to .45 cents per mile as well as raise the per diem rate.

Putman said she would use the excellent minutes taken at the August 6, 2007 meeting regarding the jury selection process to answer the e-mail questions from Ms. Chynoweth. Putman agreed with Ms. Avery's suggestion of the creation of an action group to heighten community awareness on this subject. Putman suggested the kick-off meeting take place so that a report from that group be available in May 2009 because it is at this time that the Trial Advocacy Class working with the League of Women Voters releases the court watching report. She would also like to see a jury questionnaire handed out to jurors allowing them to evaluate and ask questions about the jury experience. She stated the State's Attorney was agreeable to creating a letter of thanks printed on State's Attorney letterhead for jurors to accompany the jury summons. Difanis stated that he had created a rough draft. He thought it should come from the Circuit Court and have the signatures of the Presiding Judge, the State's Attorney, the Public Defender, the President of the Bar Association, and the Chairman of the County Board. Putman recommended the establishment of an honor roll that recognizes businesses for outstanding community service by encouraging participation in jury service. She also inquired if Public Safety Sales Tax could be used for juror per diems. Difanis responded that the State's Attorney would investigate it. Carter stated he felt there would never be enough jurors if they cannot stop the crime problem.

James wanted to know if there was a way to place people on a list who want to serve on jury duty. Difanis explained it is state law that jurors are selected randomly from three pools: Driver's License, Voter Registration, and Illinois Identification Card. Difanis stressed it is a random selection process done by the computer. James asked about the juror questionnaire and the concern raised earlier about some verbiage in it that asked if anyone in your household has committed a felony. Difanis explained the question is not specific. The question actually reads, "Have you or any members of your immediate family been convicted of a crime?" However, he felt it should be changed because neither the attorneys nor he cares if your daughter received a ticket for underage drinking, which is technically a Class A misdemeanor. It may be more relevant if the question is limited to only felony convictions and to the individual juror. This would not stop an attorney from asking the question. He felt it should be noted on the questionnaire that it is a possibility a juror could be asked.

Ammons inquired if the county used the same software to select jurors used in areas with a higher population of minorities and if these areas experience the same lack of diversity, what accounts for this. Holland stated the county uses the Jury 2000 system. It is not the only system used. Holland

did not know if other areas that used this system have an issue with diversity of jurors. He was unaware of any statistics of this being a common problem; however felt that if it were the company would not be in business. Ammons felt that it was part of the problem and this is why there should be a jury study. Difanis stated the system becomes skewed when jurors defer due to another time of year due to their occupation, such as teachers and farmers. There is no study regarding the racial make-up of deferred jurors. Holland reviewed the hand out of the Jury Snapshot of the previous eight weeks showing 21.70% deferred, 15.60% excused, 5.0% not found, and 57.70% of jurors that served. Difanis estimated that many of those excused are due to monetary problems. Ammons felt that young people do not seem represented in the jury selection process. Ammons feels there is some categorizing going on somewhere. She felt there is a problem with the system itself. Nudo stated jury statistics need more detail. The statistics should show the racial percentage in each category of deferred, excused, not found and served. The report needs to show a greater depth of analysis. Deferred really should move over to the served category because they will be called back to serve. Holland said jurors are deferred to a specific time. The current Jury 2000 system does not capture racial data so there is no way to attach racial information to the jury statistics. Nudo stated that was the only way to gather the kind of information needed for a jury study. Nudo asked if the goal was to show a balance between percentages of population based on ethnicity. Anderson said reports showed that certain minorities were not represented. Nudo said the education system should offer civics classes that will make teenagers aware of jury duty and their responsibility. Gladney felt a study should be done to look at all the variables effecting jury duty. Sapp asked if the vendor could upgrade the system to capture the data requested. He also asked if it was legal to capture data from individuals who ask to be deferred or excused. Difanis felt this would not be a problem. Sapp would like a representative of the software system to come in and explain how it works. He supported an increase of the juror mileage reimbursement rate.

Discussion followed.

Nudo said the data gathered with the software system would not have any names to associate with the information. The information would come from a particular juror's make-up when they ask to be deferred or excused. Holland said it could be accomplished with a simple form and when someone is deferred, he or she will need to check a box describing his or her racial background. Ammons asked if a recommendation could be made in relationship to creating a jury study. Putman asked if the funds set aside for juvenile delinquency prevention could be used to promote and educate youth about jury duty. Busey responded that if the board considered it part of juvenile delinquency prevention and recidivism, then the funds could be used for this. Anderson asked if there was a consensus to create a committee and if it were appropriate for the Presiding Judge and the County Board Chair to put a board together. Difanis said they need more information in order to address the problem and they will cooperate with any requests made by the new committee. Anderson asked who should put this committee together. Difanis said to let them know who should be in this group and they will tender the invitations. Weibel stated it is important to look at the economics of the excused jurors to see if they made minimum wage and could not afford to serve on a jury. Weibel felt the question regarding family members having been convicted of a crime should be removed from the questionnaire because some people may not want to put it in writing. Difanis agreed to review the question.

**MOTION** by James to recommend to the Finance Committee approval of increase to Juror Mileage Reimbursement Rate to .45 cents per mile; seconded by Sapp.

Nudo stated he would favor an income based mileage rate. Ammons asked if public safety sales tax could be used to finance the increase of the per diem. Busey stated the Finance Committee and the County Board have stretched the fund to its extreme point by trying to get the General Corporate Fund back into a healthy position, but she will check to see if any funds can be used to offset any juror expenses. Busey hopes to have an answer by Thursday.

Nudo opposed. **Motion carried.**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Anderson reported on the Nursing Home Board. The last meeting was September 11, 2008. The next meeting is October 16, 2008. At the last meeting, the director of the nursing program at Parkland College gave a report on nursing recruitment and having clinical rounds by students at the nursing home to expose students to the elder population. The Illinois Department of Health will need to approve the clinical rounds.

The public relations committee gave a report. They are working on an outreach brochure for the community. It should be ready by the end of October. The nursing home census has increased to 185 residents with 29 of those paid by Medicare.

They are also pursuing the creation of scholarships for employees of the nursing home to become nurses. The Parkland College Nursing Program is also working on a class requirement called the Friendly Visitors Program. A nursing home resident will be their assigned person to visit this is just another way exposing students to the nursing home.

Ammons asked about the status of the nursing home investigation. Busey said it is ongoing.

**MOTION** by James to enter into Closed Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 1 to Consider the Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of an Employee and the recording secretary and County Administrator remain present; seconded by Ammons. **Motion carried.**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Illinois Department of Correction 2008 Champaign County Jail Inspection Report received and placed on file.

### **DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

Agenda Item 7A: Renewal of National Children's Alliance Program Support Grant designated for Consent Agenda

Agenda Items 8A-B: Approval of Intergovernmental Agreements for Animal Impound & Control Services with the Village of Ludlow & Intergovernmental Agreements for Animal Impound & Control Services with the Village of Savoy designated for Consent Agenda

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Rhodes  
Administrative Secretary

*Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*