

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, August 7, 2006

**Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anderson (Chair), Greenwalt, Hunt, James, Putman, Tapley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carter, Hogue, Sapp

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Buffenbarger (Nursing Home Administrator), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Joseph Gordon (Court Services/Probation Director), Lt. Allen Jones (Sheriff's Office), Ralph Langenheim (County Board Member), Peter Tracy (Director of Mental Health), Dan Walsh (Sheriff), Barbara Wysocki (County Board Chair)

CALL TO ORDER

Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Anderson, Greenwalt, Hunt, James, and Tapley were present at the time of the roll call. Anderson announced she had received a call from Catherine Hogue, who is recovering from a stroke. Hogue told Anderson she was feeling good and is resting on the advice of her doctor. Anderson declared a quorum and proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by James to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by Greenwalt. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Hunt to approve the minutes of June 5, 2006; seconded by Greenwalt. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chris Evans from Community Court Watch spoke regarding the criminal justice system. He said Community Court Watch is a volunteer group of private citizens who wish to engage law enforcement officials in dialogue to improve the criminal justice system. Community Court Watch meets every Saturday at 4:00 p.m. at the Independent Media Center and has a website. They have identified eleven specific platform points to address. He invited the committee to dialogue with Community Court Watch because they are in contact with criminal defendants and defendants' families. He spoke about the Public Defender's Office and the numbers of cases the attorneys handle annually. Evans claimed people are not happy with the service from the Public Defender's Office. He requested more funding for the Public Defender's Office, including funding for three private investigators.

Putman entered the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Brian Dolinar from Community Court Watch spoke about the number of people incarcerated. He stated their organization wants to bring reform to the justice system and not just criticize the system. Dolinar recommended the County Board allocate \$75 a day for each person who serves jury duty, instead of the \$15 a day the jurors presently receive. He said most working class people cannot afford to serve on a jury, so jury pools are largely retirees and contain few working class people and African-Americans. He suggested the County Board apply the Living Wage to the jury system. Dolinar said another concern of Community Court Watch is the suicides that have occurred at the Champaign County Jail. He asked for an independent investigation into the suicides and natural deaths at the Jail so more explanation can be given to the inmates' families. Dolinar acknowledged that Sheriff Walsh extended the Jail's visiting hours and the County Board re-negotiated the inmate phone contracts to lower the cost of phone calls for the inmates and their families. Dolinar said Community Court Watch would like more changes made at the County Jail.

Danielle Chynoweth from Community Court Watch said they are raising the issues of the payment of juries and the Public Defender's Office because they know the County is approaching its budget season. They wish to return to the committee next month and speak to the full County Board later this month.

Tapley suggested they come to the Finance Committee meeting held this Thursday, if any FY2007 budget items are being discussed, or to the Legislative Budget Hearings held at the end of August. Busey said there are no FY2007 budget recommendations on the August Finance Committee agenda and pointed out there is no Public Presentation at the Legislative Budget Hearings because these are simply presentations by the departments. Tapley said attending the Finance Committee meetings or the Legislative Budget Hearings will give the individuals from Community Court Watch some useful perspective on the County's budget situation. Tapley stated the Nursing Home's fund balance is at zero and is being subsidized by the General Corporate Fund, which is at the lowest it has been in a couple of decades on a percentage basis. He added the FY2007 Budget is already looking to be several hundred thousand dollars in the red because of the Nursing Home. It is a difficult situation to add positions to any office like the Public Defender or quintuple the amount jurors are paid with these budget concerns. Tapley said it might be helpful for the individuals to attend those discussions. Chynoweth asked when the budget would be discussed. Busey said the Finance Committee will make some decisions about the FY2007 Budget at its September meeting. Chynoweth asked about Community Court Watch members having formal input to the County Board. Busey said there is Public Participation at every regular committee and County Board meeting. Chynoweth said their organization could look at the budget and make suggestions of what programs could be cut to increase funding to the Public Defender's Office and juries. She thanked the committee for their suggestions.

Putman asked if a not-for-profit agency could investigate the deaths at the County Jail. She stated an investigation was performed by a state entity into the deaths. Putman asked if Chynoweth knew of an agency that could perform the kind of investigation the group is interested in without spending tax dollars. Chynoweth will look into it.

MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by Tapley to receive and place on file the Animal Control June 2006 report, Children's Advocacy Center May 25, 2006 minutes, Circuit Clerk May & June 2006 reports, Coroner February, April, & May 2006 reports, Court Services/Probation May & June 2006 reports, Emergency Management Agency June-July 2006 report, and the Public Defender February, April, May, & June 2006 reports; seconded by James.
Motion carried.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANT MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by Tapley to receive and place on file the Best Interest of Children May & June 2006 reports, CASA May & June 2006 reports, Mental Health Center May & June 2006 reports, Regional Planning Commission May & June 2006 reports, and the Restoration Urban Ministries May 2006 report; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried.**

SHERIFF

Approval of Aramark Contract

Sheriff Walsh stated he still does not have the completed Aramark contract. Aramark is continuing to provide services at the previous rate while the contract is being finalized. Putman asked if a reduction in costs was possible if the inmate population decreases. Walsh said the fees are on a per meal basis, so it depends on the number of inmates at any given time. The equipment costs are set and will not change.

ADDENDUM

Approval of Acceptance of Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Mobile Data Computer Equipment Program Grant and Interagency Agreement

MOTION by James to approve the acceptance of Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Mobile Data Computer Equipment Program Grant and Interagency Agreement; seconded by Tapley.

The Sheriff said this grant is enabling his department to purchase two new MDCs along with the required docking stations to mount them in the vehicles. The grant requires partial matching funds from the County. This money will come from the federal government and the County. There are also monthly fees associated with this purchase. Walsh intends to put the new MDCs into Sheriff's vehicles and give Animal Control two of their older units. Lt. Jones researched and prepared the grant and is present to answer any specific questions. James asked about the initial cash request. Walsh said the agreement needs to be returned to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority by August 11th and the invoicing must be complete by September 30th. If the acceptance of the grant is approved, the Sheriff will prepare a budget amendment to accept and expend the funds. Anderson asked if the Sheriff's budget would cover the matching funds. Walsh said there would be a transfer between Animal Control and his budget to cover the expense because Animal Control will receive the two older computers. James asked if the new MDCs would be placed in the new squad cars so they would last longer. Walsh said they have not discussed which squad cars will receive the new units.

Motion carried.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS

Status Report from Peter Tracy

Tracy distributed his status report to the committee. He reported all the contracts were up and going prior to July 1st. A large implementation meeting was held where Tracy defined recidivism for the agencies. The monitoring process has been developed and a meeting will be held concerning disproportionate minority confinement. Another meeting is planned with the agencies to review reporting requirements. The final reports for last years grants will be provided at the September Justice & Social Services Committee meeting.

HEAD START

Monthly Reports for June and July

MOTION by Tapley to receive and place on file the Head Start June and July reports; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

NURSING HOME

Monthly Report

The June Nursing Home report was in the agenda packet and the July report was distributed by Buffenbarger at the meeting.

MOTION by James to receive and place on file the Nursing Home June and July monthly reports; seconded by Tapley.

James said the reports were well-written asked if Buffenbarger had a staff writer who prepares them. Buffenbarger said he has a ghostwriter whose identity he cannot reveal.

Motion carried.

COURT SERVICES/PROBATION

Department of Corrections Juvenile Detention Center Inspection Report

MOTION by Greenwalt to receive and place on file the Department of Corrections Juvenile Detention Center Inspection Report; seconded by Tapley.

Gordon complimented the Juvenile Detention Center's staff on the programs and keeping the building well maintained. Connie Kaiser and some other staff members are involved in statewide initiatives associated with juvenile detention. Gordon is pleased to have someone with Kaiser's expertise on board. James asked if he could take a tour of the JDC. Gordon said the Board members are welcome at anytime, they just need to call ahead to set up a time. The Court Services Department gives tours to parents, juveniles, and educators. Anderson asked about the items marked N/A on the report. Gordon explained this referred to the food being prepared onsite. It is not applicable to the JDC because the inmates' food is prepared by the Sheriff's Office and transported to the JDC.

Motion carried.

Reclassification of Assistant Director Position

This item was provided for information only.

Reclassification of Three Senior Court Services Officers Positions

This item was provided for information only.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Anderson reported the performance appraisal process for department heads has begun. Anderson will serve on a committee with Barbara Wysocki and Greg Knott to appraise Buffenbarger and Bill Keller. Anderson would be happy to receive any input from other County Board members about the two department heads.

OTHER BUSINESS

James inquired about a spreadsheet detailing the Animal Control costs. Busey said they have just now completed twelve months of operation at the new Animal Control facility. She met with Stephanie Joos today to discuss the budget. Animal Control's budget will be presented at the Legislative Budget Hearing and to this

committee at their September meeting. James asked if it would cover all costs of staff, utilities, and equipment. Busey confirmed it would cover everything.

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair designated agenda item VIII B from the addendum for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Recording 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.