

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Monday, August 6, 2007**

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

7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anderson (Chair), Carter, Gladney, Hogue, Hunt, James, Putman, Tapley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sapp

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Beckett (County Board Member), Kat Bork (Recording Secretary), Andrew Buffenbarger (Nursing Home Administrator), Judge Jeffrey Ford (Circuit Court), Joseph Gordon (Court Services Director), Roger Holland (Court Administrator), Stephanie Joos, (Animal Control Director), Shirley Marshall (Jury Coordinator), Julia Rietz (State's Attorney), Peter Tracy (Director of Mental Health), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair), Barbara Wysocki (County Board Member), Jonte Rollins (C-U Area Project), Shelia Ferguson, Kimberly Fairley, Andre Arrington, Shavion Scott, Brian Dolinar, Aaron Ammons, Carol Ammons, Patricia Avery, Megan Guernsey, Tabitha Groce

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Anderson, Carter, Gladney, Hogue, Hunt, and James were present at the time of the roll call.

Anderson spoke about the recent death of Marilyn Garmon-Starks who worked for C-U Area Project and coordinated with Peter Tracy on monitoring the Juvenile Delinquency Grants. The committee had a moment of silence to remember Garmon-Starks at Anderson's request.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

**MOTION** by Hunt to approve the agenda; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

Putman entered the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by James to approve the regular session minutes of May 7, 2007; May 24, 2007; and June 4, 2007; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried.**

Tapley entered the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Shelia Ferguson, CEO of the Mental Health Center, thanked the committee for their support of the Juvenile Delinquency Grants from which her agency receives funding. The Mental Health Center operates the Juvenile Justice Care Coordination Program that assists juveniles and families at the Juvenile Detention Center and those that have been station-adjusted.

Kimberly Fairley, Executive Director of Best Interest of Children, thanked the committee for their continued financial support of the Family Conference program. She stated the program would not be in operation without community support and local entities providing the funding.

Andre Arrington, Executive Director of the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club, distributed an executive summary of the Juvenile Upward Mobility Program (JUMP) and thanked the committee for their support through the Juvenile Delinquency Grants. The Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club has received funding from the County for a number of years. He stated the juvenile delinquents are challenging to work with, as many are on probation. Shavion Scott, also from the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club, spoke about JUMP. She stated the goal of the program was to serve fifty juveniles. They fell short of their goal by serving thirty-four juveniles in the last year. Scott spoke about the struggles the program has in trying to work with the juveniles. She thanked the committee for allowing them to be of service to youth.

Brian Dolinar spoke concerning jury pools in Champaign County. He is alarmed that African-Americans make up 12% of the County's populations and only 6% of juries. He urged the County Board to look into this matter. He said the number of African-American defendants is alarming to him when compared with the percentage of African-Americans on juries. The Courtwatching Study has shown that 70% of defendants in criminal cases are African-Americans.

Aaron Ammons spoke about the jury pool issue. He believes it would be helpful to implement new strategies to change the mindset to help address this issue. Ammons spoke about a time when females were not allowed to serve on juries and how they now represent a large percentage of jurors. He said something needs to change because 79% of defendants are African-Americans. Ammons suggested the County give higher payment to jurors, such as \$60 a day for each juror to increase the desire for poor people in particular to serve on juries. Ammons noted some employers pay their employees for their time on jury duty, while other employers do not. Ammons said there is no financial incentive for people to serve on a jury. Ammons stated, as a member for C-U Citizens for Peace & Justice, their mission is to perform citizen education to the best of their ability. He said they would be delighted to work with County Board members and have support from the County Board in doing more community education. He suggested a mock jury pool so people could see the process. Lastly, Ammons said the questions asked on the jury summons questionnaire are somewhat intimidating to a population who has a negative or a perceived negative experience with the criminal justice system. He said the African-American population is decimated with felony convictions so being asked whether you or a member of your family has been convicted of a felony is intrusive.

Carol Ammons spoke about jury selection. She expressed that she and Steve Beckett have spoken about this process on the radio. She raised questions about the juror questionnaire. She wondered why the question about whether a person has ever been convicted of a criminal offense is on the juror questionnaire when a person with a felony conviction can legally serve on a jury in Illinois. Ammons said this question is a precursory for a discriminatory act to take place. Ammons asked about jury demographics based on class and who is actually serving on juries. She spoke about prosecutors and defense attorneys wanting a certain kind of jury and studies on jury racial attitudes.

Patricia Avery of C-U Area Project spoke about the loss of Marilyn Garmon-Starks. Avery thanked the committee for being a visionary for change and supporting the work of youth through the Juvenile Delinquency Grants. She thanked Peter Tracy and the Mental Health Board for being a strong supporter of

the grants and for putting additional money towards those efforts. Avery voiced her support of Project ACCESS.

Megan Guernsey spoke about juries as someone who had recently been on jury duty. She stated that she saw two African-Americans in her jury pool. The potential jurors were mostly comprised of women and some had served on juries before. Guernsey stated she is a law school graduate and she found it interesting that she was not kicked off the jury, nor was another juror who was a law professor. She felt there was not evidence supporting the theory that the low number of African-Americans in the jury pool was due to low voter registration or few members of that population having drivers' licenses or State IDs because, in her opinion, drivers' licenses and State IDs are easy to come by. Guernsey said it is important to continuously say that both defendants and victims are predominantly African-American, so there should be more African-Americans on juries.

Tabitha Groce, from the Mahomet Area Youth Club, thanked the committee for the funding through the Juvenile Delinquency Grants. She spoke about providing programming to juveniles in the rural areas and how beneficial it is for juvenile who would otherwise fall through the system.

### **PRESENTATION – JURY SELECTION PROCESS**

Roger Holland, the Circuit Court Administrator, and Shirley Marshall, one of the Jury Coordinators, gave a presentation on the jury selection process. Marshall distributed a packet to the committee that included a juror questionnaire, petit jury summons, graphs on the costs of juror fees and meals since FY2002, and the Jury Commission budget since FY2002. Holland began with giving a general overview of the juror selection process. It starts with a data request to the Illinois Secretary of State. The data comes from two sources: drivers' licenses/State IDs and voter registration. This data is set to a company named Judicial Systems in Texas, who is the vendor of the Circuit Court's Jury 2000 software system. Judicial Systems formats the data for uploading to the jury software at the Courthouse. Before the data reaches the Circuit Court, it is screened through a change of address database. This database catches any person who has filled out a change of address form at the post office and updates their information if they still live in Champaign County. The data is then uploaded into the Circuit Court's computer. The Court then mails juror questionnaires. The Court currently requests 400 names at random from the juror data to mail out questionnaires. In the last nine months, they have sent out 14,400 questionnaires. Of that number 30% or a little over 5,000 were never responded to. Of the 14,400 questionnaires, 3,600 or 25% were returned but these individuals were unable to serve jury duty. The remaining 5,760 questionnaires or about 40% were returned and could be reviewed as potential jurors. The questionnaires general fall into three categories: 1. Questionnaires returned by the post office as undeliverable and there is no forwarding address. These names are removed from the system. 2. Questionnaires returned by the post office with a forwarding address. If the forwarding address is in Champaign County, the questionnaire is sent to the new address. If the forwarding address indicates the person is no longer a resident of Champaign County, the name is removed from the system. 3. Questionnaires that are completed. These responses are Holland's favorites. The completed questionnaires fall into two categories: those who are qualified to serve jury duty and those that are not. The minimum qualifications for jury duty are that a person must be 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen, and a Champaign County resident. Another category is comprised of those individuals who are requesting an excuse from jury duty. A person must indicate the basis for their requesting an excuse on the juror questionnaire. Holland stated Illinois Compiled Statute 705 ILCS 305/10.2 sets forth the reasons why someone should be excused from jury duty. The reasons for excuse are: if undue hardship would occur due to the nature of the prospective juror's occupation, business affairs, physical health, family situation, active duty in the military, if the individual is a primary caregiver of an individual with mental or physical disabilities, the primary caregiver of a child under twelve, or for other personal reasons. Those individuals who request an excuse on the juror questionnaire are sent to the Jury Commission, who determines whether or not an excuse is granted. Another category is those individuals who request a specific set over date. These individuals cannot serve jury duty at a specific time, but they indicate in Section C on the juror

questionnaire a convenient month for them to serve jury duty. The qualified individuals are placed in a pool of potential jurors to be summoned.

Of the qualified individuals, 150 people are summoned for jury duty each week. The summons provides basic information about the term of jury service and how someone can establish an excuse. This enables people who indicated on the juror questionnaire that they could serve, but cannot when they receive a summons. Individuals requesting an excuse can attend one of the Jury Commission dates (listed on the front of summons) and ask the Jury Commission in person to be excused or set over for other time. The Jury Commission meets once a month at the Brookens Administrative Center. Holland stated the Jury Commissioners do an outstanding job. They are tough and they care very much about the people who appear before them.

Those individuals who are summoned for jury duty arrive at the Courthouse at the date and time specified in the summons. The Jury Coordinators check the potential jurors in and provide an orientation. The orientation consists of an instructional video with Judge Ladd speaking about the importance of jury service and the duty of jurors. Sergeant Carlton, the head of Court Security, gives a brief speech about what to expect from the Court Security Officers. The Jury Coordinators are available to answer any questions the potential jurors might have. Jurors remain in the Jury Assembly Room until they are called to a courtroom. When a judge indicates he or she has a trial that requires a jury, a list of random jurors is created and those people are sent to a courtroom to begin the voir dire process. Holland explained no questions with regard to race are asked of potential jurors in the process to this point. The computer system does not collect data on race and the information received from the State does not contain any racial data.

Holland included a rundown of some of the costs related to juries, including juror fees and meals. The costs have increased over the last five year, primarily due to the continuous jury system. The cost of juror fees has increased from almost \$101,719 in FY2002 to \$153,425 in FY2007. The cost of juror meals has remained fairly static. Personnel costs have increased because of the continuous jury system.

Holland made some suggestions to improve the system as a whole. The most important method in reaching the segments of the population that are not as well represented on juries as they would like is community outreach. This involves telling people the importance of filling out and returning the jury questionnaire when they receive one. This is the only way to enter the system. The computer system can only provide names of potential jurors if a completed questionnaire is returned. Even informing the Circuit Court that someone cannot serve on jury duty is better than no response at all. Holland advised that community outreach is something everyone can do. Holland presented three other ways to improve the system, none of which were directly related to segments of the population, but which may improve jury service. The reason he has not previously brought these ideas before the committee is because they come with a considerable price tag and the Courts are very aware of the financial constraints that the County has been under. The first idea is that Champaign County could purchase an upgrade to its current software system from its current vendor. This upgrade would allow for an Internet questionnaire so potential jurors could submit the questionnaire electronically. The upgrade would include setting up a telephone number where potential jurors could call in and complete the questionnaire with a touchtone phone. There would be some savings generated because the Court would not have to send out the questionnaire with the return envelope, the Court would send out postcards instead. The ballpark cost of the upgrade is between \$30,000 and \$40,000. Other option that has been mentioned is increasing the juror fees. Jurors are currently paid \$10 a day plus mileage. A number of the larger employers in the County pay their employees as if they are at work on the days they perform jury service. The employees then turn over their \$10 day juror fee to their employers. Another option is increased enforcement for those people who do not fill out their juror questionnaires. However, the entity best suited for enforcement is the Sheriff's Office and pulling a deputy off the road to track down non-responsive citizens would be costly. Holland again encouraged community outreach about the importance of returning their juror questionnaires. There is no guarantee that using any of the options that cost money would directly result in an increased minority population in the jury pool.

Putman thanked everyone involved in the jury process. She asked why the juror questionnaire asked if a person has been party to a lawsuit or been convicted of a criminal offense. She thought she knew the answer was that it goes to how the attorneys want to know this information when selecting a jury. She also asked if the 35 % non-respondents to the questionnaires are those who have moved and the letter does not reach them. Holland requested the State's Attorney answer the first question and Marshall answer the second. Rietz, who had in hand her own juror questionnaire that she received in the mail last week and has completed to be returned to the Circuit Court, explained the questions about whether a person has been a party in a lawsuit pending in this county or if the person or a close family member has been charged or convicted of a criminal offense in on the second page under biographical information. This information is given to the prosecution and defense attorneys or civil attorneys when a jury is being selected. This enables the attorneys to ask the potential jurors questions about their background to decide whether to excuse or accept a potential juror. There are some things that can disqualify someone from jury service that the attorney must know in order to have a fair and impartial jury. Rietz noted that when those in the Champaign County Courts system came up with the continuous jury term, this questionnaire was a part of the change. In the past, jurors did not receive questionnaires in the mail; they were simply summoned and then filled out the questionnaire when they arrived for jury service. This questionnaire process takes out of the summons process the people who have moved or do not respond. By issuing a summons after a completed questionnaire has been received, the courts have found the number of people actually responding to their summons are much higher. When the questionnaire was received from the software company, it was in a very different format. The questions about a person's criminal background were on the first page under qualifications. The Courts had these questions removed from the qualifications and moved to the second page because a criminal conviction does not disqualify someone from serving as a juror. Rietz did not want potential jurors to be dissuaded from showing up if they saw that question under qualifications. The questionnaire was revamped by the Champaign County Courts system. Putman said the Ammons were saying these questions would turn people off, but she recognized that the information must be obtained for the attorneys. Even if the question was removed from the juror questionnaire, it would be asked during voir dire. Rietz thought it would be interesting to survey those who did not return the questionnaire as to why they did not return their questionnaires. Holland said, in response to Putman's other question, that 35% of the questionnaires were sent back because they had undeliverable addresses. He noted Champaign County has a large transient population because of the University of Illinois. He added the Circuit Clerk used to mail out 500 summons to get 125 jurors under the old system. With the new system they get a higher percentage of return.

Carter asked for explanation of the selection process. Holland further described the random selection of potential jurors. Carter said some citizens are not doing their duty. Holland said the names are generated at random. Holland explained some citizens are registered voters and legal drivers for decades without being called for jury duty and other citizens have served jury duty more than once. It simply happens this way and does not occur by design. Carter again claimed it is because somebody is not doing their duty. He asked if the County has enough tax payers that are good citizens to serve on jury duty. Holland said they do the best they can. Carter interrupted that it was not the best. Holland said they get good people to serve jury duty, though he wishes more people would do their civic duty. Carter talked about the people he would not want on a jury. Chair Anderson recognized another committee member with a question. Carter objected and claimed he was being cut off. Anderson apologized and attempted to state it was not her attention to cut Carter off, but Carter repeatedly interrupted her. Carter spoke about why there was such chaos in America. Anderson apologized again and noted the committee is struggling to get the answers and that Holland has explained the process. Chair Anderson recognized James who had a question. James confirmed Carter was finished talking.

James suggested people contact the Courts system if they think there is a better way to conduct the jury selection process. James stated no one has all the answers and he did not know how to interpret some of the things Carter was saying. He thought Carter might be complaining that the Courts system was not doing a good enough job. From what he is hearing, the Courts are doing the best they can. He did not wish to

argue about this. Carter said he is not arguing with James. James asked if there was a State law that prohibits an employer from firing a person for missing work due to jury service. Holland answered that there is law prohibiting employers from firing employees for serving jury duty. James mentioned that he knew people who did not register to vote because they did not want to serve on a jury. He spoke about the jurors' pay and, in response to those who advocate increasing it substantially, noted just because a person is paid does not mean someone is a better worker. Additional money would have to come from taxpayers. James suggested jurors receive reimbursement for mileage. Holland stated jurors already do receive mileage reimbursement. James stated he is not offended by the questions on the juror questionnaire and someone who desires to serve on a jury will fill out the form. He liked the suggestion of community outreach to get people involved. If an issue is important to people, then they should make the time to show up and make the change. The County Board needs to know that the mass of the people want change.

Weibel asked what happened if someone does not fill out the questionnaire completely. Marshall answered that the questionnaire is returned to the individual with a form letter requesting he or she complete the questionnaire. She stated this does not happen often. Anderson asked about the appearance on the outside of the envelope. She has seen a federal jury summons that threatens imprisonment or a fine for not appearing as summoned. Marshall and Holland stated that threat does not appear on the Circuit Court's envelopes.

Gladney commented the jury process sounded partly random and partly not. Holland clarified that the process is random until the potential jurors enter the courtroom to undergo the voir dire process. Gladney asked if there is a law that compels private employers to compensate their employees called for jury duty with their regular pay. Holland said such a law not did exist. Gladney asked if that was something that could be looked into at the County level. Holland said that would be an issue for the State government because jury service is generally governed by State law. Holland spoke about proposed issues regarding jury service that have been considered by the State. He confirmed the County pays jurors \$10 a day plus mileage. Gladney thinks the burden should be taken off private citizens and put on employers to compensate jurors because it is a civic duty. This would take the burden off of counties and local government bodies to compensate jurors. Gladney said they should make no distinction between a private citizen and a private company. Holland said that would be a State issue and he would be in favor of anything that would result in more jurors. James said there are a lot of small business with only two-three employees who would be adversely affected. A small business owner would have to pay the person serving jury duty and the person filling in while that employee is absent. James felt this cost would overburden small businesses and might do more harm than good. Gladney acknowledged that was a valid concern. Gladney asked about the Jury Commission and exemptions due to severe hardship. Holland said the form goes to the Jury Commission and they review the request to determine whether someone will be exempted. If someone receives a summons, then that person must appear before the Jury Commission in person to request an exemption. The continuous jury system has reduced the length of jury service from two weeks to one week to help make it less of a hardship.

Anderson said she has been in the community over forty years and has seen improvements with the jury process. She likes that that potential jurors can call in or check online to see if they have to report to the Courthouse the next day during their week of jury service. Some potential jurors do not have to serve every day of the week they are summoned.

Gladney thanked the Circuit Court for the improvements that have been made and stated there is a lot of room for improvement. He asked if someone can volunteer to be on a jury. Holland said that is not a possibility because it would be fraught with people with a specific agenda to bring volunteering for juries. This is a reason the summoning process is random.

Hunt asked about if there is any evidence from other counties that the number of responses will be higher if a new software program is purchased. Holland said he has not gathered any statistics because of the

sticker shock involved. He is willing to look into it. The software would enable citizens to answer the questionnaire over the phone or online. It would cut down on the labor costs involved with folding and stuffing the questionnaires. They have mailed out 14,000 questionnaires in the last nine months. The Jury Coordinators are part-time and are called in to work when they are needed in an effort to keep costs down.

Beckett wished to make it clear that the studies on juries were done by the League of Women Voters. He participated in the three studies with his Trial Advocacy students at the University of Illinois. He wanted to disavow that the studies were his in anyway and the credit for them should go to the League of Women Voters. They wanted to raise community consciousness about a problem that was documented in the first study and that Beckett saw anecdotally in his years of legal practice. The County officials are working together to try to improve the system and He wanted it to be clear that the officials are not dragging their feet.

Gladney asked what is going on with community outreach. Holland said the Circuit Court is the end user and would be happy to take suggestions on outreach. The Courts are eager for more jurors and are willing for the system to be transparent to encourage confidence. Gladney encouraged Holland to bring ideas to the County Board regardless of the costs involved. Holland said he would have brought forward any suggestion that was directed at increasing the numbers of jurors in under represented populations.

Carter asked how the system got so bad that people were not showing up for jury service. He spoke about minorities in jail who could not vote or serve on jurors once they are released, so there are less people in the black community to choose from for juries. Rietz wanted to make it clear that people who have been convicted of felonies can serve on juries and they can vote after they are released. She encouraged Carter to help her to spread the word to the community that convicted felons can vote and serve on juries and they should. She will work with the Ammons on community outreach and the possibility of a mock jury.

Anderson thanked Holland and Marshall for their presentation. Holland encouraged anyone with questions or suggestions to contact them at the Courthouse.

## **CIRCUIT COURT**

### **Recommendation for Adoption of Drug Court Fee and Expenditure for Drug Court Administration**

**MOTION** by Hogue to forward the Memorandum of Understanding with the Mental Health Board and adoption of the Drug Court Fee to the Finance Committee; seconded by Carter.

Judge Ford addressed the committee about Drug Court. Drug Court has grown since its inception and is in need of money. The drug addicts serving in Drug Court are in need of medical and dental services because they are no longer self-medicating and have no insurance. They need to get job training and GEDs and this costs money. Judge Ford stated the funds are needed to better serve the people they are serving. He requested money for bus tokens, rent assistance, and other needs. Judge Ford said Drug Court does not want to give a free ride. A part of having people take responsibility for themselves is making them have responsibility. His idea is to front the addicts money for rent or medical expenses and it would be great to have them feel the necessity to maybe repay some of it. The State legislature has allowed counties to enact a \$5 fee for Drug Courts. This would be an additional fee for people who come through the criminal courts system. This would result in people with criminal problems help to support people who have been through the court system and need something. Judge Ford also requested the County Board agree to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mental Health Board. The money generated by the Drug Court fee would be taken through the Mental Health Board, which is also a charitable organization so the Drug Court could receive donations from private citizens, to help fund medical, dental, employment, transportation, and other things the Drug Court participates need. Working with the Mental Health Board would be easier than setting up a charitable trust. Judge Ford provided statistics about Drug Court. All Drug Court participants are convicted felons. Most Drug Court participants have been to the penitentiary before for prior felony

convictions. To graduate from Drug Court, participants must be clean for twelve months (they are drug tested) and complete their treatment. Judge Ford reported Champaign County's Drug Court is graduating 32%-33% of those eligible. Judge Ford shared some of the success stories of convicted felons who would have found employment at various businesses after graduating from Drug Court. Drug Court is an alternative to the penitentiary and allows the felons to remain in the community. It costs the State approximately \$25,000 for each inmate in prison, according to the Illinois Department of Corrections. Drug Court has helped keep families together. Judge Ford thinks Drug Court has a good program and they need help to keep up the standards.

Putman stated the value of Drug Court is worth vastly more than a \$5 fee and thinks everyone should be willing to pay for it through taxes. Judge Ford explained the legislature allowed for the fee because funding is tough and nobody wants to raise taxes. Putman asked if the State expected the counties to pick up the cost for Drug Courts after the Bureau of Justice grants ended after a pilot period. Judge Ford stated that would hopefully happen, but Champaign County had never received any money before. The grant helped pay for a software package for statistical data and other upgrades. Without a fee, the court will lower the number of Drug Court participants. Putman asked if a defendant must plead guilty to participate in Drug Court. Ford confirmed defendants must plead guilty. The Champaign County Drug Court was originally designed by Judge Townsend and Judge Ford to go after the hardcore offenders/users who were on their way to the penitentiary. The first-time user might be scared enough by the court experience to get help and would not need the intense monitoring of Drug Court. The State's Attorney, Court Services, Public Defender, and Prairie Center all work as a team on Drug Court. Judge Ford wants the fee institutionalized to keep Drug Court going.

James asked if anyone with a vehicle violation would have to pay the Drug Court fee. Judge Ford said they would pay the fee. He explained the fee is not applied to every ticket, only for the more serious tickets where people come to court. James understands the needs of Drug Court, but there are so many agencies out there providing services vying for the same dollars. A lot of his constituents are tired of being nicked and dined to death. They have worked hard all their lives and complain about taxes and fees going up. James thinks Drug Court is doing a good job. He asked if he had any data on whether the Drug Court graduates stay clean in the two-three years following their graduation. Judge Ford said there is some data, the problem is part of the software is to put all the data together. Some Drug Court participants have repeated felonies years later. In Drug Court, 68% of participants do not graduate. Judge Ford said some of the failures end up being successes in the long run. James asked what happens to the money when a drug dealer gets busted in the County with hundreds of thousands of dollars. Judge Ford explained that none of this money goes to Drug Court. James suggested the State might want to look at the law to support services for felons in Drug Courts. He cannot support raising fees because he deals with a lot of single mothers and other people who are working very hard to make ends meet who he does not want to see overburdened on speeding tickets. He understands the temptations of addictions, but he feels sorry for the person not committing crimes who is struggling to pay the taxes and fees levied in support of such programs. Judge Ford said there are a lot of reasons why people get involved in substance abuse, including sexual abuse and service in Vietnam. He said they are trying to look to help those people who can stay in the community who might end up paying taxes and lessening the burden on those being asked to pay the fee.

Weibel asked if the Drug Court participants would have been sentenced to a period of longer than one year in prison. Judge Ford said the length of time the Drug Court participants would have spent in the penitentiary would vary. Weibel asked what it costs for a person in Drug Court. Judge Ford said it costs about \$6,000 a year for the successful candidates versus the \$25,000 a year the State would pay to hold someone in the penitentiary. Judge Ford said there is an additional savings because that person is working and not out stealing or on public aid. This benefits the community. Weibel asked about the range of fines that the Drug Court fee might be added to. Judge Ford answered that when a person comes into court it usually involves at least a \$75 fine. The fine could be \$1,000-\$2,000.

Rietz stated that she is on the Drug Court Steering Committee with Joseph Gordon from the Court Services Department. They want to make it clear that the \$5 would be added to criminal cases and some traffic cases. The County Board could add to Drug Court's funding by adding personnel to departments like the State's Attorney's Office. Both Rietz and Gordon have personnel in their offices that work on Drug Court cases. She has been told to not ask the County Board for additional personnel. This fee is a way to fund Drug Court without asking for more funding from the General Corporate Fund.

Discussion about Drug Court continued with Rietz, Gordon, and Judge Ford answering questions about its history. Anderson confirmed that the vote tonight does not approve the fee; it simply forwards the matter to the Finance Committee. Tracy stated the Mental Health Board provides some funding for Drug Court and spoke in favor of the program. Anderson encouraged County Board members to attend the Drug Court graduations.

**Motion carried with two no votes by James and Hunt.**

Anderson thanked Judge Ford for his appearance. He thanked the committee for having him.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**MOTION** by Putman to receive and place on file the Animal Control May 2007 and June 2007 reports, Circuit Clerk May 2007 and June 2007 reports, Coroner February 2007, March 2007, and April 2007 reports, Court Services May 2007 report, EMA July 2007 report, and the Public Defender May 2007 and June 2007 reports; seconded by Hogue. **Motion carried.**

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

**Recommendation for Updates to Animal Control Ordinance**

**MOTION** by Putman to approve the updates to the Animal Control Ordinance; seconded by Hunt.

Joos stated the ordinance is a repeat of the updates brought before the committee in May. She was there to ask for any recommendations and to move forward with the revised ordinance so the County could be in compliance with state law. The major changes include 1. Section 4 on dogs running at large, the State has asked counties to prohibit dogs from running at large anywhere in the county, including unincorporated areas. It also increases the fine for each subsequent offense in an effort to deter repeat offenders, which is a common problem. 2. Section 27 on registration fees, State law now requires a \$10 differential between the registration fees for an unaltered animal versus an altered animal. Joos recommended keeping the fee for altered animals the same and increasing the fee for unaltered animals. Pet owners would be charged a higher registration fee for being more than twenty days late in registering their pets to penalize them for not complying with the ordinance. Animal Control will add the costs of boarding an animal to the fees assessed when pet owners reclaim their pets from the Animal Control Facility. Joos said the \$10 differential would not increase the Animal Control budget. State law requires the money go into a fund for a spay/neuter program for low income residents.

**Motion carried.**

**COURT SERVICES**

**Probation and Court Services Annual Report FY2006**

Gordon provides the annual report to the committee every year and is available for any questions after the committee has a chance to read the report.

**MOTION** by Putman to receive and place on file the Probation and Court Services Annual Report FY2006; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

**HEAD START**  
Monthly Report

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the Head Start May/June 2007 report; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

**NURSING HOME**  
Monthly Report

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the Nursing Home July 2007 report; seconded by Hunt.

Putman asked what memory care training was. Buffenbarger explained it is training for staff to provide direct care for residents with dementia. Dementia patients require a special approach. Putman asked for confirmation that the Nursing Home did previously perform pre-employment drug tests and physicals on its potential employees. Buffenbarger stated the Nursing Home has never done drug testing before July. It is now a global application. Putman voiced her support of this measure.

Gladney asked about the Nursing Home's focus on long-term care. Buffenbarger described that long-term care represents more than half of the Nursing Home's business. Memory care is a form of long-term care. At the new facility, memory care has been separated out from long-term care and is being accurately identified.

**Motion carried.**

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**  
Emergency Response Guide

The Emergency Response Guide was provided for information only.

**JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS**  
Status Report from Peter Tracy

Tracy distributed the report, which was a summary of the four quarters of the last contract year. He introduced Jonte Rollins from C-U Area Project as Marilyn Garmon-Starks's replacement. Rollins has hit the ground running and compiled the data for tonight's report. Tracy encouraged any Board members to contact him if they have questions after they read the report. Tracy noted that most providers did not meet their annual goals. Because of the County Board's requirement to focus on recidivism and post-detention juveniles, the agencies are dealing with tougher clients than before. All clients will be in the Project ACCESS database. Rollins greeted the committee and shared some of her background and her dedication to the at-risk youth in Champaign County.

James asked if the agencies are aware that they are not meeting their goals and what needs to be done. Tracy confirmed the agencies do know those facts. The post-detention clients are tougher to engage and can result in the agency doing a lot of work with no result. An agency does not receive credit for a case unless it reaches a certain point. James was glad to see the reports detailing where the funds are going and the Mental Health Board's follow-up with the agencies.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

There was no Chair's Report.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

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

Anderson designated item IX A for the consent agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 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.*