

COMMUNITY JUSTICE TASK FORCE MINUTES

Monday, June 4, 2012 – 6pm

Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Admin. Center

1776 E. Washington, Urbana, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ferguson, Driscoll, Bennett, Rappaport, Sullivan, Rollins-Gay, Richards, Kilgore, Branham

MEMBERS ABSENT:None

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Petrie, Ralph Langenheim, Pius Weibel (County Board members), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Sheriff Walsh, Allen Jones, Nancy Griffin, Sue Swain & Harmony Goorley (Sheriff's office), other members of the public

Call to Order

Chair Richards called the meeting to order at 6:11pm.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken and all members were present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ferguson to approve the agenda for the meeting; seconded by Driscoll. Kilgore said he had submitted a paper about cities that have jail improvement projects that were reversed and would like it discussed. Richards said it can be discussed item 8. Sullivan said he created an evaluation sheet for each of the program reports. **Motion carried.**

Public Participation

Patti Petrie mentioned she attended a town hall meeting on May 11 at the City of Urbana building. She wanted to bring this committee's attention to what was brought up at that meeting. She mentioned there were speakers there from Monroe County, IN and they had been successful in accomplishing some community programs. She also said Chris Evans put together a helpful history of the quarter cent sales tax. She said it would be good to know the background of the quarter cent.

Reverend Evelyn Underwood said she would have to leave later this evening, but felt it important to be here to encourage the committee in its work.

Pius Weibel said the County's Drug Court graduation ceremony is Monday, June 18 at the Urbana Civic Center and all are invited to attend.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Bennett to approve the minutes of May 1, 2012, as presented; seconded by Sullivan. **Motion carried.**

Presentation: Current Programs Provided in Champaign County Correctional Centers

VA Program

Alcoholics Anonymous

Church/Bible Study

Friday Prayer

GED

Healthcare Facilitation Program

Inmate Library

Nancy Griffin, Program Coordinator at the jails, spoke to the committee about a number of various programs already in place in the jails. She said these are volunteer based programs provided at the jail at no cost. She has been in this position since 1989. She said there are programs that come and go. They are always in the process of program development. Sullivan asked if any of the programs actually reduce incarceration. She felt they do, but she does not have actual statistics. She thought the GED program is a success. She said that Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) are good programs that do have statistics. Branham asked if there was a GED program in place for women. Griffin said it is available currently only to the men, because there aren't enough women to hold a formal class. She said they do provide some training with tutors for those women who are working towards their GED. It was noted the GED test cannot be taken in the jail, and the men can take the test at a public site.

Rappaport asked for a percentage of participants in the programs. Griffin stated it varies depending on the program. She said it could be as low as 5% and as high as 60%. She noted a 60-80% constant turnout for the library. She noted that the church program services are heavily attended. AA participation is a smaller percentage and NA even smaller. Participation in all programs is non-mandated and they rely on volunteers from the community to run the programs. There is a formal process in becoming a volunteer. In order to implement any new programs, it is recommended to approach the Sheriff, who then turns over that work to Ms. Griffin.

The VA program is provided by the VA Program in Danville. Only veterans only are eligible for participation. There are weekly AA meetings for men and women and the local AA chapter provides the volunteers and the literature. If needed, individual appointments are scheduled. She said that NA does have a meeting for men and women once a week and they also provide NA literature.

GED is available to the men. The providers are Parkland College and Adult Ed and provide 12 hours of education each week for 16 weeks. Project Read does provide supplements and works with math in particular. Project Read is also a tutoring program for the women once a week.

Healthcare facilitation is provided by a medical doctor and several ministers from the Vineyard Church. They don't supplement or take place of the medical staff, but provide medical information in terms of diet, regular health care, exercise, etc. This is provided for both the men and the women. Library is held once a week at each facility. Volunteers come in each day.

Friday evening prayer is provided for the population from the central Illinois mosques. Muslim literature, prayer rugs, etc. are provided. The jail's chaplain is Jesus is the Way Ministry and is provided at both facilities. They provide bible study and bibles to both men and women, as well as individual services as requested.

Richards asked the Sheriff if any of the programs are affected by the physical condition of the facility. Sheriff Walsh said, in terms of the facilities, they have one room plus the library downtown in which to hold all the programs. He said there is also only one room for all programs at the satellite. He said the main issue is having space to hold these programs. He said in terms of enough medical or hospital rooms they are very limited on space. Their only way of having a private area for consults is an empty cell.

Harmony Goorley, Mental Health Administrator at the jail, talked about her staff and their daily duties. She and two part-timers do a review each day on new intakes. They review the assessments of the intake officers and determine the appropriate housing. She said the first couple of days are the highest for

suicide risks. There is a psychiatrist on-call twenty-four hours. They assess correctional staff referrals and provide brief counseling. They also assist with services so the inmates have care beyond incarceration. Rappaport asked if they would rather have more staff or more space. She responded they certainly need a better use of space, because of the need for segregation of the mental case inmates. If an inmate is found unfit, it can be up to a three month wait for hospital space and they have to stay in the jail facility until then. It was noted that jails in Illinois cannot force medication of any kind. Allen Jones stressed the mental health staff at the jails are not there to treat or provide therapy, but act more as triage and determining the needs of the inmates. Discussion continued.

Sue Swain, Administrative Nurse at the jail described a variety of illnesses. The illnesses differ in severity. She noted the acuity has skyrocketed in the last several years. She said they have had many HIV and AIDS patients, as well many heart attack patients. They have patients with gunshot wounds, pregnant patients, patients with diabetes, COPD, strokes, amputees, cancer, dialysis and a large variety of other problems that vary in severity. She said they recently spent four hours training with the officers in some of the issues when nursing staff is not available. She said that HIV patients are challenging because their medication is extremely expensive. She stated they are in need of hospital rooms for those patients that require special care, such as wounds, dialysis, etc. She said that nursing staff is responsible for passing the medication and are in the jail for twelve hours each day. They assess patients that put in requests for any health problem that may arise. They go through the booking sheets and do assessments on those that are needed. The doctor comes in once a week and he will refer any need for special services. She said several patients have been referred for surgery. The Sheriff added that officers need to be made available to go to the hospital for ER or hospital admissions when that happens. Branham asked about pretrial services and wanted the committee to think about these issues or alternatives that might decrease population and in turn increase mental health or medical services. Sullivan said, as a citizen of the County, appreciates the hard work of the medical staff.

Jones added with regard to some of the medical conditions, they do not have cells or electricity in the cells, so if someone has a CPAP machine, they have to allow the inmate come into the booking area and inmate populations are crossing. He said this creates a physical facility problem. They have too much limited space. Nurse Swain said they do have patients that use their conditions or who will refuse medication or medical attention, etc in order to "punish" the officers and other staff for their incarceration.

The Sheriff said they can house over 300 inmates only if the inmates are of the right mix and can be housed together. Captain Jones estimated this day they had 205 inmates and 21 in booking. They have 7 on electronic home detention. Their average low of female inmates is 10 and a high of 25. They have 65 correctional officers for the two facilities and they do their best to keep cases moving. There are approximately 40 inmates serving a sentence and the rest are pre-trial inmates. The committee asked for a crime background on the inmates, but Jones said they do not do that on a daily basis. He will get that information for a future meeting. The Sheriff stressed that a listing will not give a history of each of those inmates. Discussion continued about the home electronic detention system and how that is administered.

Reports on Current Community Programs
Regional Planning Commission

No questions were asked about this program.

Champaign County Drug Court Fund

No questions were asked about this program.

Prairie Center Health Systems Drug Court

Sullivan asked what the overlap was between the County Drug Court Fund and the Prairie Center Health Systems Drug Court. Driscoll said the drug court fund is available to assist clients with specific needs, such as access to medical or dental services, education, employment or training and rent assistance. The Prairie Center Drug Court Program provides the counseling and another range of services as noted in their attachment. Driscoll stated the two work together. Branham said she had spoken to the Sheriff and his staff there are two areas in particular would she would like more specific feedback relating to how those with mental health issues and those with drug problems are dealt with. She wondered if there was more we could do.

Prairie Center Health Systems Mental Health Court

No questions were asked about this program.

Community Elements Adult Recovery
Community Elements Crisis, Access, Benefits & Engagement
Community Elements TIMES Center
Community Elements Available Services Chart
Community Elements Report of Additional Resources

Kilgore asked, in general, what capacity they have to expand their programs. Ferguson mentioned that last week the case management team had four people on the wait list. A number of the people they serve are on Medicaid. The maximum they can have approved is four without approval. She elaborated a little further on some of their programs. Kilgore said a part of the problem is to look at the system as a whole and put alternatives together that constitute doing something different to solve the problem. He said ideally they should be able to put alternatives together something in scale to what the jail is in need of, rather than tweaking some of the problems.

State's Attorney Adult Diversion Program

Bennett talked about the new Second Chance Program. Rollins-Gay wanted to discuss how this program affects kids. She said she is just learning of this program. She asked if this program would benefit someone who may have been arrested as a juvenile. Bennett said this applies to adult felonies. He said the more diversion programs we have, it may expand to juveniles in the future. Brief discussion continued.

Rappaport said he feels a need for summary and think about these problems as a system. He felt in order to alleviate some of the problems in the jail, the programs outside need to be examined, and build stronger programs. Branham thinks there is much that can be done at the local level, but there may be a need to reach out at a state level.

Discussion – Next Steps

Bennett asked the committee if they would like the group that runs the pre-trial services in McLean County thinks to give a presentation at the next meeting. There, the pre-trial staff meet with the person in as a way get information and quantify in some way the risks that person may not show up for court. Then they put together that information with a score that helps to possibly lower the bond. The committee agreed to put this item on next month's agenda.

Kilgore said he circulated a piece about three counties that opted to fund programs rather than build a new jail. He said if we look at what the key measures at the people in charge of the programs went to, pre-trial services was a big component.

Ferguson felt it best to have McLean County and also someone from the Champaign County State's Attorney's office, as well as someone from the probation office, talk about the different pre-trial and diversion programs in place. They also talked about inviting Judge Ford and Judge Klaus.

Ferguson stated the deadline on the RFP had passed. Ms. Busey described the process. She said the deadline was May 25 and that there were eight responses. There will be nine evaluators reviewing the responses and the consolidated response will be presented at the County Board's Committee of the Whole on June 12th and they will determine the top ranked firms to make a presentation on June 26th. Sullivan stated the problem seems larger than the physical state of the jail facilities. He wondered if information could be provided on the maintenance of both the jail facilities. He wanted dollars spent on the maintenance of the downtown facility and to have it broken down in two ways, being the dollars spent per square foot and per bed. Rappaport asked if this committee could look at the RFPs. Branham said her understanding was that the hired consultant would meet with this committee. Busey noted that the hiring decision would be made by the County Board and not the Jail Improvement Team or the Community Justice Task Force. She briefly explained the RFP process. Brief discussion continued.

Bennett said he appreciated the tour of the downtown facility and would like a tour of the satellite facility in the future. Kilgore said he was curious how to cull together all of the information received this evening. Richards stated his hopes of getting the Probation and State's Attorney's offices for their information and determine what programs are working and what may not be working. He said it would be more useful to find out what the County can do.

Open Meetings Act Requirements

Richards reminded the committee members they should take the on-line course on the Open Meetings Act. Busey explained the committee should not engage in discussion by email, as they are subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Other Business

The next meeting is Monday, July 2nd with the possibility of a Satellite Jail tour and a discussion about pre-trial services. Discussion continued. Consensus of committee to hold the tour on a day other than the meeting date due to time constraints.

Adjournment

Richards declared the meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ranae Wolken
Recording Secretary