

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL RETREAT

January 20, 2010

The Lunda Center

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Dennis Montabon, John Perlich, Steve Doyle, Ramona Gonzalez, Vicki Burke, Tim Gruenke, Bill Hammes, Jim Nesbitt, Tom Locante, Steve Helgeson, Gary Uting, Ann Quinlisk, Sharon Hampson, Rita Zindorf, Mike Desmond, Tina Wehrs, Keith Belzer
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Jerry Huber, Joe Veenstra, Troy Harcey, Geva Thole, Michael McHugh
OTHERS PRESENT:	Steve O'Malley, Jane Klekamp

INTRODUCTIONS

The CJMC attendees broke into two groups. One group was people who worked in the criminal justice system prior to the move to the LEC; one group was comprised of people who are citizen members and members of the county board.

CITIZEN MEMBERS/COUNTY BOARD

What impressions did you have about the justice system prior to involvement? What is different than you expected? Did you know anything about the CJMC prior to involvement?

- The CJ system assumes one knows the system and how to access it.
- There is a lack of information about the CJ system.
- People believe the CJ system doesn't deal with problems. "Nothing is done."
- Young people are discriminated against
- There is a separation between those who think police are helpers versus those who think police are the enemy
- The CJMC helps people learn about the system.
- Currently there is communion among members
- More cooperation among members
- More outreach is needed in schools and homes.
- The CJMC allows all players to be at the table
- The CJMC gives a forum for all CJ players to be at the table.
- Citizen members currently feel heard.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM MEMBERS

What was different about the criminal justice system prior to the move to the Law Enforcement Center? What occurred to make the change? How did the role of the CJMC change? What is the CJMC?

- Physically – prisoners were walked through the hallway at the "old" courthouse. Inappropriate for victims and inmates.
- Physically – the old jail style allowed more contact between staff and inmates, law enforcement, attorneys.
- Physically – the old courthouse was uncomfortable for people who had to spend a significant amount of time waiting in the hallway.
- Physically – the new courthouse is comfortable for people who have to wait. (victims/law enforcement)
- Philosophically – changes in Personnel
 - Hired a coordinator
 - Change in presiding judge
 - Change in Sheriff
 - Change in District Attorney

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- People are more comfortable with the judges
- Judges tend to be in line philosophically
- The CJMC is in line with community oriented policing
- The CJMC has improved communication about people with mental health issues who are in the system.
- In the past a judge may have asked "Why aren't you asking for jail"? Now a judge will ask "Why are you asking for jail"?
- The CJMC is a place where systems players try to solve problems and guide the system in partnership with the county board and the citizen members. There is shared responsibility and shared credibility. Focus on strategic planning, assessment, evidence based practice.
- The role of the CJMC
 - It's a place where decisions are made versus in individual sections
 - If someone isn't part of the group then not part of the decision making
 - It brings everyone together to try and work on a resolution to a problem
 - It enhances credibility with the county board
 - Public members add to credibility
 - Forces people to work together
 - Promotes effective communication
 - Forces people to look at the bigger picture – less micromanaging than the past.
 - It enhances trust

Break into two groups

WHAT SHOULD THE COUNCIL LOOK LIKE IN 10 YEARS?

- Less mystique, more public knowledge
- Prevention programming instead of intervention
- Data will show effective drop in recidivism
- Start with youth, a culture that rewards good behavior
- More schools are involved in the CJMC
- The county doesn't have to finish the next phase of jail expansion
- More community involvement in the system to help change behavior
- More public input into the CJMC
- If citizens were in charge we might be measuring different things.
- Listening sessions
- Recognition/interaction with individual success stories
- Media – job shadow police, DA
- Greater communication between systems players
- Assess needs earlier
- Provide a seamless delivery of services
- Software that allows access for all systems.
- All work is based on assessments and best practice
- The CJMC will:
 - track changes
 - Evolve as the system evolves
 - Ensure we are headed in the right direction
 - Evaluate/validate programs
 - Succession planning of members

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- Improve informing/educating the community and the system
- Release regular reports to the community/press
- Improve public recognition

THEMES

- Provide a system guide
- "Nothing happens"
- Police perceptions
- Room for victims in the courthouse
- Economics
- Lack of interest in the CJ system
- Informing the community/exposure
- Citizen members
 - Observe and learn

EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

1. Listening sessions (people feel heard)
 - a. Conversation with the community
 - b. Panel of people to speak
 - c. Narrow the topic
2. Workstations where experts are there to listen and someone writes down the information given.
3. Open house
4. Facilitate in different communities
5. Tap into other groups or events
 - a. Rotary, school boards, parent/teacher conferences, Optimist Club, neighborhood groups, Kiwanis, church groups, students, community celebrations, opening of the LEC addition
6. Public Relations Committee
 - a. Outreach
 - i. PowerPoint presentation
 - ii. Handouts
 - iii. CJ system guide
 - iv. Website/link
 - v. Have a central clearinghouse about CJ system
 - vi. Public resource person (ADRC "like")
 - vii. Campaign in schools/panel of experts (discuss the +/- of including a "reformed" person
 - viii. Success stories
 - ix. Medical people
 - x. "Business After 4"

Committee Members: Keith Belzer, Mike Desmond, Jim Nesbitt, Rita Zindorf, Gary Uting's replacement, Jane Klekamp

Approved February 17, 2010, Jane Klekamp, Recorder