

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

April 21, 2010

Administrative Center Room B190

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Dennis Montabon, John Perlich, Steve Doyle, Tim Gruenke, Jerry Huber, Jim Nesbitt, Steve Helgeson, Robert Lawrence, Bill Feehan, Troy Harcey, Rita Zindorf, Mike Desmond, Geva Thole, Michael McHugh, Keith Belzer
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Ramona Gonzalez, Vicki Burke, Bill Hammes, Jim Nesbitt, Tom Locante, Ann Quinlisk, Sharon Hampson
OTHERS PRESENT:	Jane Klekamp, Steve O'Malley, Bev Heebsh, Barb Nimmer, Duane Teschler, Doris Daggett, Carol Schilling, Becky Spanjers, Maureen Freedland

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m. Judge Perlich introduced the new CJMC member, Bill Feehan, newly elected County Board Supervisor.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 17, 2010 MINUTES OF THE CJMC -

MOTION by Doyle/Belzer to approve the March 17, 2010 minutes of the CJMC **carried unanimously**. (Gonzalez, Burke, Hammes, Nesbitt, Locante, Quinlisk & Hampson excused)

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

STATUS REPORTS:

Sheriff/Jail: Captain Doris Daggett indicated that they are preparing for the opening of the new building and are looking forward to the new direct supervision inmate management system. 23 of their staff members went through the direct supervision training, which was provided, in part, by NIC, as well as employees from Olmsted County, which has primarily direct supervision pods. They are looking at May 3rd to have the direct supervision pods finished with construction. Approximately 60 jail staff will need to go through training. The third week in May the State jail inspector will be here to do a walk through to make sure everything meets state codes. During construction, in housing we will lose 56 beds; the 4th street jail (old women's jail) we added some extra beds so instead of 39 beds we'll be at 66 beds. Currently the bed capacity is 211 and during these summer months we will be down to 182 which is a loss of 29, plus the 30 receiving beds lost. Everything should be finished in November. Lists will be made for the judges to review to see if anyone in jail could be dealt with in another manner.

Human Services: Jerry Huber reported that the CARE Center should be opening this week. There was an open house held with approximately 150 attending. There has been a lot of community buy-in for this project. The hospitals have bought into the concept, although not monetarily. The maximum stay in the Crisis Center is 3 days. Several other communities are reviewing the possibility of opening crisis assessment centers also.

District Attorney: The DA's office has been extremely busy last month. The unusual thing about this is that the number of females being arrested for domestics is way up.

COLLABORATION SURVEY

This agenda item will be held over to the May meeting. Terri will attach the collaboration survey to the agenda.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

April 21, 2010

Page 2

RETURNING 17 YEAR OLDS TO THE JUVENILE SYSTEM

Last month, we had a video with Vicki Gunderson presenting on returning 17 year olds back into the Juvenile System. Tim Gruenke was asked to present the opposing side to this issue. The age of adult jurisdiction is 18 for things like truancy, run-aways, CHIPS matters, and 17 for crimes or ordinance violations (commit a crime, disorderly conduct, curfew violation) you are automatically in the adult system. It's 16 years for traffic crimes and 10 years for homicide, or battery in JDC. Tim tried pulling out some reasons for the change from one side of the equation. Some of the reasons were:

- 17 year olds were committing more "adult-like" or serious crimes and should be dealt with more in the criminal justice system instead of the juvenile system.
- Send a message to 17 year olds and this would deter other youthful offenders
- Since they didn't change the youth aids to the counties, taking the higher risk, more serious 17 year-olds out of the juvenile system, would leave more money proportionately for the other younger 14, 15 16 year olds in the juvenile system.
- Counties along the border were concerned because the age in Illinois was 17 for adult court, they were coming into Wisconsin to commit crimes because they would still be a juvenile in Wisconsin.

Tim reviewed the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commissions Report and pulled out some of the statistics state-wide:

- Between 2002-2005 the arrest rates were basically the same for 16, 17, 18, 19 year olds. Changing the law really didn't impact the arrest rates of this age group.
- 17 year olds were more likely to be placed on probation and less likely to receive prison than older offenders
- 17 year olds accounted for less than 5% of all bookings – most of them were not serving sentences – most were being held for trial for non-criminal violations.
- The majority of them (close to 80%) spent less than 1 week in the jail.

Looking at felony cases (state-wide):

- Nearly 80% of all felony sentences were for probation rather than prison or jail and less than 10% were sent to prison
- In 1996 – the year that the law changed – 264 17-year olds were admitted to prison and some people were concerned that more 17 year olds would be going to prison, but actually over time, it has declined by over 60%.
- The majority are not brought further into the adult court correctional system – as high as 75% are diverted in some way.
- Juvenile crime overall has dropped since the mid-90s when the changes were made and some say that this demonstrates the idea that the counties have been able to

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

April 21, 2010

Page 3

spend more time dealing with the younger offenders, work with them and reduce their recidivism, the juvenile crime rate has dropped.

For La Crosse County:

- Between January 2007 and March 2010, 821 17-year olds were referred to the DA's office; 92 charged with felonies; 228 charged with misdemeanors; 49 charged with ordinance violations; curfew violations, underage drinking citations were at 62; 135 were declined; 22 were marijuana first offenders and 61 were traffic. Out of these numbers only 11 were convicted of a felony; only two were sentenced to prison; One was for a sexual assault and one was for a variety of charges. 25 did time in jail or Justice Sanctions; 93 received probation; 35 were diversion agreements; and expungement of 83.

One argument is that 17-year olds would be treated better in the juvenile system because there are more services. Tim discussed with Bill Hammes of the DOC and the DOC can place 17-year olds in group homes. They do have the alternate placement options. He felt that they had the same counseling and treatment options.

Steve O'Malley indicated that the J&L Committee and the HHS Board have proposed that we bring back a resolution in support of the change, with funding, and that will be going through the County Board cycle. The County Board will be asked to take a position on this to support the WCA including this in their platform in the fall cycle at the annual meeting.

MOTION by Belzer/Huber to have the CJMC wait to weigh in on this issue until the County Board has reviewed the resolution **carried unanimously**. (Gonzalez, Burke, Hammes, Nesbitt, Locante, Quinlisk & Hampson excused)

UPATE FROM PUBLIC RELATIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Keith Belzer reported that they had their first meeting. The purpose of this committee is to try to get the community know about the CJMC. They did publish a letter in the Tribune providing information to the community and they are working on a presentation that citizen members can take to local groups, i.e. Rotary, to discuss the philosophical approach to criminal justice that the council develops and continues to work on. Just a reminder to committee members – there will be no May meeting.

EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE SYMPOSIUM

Judge Perlich is the initiator on this – a letter was sent to the NIC to ask them if they would help fund it. At the same time as we were sending our letter, a group of criminal justice council coordinators, who were also sending a letter to NIC asking for assistance in data collection. NIC contacted Steve Doyle and Jane asking if we could wait and see what the consultant, who is working with the coordinators, could somehow be worked into the symposium. We will continue to pursue.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Nesbitt/Gruenke to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 a.m. carried unanimously. (Gonzalez, Burke, Hammes, Nesbitt, Locante, Quinlisk & Hampson excused)

†

~~Approved May 19, 2010, the above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next Council meeting.~~

Formatted: Font: Bold

| ~~Recorded by~~ Jane Klekamp, Recorder

← Formatted: Level 1