

JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 10, 2010
Administrative Center – Room 3220
2:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicki Burke, Joe Bilskemper (exc. 3:22 p.m.), Ray Ebert, Bridget Flood, Maureen Freedland, Tammy Gamroth, Brad Konkel

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Steve Helgeson, Doris Daggett, Margaret Norden, Sharon Hampson, Annie Corcoran, Eric Faas, Tanya DeLap, Mike Congemi

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vicki Burke called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2010

MOTION by Flood/Bilskemper to approve the Committee Minutes of July 6, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Bilskemper/Freedland to receive and file the following consent agenda items: Criminal Justice Management Council Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2010, and June 16, 2010, and Criminal Justice Management Council Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

None reported.

NOTE: With the Committee's permission, the Chair took the following item out of order.

UPDATE ON JAIL DIRECT SUPERVISION

Annie Corcoran reported that the transition to direct supervision started with visits to other direct supervision facilities, followed by going through the curriculum taught by the National Institute of Corrections. There are now 25 jailers that have had training, and more jailers are requesting to go through it. The moving date for the first pod was June 21, 2010. Pods can occupy up to 57 inmates; current population is 36 inmates. Pods have better noise control and security, access to natural light, and better access to program and education areas. She reported that better behavior is expected to be allowed into the pods, and they have noticed that overall behavior has improved. Supervisor Freedland asked about the level of involvement that jailers have, and Corcoran reported that staff is expected to be more involved in activities when not checking cells and ensuring safety. Pods are fully visible by security cameras. Before allowing an inmate into a pod, screening is done to ensure it is appropriate to place with others already in the pod.

HPL UPDATE

The Chair provided copies of the previous technical assistance report by Dr. Chavez, and HPL's response to the recommendations. Mike Congemi, the nurse practitioner who is the new on-site director of jail medical services, reported that his responsibilities include both patient care and administration, e.g. management of personnel and budget issues. He has concentrated on improving patient care and implementing procedures, including the following:

- Immediate assessment of inmates with known mental health disorders, chronic diseases, undergoing detoxification, or who are pregnant;
- Improved screening of all inmates, with evaluations performed within 72 hours of intake, and documentation of patient health education, e.g. smoking cessation;
- Coordinated care with the jail psychologist and social workers to provide mental health medications right away;
- Improved coordination with County staff and St. Clare's Health Mission to provide medications for inmates transitioning out of jail;
- Improved response in handling potential emergency situations.

Congemi also spoke about staff hours, including providing medical care in the juvenile facility. Committee discussion included the need for HPL management to update the committee on changes made on the administrative level in response to recommendations in the Chavez report, and moving toward accreditation. Supervisor Ebert also suggested having Congemi return in 90 days for an update on delivery of inmate health care.

UPDATE ON TRANSITION FROM JAIL TO COMMUNITY

Chair Burke updated the committee on the Transition from Jail to Community (TJC) program developed by the Urban Institute and National Institute of Corrections. She stated that of the six counties nationwide that are in the pilot program, La Crosse County is the smallest. At the recent site visit, the Urban Institute advisory team complimented La Crosse County as the only county that had screening and assessment in place. They were also complimentary about the cooperation with judges and the Criminal Justice Management Council. Doris Daggett spoke about inmate screening tools that assess inmate risk of recidivism. Inmates with a high score are referred to Justice Sanctions for a more in-depth assessment. There will be one basic tool implemented by the state that will provide conformity and shared information. She also spoke about programs and treatment plans to reduce recidivism. Chair Burke stated that the major premise of the TJC program is that communities are also responsible for recidivism. A large part of the program is to keep statistics about what happens to inmates after release.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Update from HPL site manager

Update on HPL administration's follow-up to recommendations

Discussion on seeking accreditation

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – SEPTEMBER 7, 2010, AT 2:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Freedland/Konkel to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bilskemper excused. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Approved, October 12, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder