

Dane County Criminal Justice Council
Minutes of the July 25, 2013 Meeting

Members Present: Parisi, Faust, Hendrick, Esqueda, Mahoney, Ozanne

Voting Members Excused: none

Non-Voting Members Present: Rusk, Watson, Wray and Anhalt

Others Present: Saterfield, Peterson-Thurlow, Kostelic, Clark, McNamara

Parisi called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

There was no public comment.

Consideration of the minutes of June 27th. Moved by Hendrick, seconded by Faust to approve the minutes. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved on a unanimous vote (Esqueda abstaining).

On-going Initiatives

Parisi cautioned that the Council should avoid conducting meetings that focus predominantly on updates. He suggested that members come to the table with new ideas and information for discussion and possible research.

Criminal Justice Mapping – Esqueda attended and provided a brief summary of activities. One focus was on law enforcement procedures and arrest decisions. It is clear that law enforcement agencies in Dane County handle similar cases differently. Two problems were identified – there is no unified data system and CCAP is stigmatizing because a public record is created even if the defendant is found not guilty. There was also a discussion about pre-disposition actions in criminal court. Esqueda believes the mapping exercise will prove to be helpful and will create topics for discussion for the CJC. Faust added that there was a discussion about parole holds in the jail, which is the same discussion that was had back in the 1990s.

Racial Justice Improvement Project – Clark provided a brief summary of activities to date and goals of the project. Ozanne mentioned the fast track procedure for minority child abuses cases and hoped to partner with an organization that could monitor recidivism and whether the child victims show up in the criminal justice system later in life. They will be seeking a grant to improve cultural competency in the system as well. They hope to develop local partnerships that will tap into experts who can research new ideas or analyze existing practices. Mahoney mentioned a coordinated effort to address gang activity in Sun Prairie involving the Sheriff's Office, the Sun Prairie Police Department, Stephen Blue from the Neighborhood Intervention Program and John Bauman from Dane County Juvenile Detention. This initiative is just getting started. Anhalt mentioned that Mayor Murray had requested the Sun Prairie Youth and Family Commission begin looking at solutions to the City's growing gang problem. They have been instructed to meet through November of 2014 and return with a plan.

Jail Space Needs – The plans being discussed focus on housing all inmates in the downtown area near the courthouse. The proposal will call for more adequate special needs space and will utilize technology and modern design to reduce the amount of resources needed to run the jail. Included in the plan will be the utilization of inmates in the laundry and food service operations. County representatives will be traveling to two modern facilities in Texas and Iowa in the next few weeks to review their operations.

Several ideas have been explored as to how capacity could be added in the downtown area. The Public Safety Building could increase capacity by adding up to four floors. This option is the most expensive one under consideration and is complicated by the roof mounted mechanicals that would have to be moved, but remain operational, during the expansion. The second option involves the construction of a nine story tower

that connects the PSB to the Courthouse. The third option would require the County to purchase and demolish the apartment building and house behind the PSB. It is likely that the owners of these properties are not willing sellers. The fourth option would remove jail operations from the downtown which would provide greater flexibility in design but may increase operational costs related to transporting inmates to and from the Courthouse. The current CCB floors are inadequate and antiquated. All plans will likely include the consolidation of these floors in a different facility with better sight lines and more access to services. Rusk raised zoning concerns with locating a jail in a different part of town. Mahoney said a modern facility will require fewer employees to supervise the inmate population. Ozanne said modern jails use a corrections model with more open areas and pods. Watson asked if the CCB floors would be abandoned for jail use under the plans. Mahoney responded that they would. Rusk asked how these options will be narrowed down to a preferred choice. Parisi responded that it is too early in the process to know. Mahoney added that they are still clarifying a few issues with the consultants related to a continuity of service during the modifications and a desire to avoid shipping inmates to other jails.

County Budget Issues

Racial Disparities – This discussion began with a review of the justice reinvestment model which emphasizes the use of savings to finance future investments and a review of the CJC mission statement. Faust said that a budget request for a community organizer position may be submitted to work with communities/neighborhoods to establish community courts which would serve as an alternative to circuit court. Those directed to the community courts would avoid a formal record in the traditional court system and would not appear on CCAP. The discussion shifted to the teen court model used in some high schools and the Time Bank's involvement. It was also mentioned that Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin may have a role in this initiative. The group is still looking for partners and devising a way to identify neighborhoods. Ozanne said the group is still exploring how the courts would be staffed and envisions a multi-year roll out. The courts would focus on 17-25 year olds. Hendrick suggested that budget staff be tasked with estimating costs for the program. Ozanne said they will need to establish a job description, goals and capacity. Travis Myren and Amy Utzig should be asked to work on a position description.

Mahoney said that his budget request will improve public safety and Esqueda said that he is scheduled to have his budget meeting with DOA soon.

Faust announced that this will be his last meeting as a member of the CJC. The new chief judge for the district is from Rock County and would not be expected to attend. Dane County will forward Judge Colas' name to serve as Deputy Chief Judge and would likely serve as the court's representative on the CJC.

Goals and Vision

E-Referral is almost ready to go with MPD, the Sheriff's Office and the urban consortium. There may not be any on-going major issues with IT in the near future. Ozanne mentioned the addition of Wifi to the courthouse as a new and important, but somewhat minor project. Some smaller agencies have been scanning and emailing cases to the DA's office. While this is helpful, it still leaves back end work load problem for the DA's staff. It was suggested that the Electronic Efficiencies work group be utilized only when needed and the Huber/Space Needs and the Racial Disparities groups remain.

Parisi started a discussion on new ideas for projects. Parisi noted that there doesn't appear to be a comprehensive approach to jail re-entry. He asked for ideas as to what a program would look like and an inventory of things we are doing now that could be included in a comprehensive plan. Mahoney noted that we can do more in this area and that the new jail facility may help with these efforts. Rusk noted that the jail appears to be a revolving door and that better coordination of services would help offenders stay out for good. Wray asked what the repeat population looks like and whether we have data on their needs.

Esqueda suggested that a greater utilization of municipal courts may help keep offenders out of jail and off of CCAP. He mentioned simple battery charges as an example. Wray said that there does not appear to be much consistency amongst law enforcement agencies in the use of municipal citations verses the

jail/circuit court. Faust asked if municipal court caseloads have grown. Esqueda responded that they are supposed to report their caseload, but are not required to do so which results in unreliable data.

Parisi brought up the issue of female inmates and the unique challenges of this population. He asked for thoughts on what special services they may need and whether they respond better to a trauma informed approach.

Mahoney mentioned that alcohol remains the biggest problem amongst the jail population. Watson said 17 year olds in the jail create "sight and sound" issues in terms of supervision. Ozanne said that a new work group could focus on re-entry and diversion programs.

Parisi suggested that a screening tool at booking be considered by the CJC for use by the Sheriff's staff.

Wray asked that a municipal judge(s) be invited to a future CJC meeting to discuss what they do. He said we should maximize the use of municipal courts to address the concerns about searchable CCAP records. Faust said that distance from the jail can be a major determinant for whether a law enforcement officer chooses to arrest or issue a municipal citation. Faust also would like to hear from municipal judges as well and suggested Dan Koval be invited to a future meeting.

Ozanne asked if the CJC would adopt benchmarks to determine when a problem has been adequately addressed and who would provide the data collection and analysis to make that determination. He said this can be a difficult task and knows that the DA's PROTECT system can be challenging. A brief discussion ensued regarding CJC facilitation and data collection/analysis. Watson said that the UW should be utilized – especially their graduate school programs.

Rusk said that Pam Oliver continues to be critical of the racial disparity problems in Dane County.

Agency Updates

Esqueda announced that Dane County will be getting a new judge (Rhonda Lanford). Wray highlighted an ACLU report on marijuana that focused on racial disparities. He also mentioned that the Drug and Gang Task Force focuses on "grow shops" and not minor cases. Faust said that simple possession cases should only be referred to circuit court if they are combined with other charges.

Watson said that possession cases still impact a disproportionate number of minority offenders and questioned how much guidance law enforcement is given in dealing with marijuana cases. Wray replied that law enforcement's main focus is on heroin cases because they are more apt to lead to burglaries and other crimes. Anhalt concurred with this assessment.

Judge Faust was thanked for his services

Adjournment – 1:13 p.m.