

DANE COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2008 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: McDonell, Falk, Foust, Esqueda, Blanchard

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mahoney

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Saterfield, Jose Sentmanat, Catherine Dorl, Pat Bolch, Gail Richardson

County Board Chair McDonell called the meeting to order at 12:00PM. There was no public comment.

Motion by Blanchard/Esqueda to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2008 and October 8, 2008 September 3, 2008 meetings. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council discussed the Criminal Justice Group September meeting:

- there was a presentation from United Way and Madison Police Department about public nuisance behaviors and discussion about strategies for dealing with this population. It was reported a fairly limited number of person, approximately 25, account for a significant number of arrests. One issue is the need for some social service or mental health response, rather than courts/jail. Esqueda said one area that could be explored is a “crisis intervention” court; perhaps some outreach could be done by municipal court; since there appear to a number of veterans involved, perhaps there is some grant money available. There was discussion about the use of alcohol commitments, and Falk pointed out there is \$50,000 in the proposed 2009 budget for services to homeless alcoholics. The CJG will continue to discuss.
- There was a presentation from the state’s AIM project, and a site visit to Dane County will occur in November.

The Council discussed 2009 county budget issues. Foust raised concerns about the inclusion of language establishing benchmarks for community service sentences, and linking the benchmarks to funding for staff attorneys. There is alternative language being discussed, but Foust is not supportive of any specific benchmarks. The judges are willing to try weekend court (as provided for in budget language). Falk indicated budgeting is about trust, and job performance and outcomes for staff are part of the budget. She indicated the benchmarks are one method for assuring that the court system “contributes” to the cost-to-continue in the entire county budget, as other departments have done. Foust questioned the link of community service sentences to staff attorneys – it is Alternatives to Incarceration staff who would work with community service participants, not staff attorneys. McDonell indicated the court could propose other benchmarks that would provide some accountability for budget savings. Blanchard said he did not feel that he had been consulted about the weekend court benchmarks, and that there would likely be a budget impact that is not clear. He would have to tell civil service and union employees that they will have to work weekends, and there should have been a fuller discussion of the impacts. Falk and Sentmanat indicated they believed discussion had occurred.

The role of the Council was discussed, including its possible role in the development of the budget benchmarks. Esqueda said these were the kinds of topics for the Council envisioned in the ILPP report, that the Council would review ideas forwarded from participants and the Criminal Justice Group and implement them. He said trust was needed but it's missing from the discussions now. Falk indicated the issue was budget accountability. Esqueda said clearer missions were needed for both groups (Criminal Justice Group and Criminal Justice Council), and there was a need for better coordination. McDonell said he thought all were open to a more active Council and improved coordination.

The discussion of E-referrals was postponed to a future meeting.

The council stood adjourned at 12:59PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Saterfield, Recorder

Note: These minutes are the notes of the recorder and are subject to change at a subsequent meeting of the committee.