

DANE COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: McDonnell, Falk, Foust, Esqueda, Blanchard, Mahoney

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Nelson, Deirdre Garton, Catherine Dori, Kerri Widish,
Judge Sarah O'Brien, Amy Warner, Tim Saterfield

County Executive Falk called the meeting to order at 12:00PM. There was no public comment.

Motion by Foust/Mahoney to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2009 meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Members indicated the Criminal Justice Group has been discussing AIM program implementation, and had applied for a community transition grant, which was not funded. There has been discussion of the court settlement conference initiative and ways to make it more efficient, particularly for the defense.

The Council discussed the 2010 county budget situation. Falk indicated that the budget is likely to get even more difficult – sales tax revenues are still declining, interest income has not rebounded and property tax collections remain down (ie. delinquencies are on the rise). She commended the members of the Council and their staffs for efforts in implementing cost savings measures already. She asked if members had additional ideas to reduce costs or increase revenues, and suggested reviewing recommendations from the Criminal Justice System Assessment to see if any had not been implemented that might have some positive budget impact:

Blanchard indicated the court settlement conference initiative is reasonably successful and there might not be significant additional savings. Approximately 1/3 of cases resolve completely at the CSC, and 50% of the remainder resolve at the appearance after the CSC. “E-intake” may be helpful in providing some additional resolutions.

The courts have not implemented a centralized calendar management system and there is still no consensus on whether there are significant savings there. However, changes have been made to the way cases are scheduled, although it is not a centralized system. The courts have not provided the Sheriff with authority to issue signature bonds, but the courts and Sheriff Office have encouraged police departments to use citation authority as a way to reduce jail bookings. Moving bail monitoring screening to booking would not likely result in significant increases in participation, since the population is not that large; implementing the AIM program would likely have a similar effect. Using CCAP to set up a tickers/reminder system has not been done, but a separate “tickler” system is in use.

The Sheriff’s Office continues to work on developing additional mental health crisis resources to reduce jailing those in need of mental health services. Additional resources are needed to make arrest reports electronic; a grant has been applied for. Use of electronic monitoring has increased, but not to the goal set for 2009. Day reporting has not been implemented. The Sheriff’s Office meets on a weekly basis to monitor probation and parole holds, and the housing of intensive sanctions participants.

Dori indicated that additional initiatives might be possible, but having staff resources available to research and write grants applications would be helpful.

Judge O'Brien was present to discuss progress on implementation of AIM. The implementation group has attempted to incorporate criteria to address disproportionate confinement concerns. There is still a question about which screening tool to use. Falk indicated a willingness to work with the team on implementation, and encouraged close cooperation with the Mental Health Center of Dane County.

JPAS – Garton and Nelson gave an update on a Jail Population Assessment System which they have been working on. The responses to the RFP came in within our proposed budget - \$100,000 would probably be sufficient. The lowest vendor would be able to provide a “turn-key” solution, but probably not all the items on our “wish list”. It is possible grant funds would be feasible to use for some of the costs.

The council stood adjourned at 1:15PM.

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.