

## **DANE COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** McDonell, Parisi, Foust, Esqueda, Ozanne, Mahoney

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Isadore Knox, Colleen Clark-Bernhart, Jeff Kostelic, Tim Saterfield

County Board Chair McDonell called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. There was no public comment.

Motion by Foust/Mahoney to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2009 meeting. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Ozanne abstained).

Foust presented an update on activities of the Criminal Justice Group. They have discussed and worked on the AIM project, Madison Police Department Special investigations unit, issues around detox services, Act 100 impact on OWI, restorative justice issues, held a cultural competence meeting, monitoring ongoing mental health issues including the closing of Mendota, and OWI court. AIM (Assess-Inform-Measure) was intended to provide a risk assessment for bail or community release. However, the defense bar has been reluctant to allow clients to be interviewed, so it is on hold. It is anticipated the Wi. Department of Corrections will roll out a risk assessment system called COMPASS, and this may move the issue along. Ozanne indicated the DA's office may use this type of system for deferred prosecution, but there is still a need for social workers to administer the risk assessments. McDonell asked about the status of Court Settlement Conferences. Foust said they had been working fairly well, but with the decriminalization of Operating After Revocation, the conferences were not resulting in that many pleas. Ozanne indicated one improvement might be to create a new case status for "holding" cases in the CSC if it is likely there will eventually be a plea.

The council discussed 2012 county budget issues. Most departments seem to have had a fairly favorable reaction to the Voluntary Time Away from Work initiative. Both Ozanne and Esqueda indicated some concern with covering workloads if a large number of people take time off. Ozanne pointed out that either layoffs or voluntary leaves present a challenge for managing the workload. Foust said most activities in the justice system at this point are non-discretionary. There is a possibility to use video conferencing to a greater degree, but there are some logistical issues. Esqueda indicated eliminating bail monitoring would save expenditures, but would also result in lost revenue and additional costs to the Sheriff's Office. Esqueda indicated the Clerk of Courts Office is going to hold open some vacancies in areas not related to case processing, but the positions to be open may affect customer service. McDonell urged members to consider possible new ways of doing things that might provide efficiencies and savings.

McDonell asked about the status of recommendations from the Racial Disparities Task Force, and asked each member to think about one recommendation that could be implemented in the 2012 budget. Ozanne said that many of the recommendations require additional funding and that will be difficult in the current budget scenario. He mentioned one factor that has been brought forward is that some municipalities have local battery ordinances, and so the study numbers may be somewhat distorted because those individuals were not counted in the task force study. Mahoney indicated a new state program may reduce drug testing costs and so some community programs might be more viable. Foust mentioned that Judge O'Brien is working on a training

session with the public defenders office on plea agreements to consider the role of plea bargaining in disparate impact.

The council agreed to meet again after the County Executive's budget recommendations have been made, but before final county board committee action occurs.

Motion by Mahoney/Foust to adjourn at 4:05PM. Motion carried 5-0.

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.