

**DANE COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2011 MEETING**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Alan Kalmanoff, Supervisor Paul Rusk, Jeff Hook, Jeff Kostelic, Lynn Green, Travis Myren, Josh Wescott

County Board Chair McDonell called the meeting to order at 12:05PM. There was no public comment.

Motion by Foust/Mahoney to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2011 meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Review of Criminal Justice Group activities was before the committee. Foust reported that the CJG was mapping all the key decision points and bringing in people to discuss why choices are made at each point. He indicated that Eau Claire County had completed a similar exercise. Judge O'Brien, Madison Police Chief Wray, UW Police Chief Reisling, and Sheriff Mahoney will meet later in December to discuss this, using an initial draft provided by Chief Deputy Hook.

Presentation of the follow-up study by the Institute for Law and Policy Planning (ILPP) was before the committee. Kalmanoff addressed the committee. He indicated that the final report would be an agenda for the Criminal Justice Council (CJC) or the outline of a strategic plan for the group. Kalmanoff noted that he has played two roles for Dane County, first in completion of the 2007 assessment, then the follow-up analysis in the fall. He pointed out that he has also facilitated criminal justice groups in other areas of the country.

Kalmanoff indicated that his key recommendation was to implement a strong CJC that can reduce workload. The Dane County criminal justice system is workload driven. The future is to drive workload to a more manageable manner to complete the work. He stressed the importance of the key players to work together, be driven by data or instruments, and to treat things differently.

Kalmanoff said the second recommendation was to decide the priority and purpose of the jail. The group should discern the reason for incarceration. The jail should be used only if a defendant will not show up for court or will hurt someone. He indicated the county could consider having a public hearing to talk about the purpose of the jail and then write a policy.

The third recommendation is to develop a strategic plan with objectives and the steps needed to accomplish the plan. He spoke of the need for mapping from arrest to disposition as an approach to see the flow of cases.

Kalmanoff recommended risk assessment at each of the seven key points, using an instrument with human over-ride. He said this would rationalize decisions and eliminate disparities. This would also be a cost-effective approach to making choices.

Finally, Kalmanoff recommended reinvigorating the jail population analysis system (JPAS) to allow for ease in using data to answer questions.

Discussion ensued regarding the recommendations. Parisi wondered about potential low-hanging fruit. Kalmanoff said the easiest thing to do would be to complete a targeted jail medical audit focusing on third party reimbursement. He believes jail medical audits should happen on a regular basis. Kalmanoff also recommended a study of the history of staffing overtime throughout the system. A discussion should take place to determine an overtime approach that the Sheriff can accept.

Parisi asked about system-wide improvements. Kalmanoff said that other changes would require expenditures. He said that a fast-track court would save money. Culling all the easy cases, those that will plea bargain, and running them through on a rapid course, would save money. A fast-track court reduces appearances and custody.

Discussion ensued regarding risk assessment tools, day reporting centers, and stratification of the minimum security prisoners. Kalmanoff responded that the CJG should work on implementation approaches. He questioned why the county had a building to house prisoners at night.

Mahoney indicated he liked the key recommendations, but he believed it is the people of the community who decide what the jail should be. He said his office needed community buy-in to abolish the Huber Center; that the CJC alone could not make that choice.

Kalmanoff spoke of the importance of risk assessment and the need to have buildings dealing with danger and risk.

Discussion turned to day reporting. Parisi wondered about logistics; what are the space needs? What population would be served? What services would be offered? Mahoney indicated that there are prisoners who are maximum, medium, and minimum security risks, and a key is how minimum is identified. One difference from 5 years ago is that most of the individuals at the Huber Center now do not go out. McDonnell said that squeezing efficiency from the front end of the system, with an assessment tool and a fast-track court, could free up the jail and then move the prisoners now at Huber back to the jail. Low-hanging fruit at one point of the system should create low-hanging fruit at another point.

Kalmanoff discussed an exercise in a California community wherein community members were provided with inmate files and asked to indicate the type of security necessary. He said it was an example of how to get guidance from the public. Mahoney spoke of push back from the community for electronic monitoring.

Parisi suggested that the CJC identify the first four steps the group could take. Foust said that the judges were 17 decision makers who must decide who is dangerous and who is not; the judges would not want the County Executive or County Board Chair making decisions for them. He spoke of who decides who gets out on electronic monitoring; that a sentence is a sentence and the judges do not want the Sheriff changing that. McDonnell pointed out that the County Executive and County Board levies the money to support the system; that is their job.

Kalmanoff turned the discussion back to a validated risk assessment tool. There was general agreement this was a good approach.

Discussion of next steps for implementation of recommendations, and discussion of adding members to the CJC, was before the council. McDonnell asked what was necessary to move forward in terms of CJC membership, meeting dates, and facilitation. Mahoney said the CJG has formal agendas, a chair, and a facilitator. He suggested electing a chair of the CJC at the next meeting.

- Motion by McDonell/Parisi to 1) have the CJC meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at noon, except for January it will be Friday January 13th and Thursday, January 26th; 2) that Ozanne be designated to call the next meeting, 3) election of a chair be an agenda item for the next meeting; and 4) three members be added to the CJC as nonvoting members: the Public Defender, the Madison Chief of Police, and a representative of a rural police department at the recommendation of the Chiefs of Police Association.

Discussion ensued. Motion carried, 6-0.

McDonell indicated the group should have a facilitator. Parisi suggested discussion of a facilitator be on the next agenda, along with the jail medical audit, the overtime audit, and a fast track court. Mahoney will consult with National Institute of Corrections, which may be able to assist. Esqueda indicated that the National Center for State Courts has grant funds for re-engineering of courts. He will look in to that and report back at the next meeting.

Discussion turned to the Spillman records management system. Discussion ensued regarding approaches to records management.

Future meeting dates and issues were before the committee. Ozanne reviewed agenda items for the next meeting: 1) Election of Officers, 2) Discussion and Possible Action on CJC Facilitator; 3) Report from Sheriff on Audits – jail medical and overtime; 4) Discussion of Records Management System; 5) Fast Track Court; 6) Identification of Minimum Security; 7) Booking Assessment Tool; 8) Huber Center, and 9) meeting schedule.

There was no other business.

Motion by Mahoney/Esqueda to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Peterson Thurlow, Recorder

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