

Jail & Huber Committee
August 19, 2013 minutes

Attending:

Tom Reed (Chair)

Alphabetically:

Jeff Altenburg (Office of the District Attorney)

Sue Eckhart (Justice 2000)

Jeanne Geraci (Benedict Center)

Mike Hafemann (HOC Superintendent)

Nate Holton (CJC Coordinator)

Pete Koneazny (Legal Aid Society)

Kerri McKenzie (HOC)

Kit McNally (CJC Executive Committee)

Capt. Thomas Meverden (Sheriff's office)

Eileen O'Connor (WCS)

Nick Sayner (JusticePoint)

Holly Szablewski (Courts)

1) Report/Status - the Jail

Captain Meverden reported on the Milwaukee County CJF/Jail:

- Cooperation is “better than ever” for movement from CJF to HOC, when necessary to address overflow from the CJF.
- The CJF and HOC Captains’ communication with each other has been excellent, particularly notable given the past month being particularly stressed by a high number of arrests for shootings and other serious offenses which spiked in the second half of the summer.
- Last month MPD doubled the number of jail admissions from the prior month, but population has stayed at acceptable levels. Number as of last Friday was 940 at the jail (under the Christensen cap of 960).
- The Captain acknowledged that MSO has instituted a practice/policy of not distributing the “pie chart” inmate count data to other agencies.
- Both Holly Szablewski and Tom Reed noted that the lack of jail population data is significant and needs to be addressed, given the importance of data to running the criminal justice system efficiently and for EDBM grant reports.

2) Report/Status – the House of Correction

Superintendent Hafemann reported on the House of Correction:

- Hiring has allowed some relief from staffing shortage and overtime crunch the HOC suffered following the separation of the House of Correction from Sheriff's management.
- Electronic monitoring and work release programs are continuing to increase toward intended levels.
- Work crews for public service work have been reinstated and the HOC continues to explore appropriate settings for expanded use.
- Employment training and work release have experienced some challenges that the HOC is working on. The difficulty of transportation, to and from the HOC's remote location, is a continuing obstacle. There are many more inmates eligible for work release than have actual jobs.
- AODA programming is back on line but there has been low uptake from inmates so far. The HOC staff is working to increase awareness of the program's availability.
- "Report-in" function (where start of sentence is delayed and inmate is given a particular date to show up to serve a sentence) needs immediate attention, to decrease the problem of late arrivals and no-shows. Transportation, and the example of someone who's getting lost in Franklin trying to find the HOC, is part of the problem. There may be a need for better education for delayed-sentence recipients, as to the need for and logistics of reporting for their HOC sentence. Report-in/ delayed sentence can be important in many individuals' lives, so it is worth working pro-actively to address reasons for non-compliance.
- Capt. Meverden from the Sheriff's department expressed willingness to assist individuals who show up at the Jail rather than the HOC.
- Tom Reed suggested a work-group may be useful to address the report-in obstacles.

3. Report/Status – the Day Reporting Center.

Superintendent Hafemann reported on the DRC:

- Low DRC usage still a problem after the program became viewed, by defense bar and clients, as undesirable. The program use dwindled when transportation and participation was controlled by the Sheriff. Friday the DRC still had only 35 participants, an increase from 20 the week before.
- The Superintendent has begun reviewing the Huber population to find potential DRC beneficiaries.
- Many defense lawyers, private bar as well as SPD, have been slow to appreciate that the DRC is more user-friendly than in the past. Some are still taking a "wait and see" approach to whether it will be a valuable thing to recommend on behalf of their clients. Tom Reed will continue to reinforce the DRC option with SPD attorneys.
- Holly reported that there has been a recent doubling of the number of defendants/inmates who have DRC as part of their sentence. There may just be a lag between uptick in DRC sentences and increase in actual DRC participants.

Holly suggested that we might see an increase in DRC numbers over the next two to three weeks.

- One significant concern with DRC's low numbers is that there is a risk of losing MATC involvement, if we do not meet their minimum attendance expectations.
- Kit McNally recommended an open house for county supervisors and others, to reinforce awareness of the DRC. Holly stated that she will be arranging such an event for Fall 2013.
- The Superintendent and Jeff Altenburg discussed some possible breakdowns over ADAs' awareness of accurate DRC eligibility criteria. For example, there has been some confusion about the qualifying LSI-R screening score needed for the DRC. ADAs may need to be re-informed of accurate criteria. Jeff invited the Superintendent to give a presentation to the ADAs to increase DRC usage.

4. Report/Status - CJC Data

Tom Reed reported on ongoing work of the Data committee and the need for comprehensive system data for CJC success:

- Several CJC members, including Tom Reed, Jeff Altenburg, Judge Kremers and Holly Szablewski, attended an NIC- sponsored event in Colorado. The event was to engage people involved in NIC grant programs in a national "conversation" on what works best for implementing a data-driven evidence-based criminal justice decision-making model.
- Most of the discussion was focused on pretrial populations, but also addressed data with regard to sentenced populations.
- Milwaukee was noted as making rapid and significant progress. This is not the case in all of the NIC grant venues.
- Tom attributed our relative success to the work of collaborative inter-agency committees.
- Milwaukee's further progress will depend on mastering the gathering and effective use of data.
- Mallory O'Brien, is the chair of the CJC data committee. She has succeeded in getting grant support and says she has made great progress with developing a "data hub."
- The "hub," when fully functioning, should allow us to pull information from corrections, jail, screening and court data.
- With good data, it will be possible to query the system and find specific information about sub-populations and trends, which we can use to inform policy changes and to design appropriate interventions.
- Mallory is working on the "architecture" of the data hub.
- One important question is "where should the hub reside?"
- The University of Chicago has the hub in Chicago – this allows for a good connection for research.
- The data hub should be publicly available, not proprietary with any one agency.

- Cost is one concern for locating the hub – PPF will be asked to investigate the location/ control/access question.
- Nate noted that there are currently three data gathering concepts in play that have to be distinguished: the CJC “dashboard”, the developing “data hub” and the “EDBM scorecard”.
- As to current data, there was a 2010 draft report of jail population, bookings, offense type, ALOS etc. – but the draft report was never finished.
- Nate asked the question of what data should the Jail and Huber Committee plan to be working with on an immediate and ongoing basis.
- Tom reemphasized importance of all agencies, including the Sheriff, sharing data. Good data will allow us to have an evidence based program and not base policy and interventions on subjective impressions of populations and phenomena – we can get past myths that have stymied progress in the past – Mallory’s group is getting close to having a workable hub. They have arrest data, but the missing piece is jail population data.

5. Old Business – Planning a new DRC and Huber facility

Holly reported on the status of the budget line that was approved last year for a new centralized Huber and DRC facility:

- Money in the budget was set aside as a “capital” expense, which can only be spent for bricks and mortar, not planning.
- Unfortunately, there is planning that is essential before there can be building
- We need to have strategic planning in order to shape our goal of having a target # of slots for various categories of detention and intervention. For example this would include targets, goals or limits for EM, for pretrial custody, for sentenced inmate custody, for Huber, for DRC, etc.
- Why/how do we get a study – and move forward?
- Tom’s suggestion – Holly will circulate a request to committee members (others?) soliciting input for the specific information we need to move toward a plan for intentional capacity in the various detention and intervention categories.
- September meeting will be specifically to work on moving this process forward.
- Tom and Nate will discuss this as an item for the next CJC Executive Committee agenda.
- Someone (Holly?) needs to ask if the budgeted funds can be transferred to be used for planning rather than exclusively for building.
- The architects (who were potential applicants) had made an impressive showing of planning work that was done in Baltimore before they started creating new facilities. They came up with a master plan that involved changing their complex of criminal justice facilities, over a 10 to 15 year program. They then moved forward, in prioritized stages.
- At our September committee meeting we will look at the product of the Architects’ consult that was done last year in connection with the ad hoc committee chaired by Supervisor Willie Johnson

- Holly noted that we now have better data about the pretrial population than we do about the sentenced population – Q: whether we can get an analysis of the sentenced population.
- Pete K. encouraged Tom and the Committee to include advocates and representatives that work on mental/behavioral health issue and with those institutions and programs. We would want to make sure the master plan includes intentional design for facilities and functions, such as CIT and appropriate treatment/detention space, for those with mental illness that traverse both the criminal justice and behavioral health systems.
- September meeting goal, at a minimum will be to try to rough out our idea of a comprehensive plan. For the meeting:
 - Committee members should read the rough draft of population data report that Holly and Nate will circulate
 - Agency representatives should bring data that they have to contribute
 - Plan to work up an outline of the components of the master plan that we'd like to have to move forward.

Note: Next the important September meeting WILL NOT be on the third Monday as it would normally be, instead it will be at THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH 8 -9:30 A.M. in Courthouse 609 (Chief Judge's Conference Room).

Meeting adjourned at 9:25.