

Jail & Huber Minutes
February 17, 2014

Attendance:

Lisa Boyd	-Center for Self-Advocacy
Sue Eckhart	-Justice 2000
Noni Guillonta	-MSDF
Mike Hafemann	-HOC
Sheldyn Himle	-Municipal Courts
Nate Holton	-CJC
Pete Koneazny	-Legal Aid Society
Tom Reed	-SPD
Nick Saynor	-JusticePoint
Holly Szablewski	-Courts
Mike Williams	-DOC

Absent:

No representatives from the Sheriff's office.

1) General Discussion of Strategic Planning and Role of Jail and Huber Committee

2) Reports:

A) House of Correction:

- Programs – Benedict Center for pre-release and connection w/ mentors, also with WCS and self sufficiency
- Trying to get more money for programming.
- Partnering w/ parks for work release – very successful for population and from a “restorative justice” sense.
- Will be working to try to measure successes in programs, one problem is difficulty following people. Can measure by shortening sentences, getting GEDs, not returning to HOC.
- Benedict Center program started as a UWM program, designed to be studied (evidence based).
- Mike said he tries to avoid “canned” programs and cancelled an AODA program for that reason.
- This year HOC had to use overtime for programming – they will try this year to get staff for programming that was taken out of the budget by the previous administration.
- Ezekiel House work has been successful: that is a program initiated through and with MICAH to train HOC inmates (male and female) in

home construction skills. The HOC is working on developing staffing to support this valuable program.

- Jail has currently has 30 more correctional officers than HOC for ½ the number of inmates. Staffing at HOC is still recovering from vacancies resulting from Sheriff's departure and staffing assignments made prior thereto.
- EM: there had been almost no one utilizing the program at the time of the transition; there should be over 200 on EM by March 2014.

B) Jail

- Armor – Dr. Lothian is gone. Dr. Gable is leaving. Wade Daley was let go last week – no reasons given. Another psychiatrist, assigned to the HOC was let go because of poor performance.
- In addition to above, there are still vacancies within the Armor medical staffing. Hopefully the Dr. positions and other vacancies will be filled soon.
- Mike H. reports that, from his perspective, the quality of Armor's work has been good at the HOC. He has no information about their work at the Jail.

C) Jail/HOC/Municipal detention/warrant issue

- Sue – people are released from Jail w/o checking for city warrants. County's system can't pick up City's warrant system. People on Huber also may have city warrants.
- Sue will work w/ HOC first to see if there is a better way to track and remedy warrants.
- SPD can try to ID warrants and communicate w/ Muni Court, to possibly enable clearing of warrants early.
- It would be better if we can ID and manage all warrants and holds while an inmate is in custody, to avoid undermining of programming if someone is released from a program just to be re-arrested on an old warrant.

D) DOC

- Continuing to implement evidence-based practices.
- DOC and HOC coordinating for programming for DOC inmates.
- Community Building Project – through WCS; funding for “community building” – workshops in May for approximately 16 DOC agents volunteered for this, remarkable in Mike's view. Community Building program is intended to enhance existing programming. Will help give individuals “clarity” of their goals in rehabilitation. Agents go through the program that will be used with clients. Involves retreats, small group dynamics. Like restorative justice circles. (5 stages of change model; e.g. first is “pre-contemplative” = before they acknowledge need for change.)

- Match the intervention to stages of change – better success if an intervention is targeted to the relevant “stage.”
- DOC numbers? Revocations have been going down, especially as to those w/ no new offense. More scrutiny of “packets” to see if we can keep people out of custody if no new offense. ES sanctions have gone up (a shift of numbers from incarceration to lesser sanctions).
- Looking at what to do w/ “rule violation” issues – 192 available beds for sanctions, so there is a need to look at how to prioritize their use.

D) Strategic Planning thoughts

- Jail and Huber should not duplicate the Programs committee
- We should focus on master plan and facilities utilization.
- Minimizing inappropriate jailing of people with mental illness
- Work on subpopulations (“pie charts”) and focus on minimizing jailing based on poverty and race disparities.
- How do we get message out to counteract political rhetoric that is contrary to evidence based practices. Fear-based messages are more motivating than positive messages.

Next meeting: March 17th (place to be determined).