

Jail & Huber

May 19, 2014

Minutes

Attendance

Tom Reed, SPD – Chair

Jeff Altenburg, District Attorney
Dr. Theresa Boswell, Armor Correctional Health Care
Bill Brunhofer, Armor
Lisa Boyd, Center for Self Sufficiency
Carmella DeLucia, CJC Coordinator's office
Capt. Duckert, MSO
Sue Eckhart, J2000
Pete Koneazny, Legal Aid Society
Kerrie McKenzie, HOC
Kit McNally, CJC Exec. Comm.
Floyd Mitchell, Warden MSDF
Holly Szablewski, Courts
Mike Williams, DOC
Neil Thoresen, DOC
Marilyn Walczak, JII

1) Old Business. Tom Reed noted last meeting's discussion about municipal court commitments in jail and/or HOC. He noted that the muni commitment population has been identified as a high percentage people w/ mental illness.

- Many w/ multiple commitments.
- Many appear to be people who cannot afford their fines.
- There should be an effort to have "Huber" included in muni commitment sentencing, so if they are at the HOC they can utilize work programs and earn early release.
- Another problem is that muni commitments are sometimes "discovered" at time of release and this complicates release and transfer to state custody that could be more efficient if commitments were identified and perhaps resolved earlier.
- There is anecdotal information but no data about how muni commitments managed by the Sheriff's department.
- There was general agreement that this (muni commitment & muni commitment w/ mental illness) population should be studied. What do we need?
 - City of Milwaukee doesn't have data
 - Sheldyn H. has told Marilyn W that she doesn't see consistent data
 - Marilyn W. reported that it took a while to get data that Justice Point requested. The data looked only at muni warrants (she mentioned "custody court" - presumably those who are brought into court on warrants). She has 5 years of booking/court appearance data. Eliminates

“other” cases. She wants to know more about people w/ some other reason for detention

- Also want to know how much money is collected.
 - The number of 85/day muni commitments on pie charts per day appears to not be correct data.
 - Sheriff’s data (pie data) has been found to be inaccurate –more accurate data shows there is usually 40-60 muni commitment individuals in custody, w/ most being sent by West Allis. Milwaukee’s share very low.
 - Sheriff has to keep list of “Branch A” appearances – that may be important for tracking numbers more accurately.
- Population studies have been done and Holly S. reports that there is a population study currently under way.
 - There has not been systematic look at what we’re doing as to certain populations.
 - Tom R. noted that it was not a good use of resources to jailing people w/ mental illness on muni commitments.

2) Reports

Jail

- **Visiting.** Implementation of a new video-visiting system is making progress. At prior meeting it was reported that inmates were getting only telephone “visits” at the jail (family visits affected, not professional visits). The current estimate is that a video-visit system will be in place in 6 to 8 weeks.
- **Jail Population.** Typically, jail population spikes during warmer weather (more people outside, alcohol etc). We have seen a recent spike in shootings and there has been a spike in the jail population. [Ed. Was there more violent crime in significant numbers, along with the publicized shootings? Or were there intentionally more arrests from increasing the police presence in response to publicized shootings?]
- Today’s jail population was 941. The population had briefly been above 970 (over the 960 cap) but transfers to HOC brought the numbers down.

HOC

- Population has been pretty consistent at the 1400-1500 level.
- Programming for work release has allowed people to work off their time.

Questions as to HOC and Jail budgets/ new programming or developments?

- For HOC this is the first year that the new (Super. Hafemann) administration has had responsibility for the HOC budget.
- Kerrie McKenzie spoke of replacing the CJIS data system (Phoenix?), which will require working w/ the Sheriff’s department.
- CJIS is antiquated and inefficient.
- HOC just got “innovation” grant to look at information system – possible end of year target for progress on new system.

Jail/HOC medical

- Armor reported significant progress in implementing programs and improving medical care at the HOC
- Progress has been slower at the Jail due to less active cooperation from the Sheriff's custody staff.
- Q re patterns in mental health treatment needs in the jail. A: now everyone gets assessment within 50-75 days.
- They hope that new long-awaited electronic medical record system (EMR) which should be operating soon will assist in screening and assessment process.
- Armor's new Health Services Administrator Bill Brunhofer has been on site for three weeks.
- Future, there will be splitting of HOC and Jail data on medical and mental health, which in that past have been lumped together.

Mental Health. Tom Reed reported on the council's mental health system work. People working on this issue (EDBM and Public Health committee)– have been looking at the extent to which individuals w/ mental illness are too often brought into the criminal justice system.

- 85 known individuals w/ significant mental illness history are repeatedly taken into custody by police.
- With this population, case managers were not notified of their detention. That is being remedied w/ already obvious positive results.
- Tom welcomed the new Armor administrator and encouraged future participation in areas of joint interest between the council and the health care providers.

Department of Corrections: Neil T. reported that their work/statistics have been stable over recent months. General points:

- Revocations are down down, while sanctions are up, reflecting an intentional approach to reducing revocations where no new offense involved.
- They are hoping to keep revocations trending downward
- Neil believes that 8 of 10 revocations involve new crimes, not just rule violations.
- Tom R. noted that revocations for rule violations alone have been identified as significant to prison population growth and racial disparity
- Neil noted that some "rule violation" revocations are significant and this is reflected in most of the recent rule violations revocations being for sex offenders.

MSDF: Warden Mitchell reported that the MSDF population has been stable at around 920 inmates. Other developments:

- It will be challenging in the summer b/c no air conditioning
- MSDF is focusing on how they work with people with mental illness

Universal Screening Update

Tom reported that Holly Szablewski will be the new District Court Administrator, replacing Bruce Harvey, who is retiring this summer. Holly's comments re screening included the following:

- Screening has been running smoothly.
- They are looking toward getting a badly needed new and better case management data system being in place
- They are waiting on grant applications results to fund data system upgrade.
- NIC will be doing a jail population analysis to follow up 2009 analysis. This work is moving forward.
- Anecdotal information (data still inaccurate) that there was initial decline in population but there have been ups and downs.
- Release rate has been high and program vs. bail has shown that we're getting more people out.
- Continuing problem is poor average length of stay data
- They are also hoping to eliminate data entry redundancies.

Announcements/Miscellaneous

Tom R announced the May 20 WUWM event at Centennial Hall on issue of Mass Incarceration and racial disparity.

Pete K requested that future meetings address getting DOC's data to supplement the inadequate information provided by the Sheriff's "pie charts" as to the characteristics of people in the broad categories of "VOP" and "VOP plus other charge" in Sheriff's data – "pie" slices that represent a significant % of jail and HOC population. .

Next meeting Monday June 16th. 8a.m. Courthouse Room 609.