



Jail & Huber Utilization Committee Minutes:

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 – 8:00am

Milwaukee County Courthouse, Rm 624

Introductions – Niel Thoreson (DOC), Warden Ron Malone (MSDF), Noni Guillonta (MSDF), Captain William Duckert (MCSO), Lisa Krueger (Armor), Tom Reed (Chair, Public Defender), Mike Hafemann (HOC), Sue Eckhart (Justice Point), Pete Konezny (Legal Aid), Adam Oldenburg (WCS), Mandy Potapenko (MCJC)

- i.) **Introductions** – Welcoming of MSDF Warden Ron Malone and Noni Guillonta
- ii.) **MacArthur Foundation Submission** – a Phase 2 proposal was submitted to the MacArthur Foundation Safety + Justice Challenge on January 6, 2016. This proposal has been discussed a number of times over the past 6 months within this committee. The purpose of grant to re-think how America uses jails and to address racial and ethnic disparities within the criminal justice system. Based on data submitted by Milwaukee County, the MacArthur Foundation set an aggressive, benchmark target reduction for Milwaukee County’s overall jail population over the course of the next three years. Milwaukee’s strategy focuses heavily on front-end deflection, pre and post-booking diversion for individuals with mental health and significant trauma issues, as well as bolstering capacity within the community behavioral health arena. Next steps include a phone interview on January 27th, 2016, and an award announcement in mid-to-late March. Tom thanked partners at the table who participated in the application process.
- iii.) **Discharge Planning Problem Solving** – due to the short-term nature of stays at the CJF, the group discussed ways to coordinate release planning for individuals with significant mental illness. Lisa Krueger, with Armor, reports that Armor staffs case managers who work with individuals on release planning and connection to services. Inmates can request the “pink and white” to have access to a case manager to communicate with outside entities relating to supportive release. Additionally, by practice, Armor reports not releasing individuals with significant mental illness after 7pm if they do not have people meeting them or places to stay. At the HOC, a PSW meets with inmates 30 days prior to release to connect with housing opportunities. Both HOC and CJF enroll inmates in healthcare coverage and activate when released. MSDF reported working with shelters if inmate has no place to go upon release so individuals do not end up on the streets.
- iv.) **Stepping Up Initiative** (<https://stepuptogether.org/>) – Mandy gave an overview and asked the group if they were familiar with the Stepping Up Initiative, a national movement sponsored by National Association of Counties (NACo), the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation (APA Foundation). Mandy will distribute additional information to the group for review.
- v.) **Jail/HOC/MSDF Population Data**
 - o Jail - Captain Duckert reported a lower admission rate in December, which is common; Currently, 417 overflow to HOC; State has taken VOPs to maintain 950 mark in CJF. Captain Duckert also noted the CJF has been seeing a significant increase in those with more acute mental health issues over the past 60 days
 - o MSDF reports around 200 out of their 1000 inmates suffer from mental health issues; staff feel due to shrinking community-based resources that number is increasing

- MSDF has been seeing an increased number of individuals on revocations, which increases average length of stay. Niel Thoreson reported there are currently 398 revocations and 402 DAI Sentenced inmates at MSDF. MSDF is also holding some sanctions.
- On average, MSDF is receiving 15 felony VOPs from jail per day and is routinely holding more state sentenced due to capacity/transfer issues with Dodge.
- HOC remains between 1400 – 1500 inmates; no significant changes relating to population

vi.) Other Business/Updates

- HOC – Jobs Center will be operational by mid-February
- Milwaukee County Day Reporting Center, services provided by Wisconsin Community Services (WCS), is moving to new site at 37th & Wisconsin at WCS (in February)
- Adam Oldenburg (WCS) - WRC at capacity; 11 people on admissions from MKE (3 add'l in warrant status) out of 46 in WI; 10 people are “ready for discharge from the institution and are awaiting court appearance/return to court. Adam noted that there has been an 85% increase in Dane County referrals this year.
- Peter Konezny stated that Dr. Shansky’s last audit of the jail noted the program for “substantial compliance,” which may allow for the end of the consent decree. Pete would like to have further discussions about the transition to a “post-Christianson world.” Pete also noted that there may be benefit in discussing the need for County resolutions to monitor the overcrowding and capacity challenges of the jail.
- It was noted that it would be beneficial for members of this committee to bring data to this meeting so that the data can drive our discussion of trends.
- Overall, the group agreed there is a common lack of technical understanding of the Chapter 51 process. We will schedule a future presentation on this topic for the committee.
- The group also thought it would be beneficial for the Executive Committee to convene an organized discussion to evaluate and examine the Behavioral Health Division in a problem-solving and analytic way.

vii.) Adjourn

Next Meeting: Monday, February 15th, 2016 at 8am