

Milwaukee County Community Justice Council Minutes

Meeting of Wednesday, January 23, 2008
Washington Park Senior Center

The first meeting of the Milwaukee County Community Justice Council (CJC) was called to order by Chief Judge Kitty Brennan at 9:35 a.m. The Chief Judge welcomed participants and attendees. She also gave brief remarks regarding formation and mission of the CJC. She said that although there was a similar effort approximately ten years ago under then-Chief Judge Michael Skwierawski, in the fall of 2006, Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr., invited the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to Milwaukee County to conduct an assessment of the criminal justice system. One of the recommendations the NIC made was to create a criminal justice coordinating council. Sheriff Clarke agreed that this type of council would greatly enhance efforts to improve the criminal justice system in Milwaukee County and, with the cooperation of other community leaders, he began efforts to establish this council.

Executive Committee Members were introduced by the Chief Judge. Those in attendance were: County Executive Scott Walker, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Sheriff David Clarke, Jr., Deputy Inspector Edward Bailey, First Assistant Public Defender Tom Reed, Benedict Center Executive Director Kit Murphy McNally, County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., Inspector Kevin Carr, and County Board Chairman Lee Holloway.

Chief Judge Brennan discussed the structure of the CJC.

She asked others to introduce themselves. Present were Corey Hoze, Health and Human Services; John Barrett, Clerk of Circuit Court; Sharon Williams, Department of Corrections; Catey Doyle, Legal Aid Society representing Pete Koneazny; Bill Domina, Milwaukee County Corporation Council; Ron Malone, Superintendent of the House of Correction; Grant Langley, City Attorney; Bill Lipscomb for the United States Attorney; South Milwaukee Police Chief Ann Wellens representing the Milwaukee County Law Enforcement Executives Association (MCLEAA); Milwaukee Presiding Municipal Judge Derrick Mosley; Project Return Director Wendel Hruska; Holly Patzer, Wisconsin Community Services Executive Director; Milwaukee Common Council President Willie Hines; Bob Sayner, Justice 2000; Clarence Williams, Justice 2000; Richard Cox, former Superintendent of the House of Correction; and Franklin Mayor Tom Taylor, representing the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council. The Chief Judge explained that there will be representation from the legislature, chosen by the majority and minority leadership, but since today is the State of the State speech and a session day, no one will attend today.

The Chief Judge explained the meeting structure of the Executive Committee as every month on the 4th Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. in the Sheriff's office.

The Chief Judge discussed voluntary appointments to the Standing Committees and the Chairs of the Committees gave a brief description of their Committee. Attendees were encouraged to sign up and will be contacted by the Chairs. It was stressed that individuals

may join multiple committees and others are welcome. The Chair of the Standing Committees will be selected by the Executive Committee.

General information was presented about the following Standing Committees:

Data Analysis & Information Committee – County Executive Walker
Jail & Huber Utilization Committee – Sheriff David A. Clarke, Jr.
Programs & Interventions Committee – District Attorney John Chisholm/Kit McNally
Public Outreach & Education Committee – Mayor Tom Barrett
Juvenile Justice Committee – Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.
Public Health Committee – First Assistant Public Defender Tom Reed

With the description of the Public Outreach Committee, Mayor Barrett showed a public service announcement created by SERVE on gun violence. He suggested that attendees look at the OneMilwaukee.org website for more information.

After introduction of the Standing Committees, Milwaukee City Attorney Grant Langley asked if strategic planning is going to be a component of the CJC. The Chief Judge said perhaps someone could facilitate strategic planning at the next meeting if the group wants to do that. She asked if the group wanted a formal presentation. Inspector Carr said that the CJC will be involved in active strategic planning and will be active in municipal, county and state efforts. Guidance will be provided at the Committee level.

Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel Bill Domina said that strategic planning has to be done correctly and the group also wants to be about outcomes. He also asked if education is missing. Tom Reed responded that Milwaukee Public Schools are critical and will be involved in the subcommittee work. Mayor Barrett said that although strategic planning was not done and may not be done in a formal sense, he was at a meeting on the topic of creating a Family Justice Center and the CJC will have input as to how we can do what they did in San Diego on this issue.

Richard Cox said that this is an action oriented group and that should be the focus along with implementing accomplishments. Deputy Inspector Bailey from Sheriff's office said that subject matter experts should be invited to the subcommittee level

Chief Judge Brennan said the Executive Committee thought that the strategic plan was the mission statement and the Committees are vehicles to move it forward. The Executive Committee will select chairs for the Standing Committees and develop members and the process will be adjusted, if necessary.

Superintendent Malone then presented information on the House of Corrections GPS Proposal. In his view, this proposal represents future thinking and we can do better than is currently being done. Superintendent Malone said that GPS will happen as the County has enough staff, a top of the line monitoring center and can work with other jurisdictions and organizations like Justice 2000.

Chairman Holloway stated that, in his opinion, inmates need psychological reviews as they may not respond to being on a bracelet and the community needs to know. Superintendent Malone said that face-to-face will be built in at the facility and they will be looking for a way to take it to the next level with face-to-face at home. Judge Mosely asked if there is a cost to the inmate and Malone said it was about \$20 per day. Holly Patzer said that the original proposal included programming which is no longer there and these individuals need jobs.

Superintendent Malone said they are looking at what is currently at the HOC and community-based programming.

The Chief Judge said that the group will have to look at the issue of who puts defendants on GPS, under what circumstances and how we get them to return to court. The committee will have to confer with Corporation Counsel and what to do if someone violates. She added that the key to GPS is enforcement of violators and it involves law enforcement which is a large cost. District Attorney Chisholm said there are domestic violence implications and there should be a way to keep individuals on GPS away from a victim's home or work. He noted that New York City uses a kiosk system for a defendant to check in. He thinks we need to develop a system that is accessible to all.

Corporation Counsel Domina asked if reports from the Committees are expected at the next meeting with a report out from the Committee Chair. The Chief Judge indicated that she does anticipate reports at the next meeting. County Executive Walker said that we have a lot of individuals in the community who can add to the discussion. He added that at the monthly meetings with the Chief Judge, District Court Administrator, Sheriff, HOC Superintendent and District Attorney, GPS has been a topic of conversation. In his opinion, this is a perfect idea for a committee to look at all of the issue, question why we do things a certain way and use the talent that is available in the community.

Mr. Domina moved to refer the HOC GPS proposal to the Jail Utilization Committee for recommendation to the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Chairman Holloway. As to parliamentary procedure, the Chief Judge said that it's a quick decision by the Executive Committee to adopt its use. Rick Ceschin raised an issue related to the use GPS. Mr. Domina said that the motion was meant broadly and he would accept an amendment. The Chief Judge restated the motion, as amended, to refer the HOC GPS proposal to the Jail Utilization Committee along with the issue of the release of inmates generally from the House of Correction and the jail and the prospect of GPS monitoring for those individuals. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chief Judge told Mr. Domina that he had just made himself Parliamentarian. She also reminded those in attendance that they must sign up for a committee before they leave and include their contact information on the sign-up sheets.

Kit Murphy McNally and John Chisholm made brief comments about the committees and the HOC GPS proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 26, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Washington Park Senior Center.