

Milwaukee County Community Justice Council Minutes

Meeting of Wednesday, March 26, 2008
Washington Park Senior Center

Chief Judge Kitty Brennan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Executive Committee Members in attendance were: County Executive Scott Walker, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Sheriff David Clarke, Jr., First Assistant Public Defender Tom Reed, Benedict Center Executive Director Kit Murphy McNally, County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., and Inspector Kevin Carr. Introductions of all attendees followed.

The members approved the Minutes of January 23, 2008, which had been previously approved by the Executive Committee.

Chief Judge Brennan reported that in the future, Standing Committee Chairs will provide a one-page report. Tom Reed is designing a one-page report to be used by the Standing Committee Chairs so they will be able to be shared electronically and allow the Chairs to tell the Executive Committee if they need their involvement. She acknowledged that there will be some overlap among the committees but that they won't be combined at this point in order that they can retain their focus and not dilute their efforts. Inspector Carr suggested that the District Attorney's report should be used as a model.

Standing Committee reports were as follows:

Public Health Committee: Chief Judge Brennan reported that about eight individuals were in attendance and a meeting schedule was set for the second Wednesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room of 609 of the Courthouse.

Juvenile Justice Committee: Tom Reed said that at the meeting each attendee discussed their priorities for the committee. One of the priority issues was Milwaukee Public Schools but it was decided that after a broader representation is attending the meetings, a complete list will be developed. Several other priorities discussed were: education; research on adolescent brain development; identification of evidenced-based practices to develop a vision of resources needed; collecting stories of what happens to juveniles in the court system; and, identification of what data is needed for meaningful discussions.

Programs & Interventions Committee: District Attorney Chisholm said the Committee discussed what's working and not working. Craig Mastantuono and Holly Szablewski are Co-Chairs of the committee and did submit a report to the Executive Committee. Discussions at the meeting included assessment and making informed decisions; community-based prosecution; an "alternative" court; and the Department of Correction's prison reentry project. He wants to look at youth intervention with the

Milwaukee Public Schools and will be making a grant application to the Soros Foundation to do a treatment need/availability inventory so we know how individuals should be directed. At the meeting, Kent Lovern discussed the development of a Family Justice Center and Holly described existing pretrial services and new projects such as TAD.

Community Outreach & Public Education Committee: Tom Reed reported that only a few individuals signed up for the Committee. He's spoken with a lot of individuals who would like to participate and the Committee just needs to make the appropriate connections. He would like to coordinate with groups such as the Fourth Street Forum and Block Watch programs as well as link the group with Marquette and UWM where interns might be available to assist in the work of the Committee.

Jail & Huber Utilization Committee: Inspector Schmidt said this Committee had excellent representation with approximately 20 individuals in attendance. The group will meet the third Monday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the CJF conference room. The Committee discussed GPS and electronic surveillance issues related to the Committee Corrections Center and the House of Correction.

Data Analysis and Information Committee: County Executive Walker reported that 14 individuals attended. The group designated the first Wednesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. in the conference room of 306 of the Courthouse. The group discussed what data exists and what could exist on a report card or a dashboard. Dennis Johns, Milwaukee County's Chief Information Officer, will Chair the Committee. The group discussed consolidating data kept and determined that they need to listen to what other committees are doing to see how this Committee can assist.

The Chief Judge thanked Rob Henken and the Public Policy Forum for offering to provide assistance to the CJC. Their first project will be to study the use of GPS across the United States – what works and what doesn't. Rob said that the Public Policy Forum is a non-partisan organization that focuses on best practices, case studies and fiscal analysis.

Franklin Mayor Tom Taylor said that the group should concentrate on the positives of the Milwaukee area community. Tom Reed announced a Mental Health Task Force conference at Marquette University on June 30. Chief Flynn told the group that beginning next week there will be reports coming out about the efforts being made to keep Milwaukee's neighborhoods safe.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Washington Park Senior Center