

Milwaukee County Community Justice Council Minutes

Meeting of Wednesday, July 23, 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, District Attorney John Chisholm, Sheriff David Clarke, Jr., First Assistant Public Defender Tom Reed, and Inspector Kevin Carr, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., and Glen Mattison, Community Block Grant Administration, representing Mayor Barrett.

Attendees introduced themselves and identified their interest in the Community Council.

The Minutes of the May 28, 2008, meeting were approved on a voice vote with no dissention.

Standing Committee reports were as follows:

Jail & Huber Utilization Committee: Rob Henken presented information on a draft proposal for universal screening. Although we have pretrial services, we don't have a mechanism to get judges complete information for a possible diversion or a deferred prosecution agreement. Holly Szablewski drafted the proposal for consideration. Rob said he had researched other studies in pretrial services and none had an isolated screening process so cost savings could not be quantified. However, screening is considered a best practice by national organizations such as the American Bar Association. He added that there are plenty of non-fiscal reasons to do screening. He looked at TAD and other screening done in Milwaukee County and can't quantify cost savings. Chief Judge Brennan said it would work if Milwaukee County had treatment slots.

The Executive Committee approved a pretrial screening workgroup consisting of representatives from Department of Administrative Services, Sheriff's Department, Circuit Courts, County Board Analyst and House of Correction. The Administrative Services representative will serve as Chair. The work group will development a recommendation to the Executive Committee on how best to implement screening. County Executive Walker asked that the Chair of the workgroup to be prepared to make recommendations for the 2009 Milwaukee County budget.

There was a general discussion of the screening concept and possible effects on charging decisions and issues of racial disparity.

The Executive Committee voted unanimously for the workgroup to begin the review process as soon as possible and report back at the August meeting.

Inspector Schmidt discussed the Public Policy Forum proposal on GPS which was available at this meeting. He said that all types of supervision such as voice recognition and SCRAM should be investigated. Dennis Johns, IMSD, asked to be added to the workgroup. The names of the members of the task force are to be given to Sergeant Barkow and Inspector Carr requested that the workgroup should have their report to the Executive Committee by September 1, 2008.

Data Analysis and Information Committee: Dennis Johns, IMSD, reported that the group has been challenged by to get the aging IT systems to work together. He said he spoke with Alderman Willie Hines and they discussed the need for an assessment tool and how it might impact sentencing. The group discussed the inability of many individuals to make bail and the fact that many individuals involved in the criminal justice system lack a support system.

Sergeant Barkow stated that ideas for website content could be sent to her. The Chairs should contact her with content, membership lists, agendas and minutes.

Public Health Committee: First Assistant Public Defender Tom Reed reported that the Committee has a diversity in membership. He said that the staff of the Medical College of Wisconsin is studying six zip codes on issues related to violence and social services to determine where the gaps are.

Programs & Interventions Committee: Holly Szablewski reported that Kit McNally is putting together a small group to look at the development of neighborhood justice centers. The Committee has reviewed the universal screening proposal and endorses it.

Holly also provided an update on the drug court initiative and the two test cases. The intention is to have fifty cases next year. She added that DOT will be partially funding a drunk driving risk assessment tool.

Juvenile Justice Committee: Eric Meaux presented the Committee update. He is the co-chair with Judge Triggiano. He reported that the Legislative Council is looking at high risk offenders and the issue of seventeen-year-old offenders. These issues are also being considered by the Federal government. He presented a profile of who is in the juvenile justice system: 3,700 juveniles; 25% of the cases churn; main offenses are disorderly conduct, operating a vehicle without the owner's consent, and battery. There is a serious lack of services. Screening tools indicate that 18% of juveniles get a DPA; 9% get a consent decree; 55% (1,200) are on probation; and, 17% (250) are in the control of DOC.

Community Outreach & Public Education Committee: Beth Bishop Perrigo reported that due to his schedule, Tom Reed has resigned as Chair and she and Kim Brooks will co-chair. The Committee recently met and planned to do a facilitated brainstorming session at the next meeting (August 14) to decide the tasks and direction of the Committee. The Executive Committee subsequently asked the Committee to research different revenue sources including foundations.

Dan Idzikowski, Marquette University, asked for volunteers for a conference that Marquette will be hosting in February 2009.

The Chief Judge thanked the Chairs and participants and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 24, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Washington Park Senior Center