

Adams County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2012

11:30 pm – 1:30pm

Adams County Justice Center, 1100 Judicial Center Dr., Brighton

First floor training room

Meeting Attendees

Members Present

Vincent Phelps, Lee Birk, Sharon Dunlap, Kurt Ester (for Doug Darr), Scott Evans, Ruth Kedzior, Randy Nelson, Richard Weinberg, Dave Young (for Don Quick), and George Zierk

Members Absent

Doug Darr

Charlie Long

Don Quick

Others Present

Mike Jones, Institute for Justice Planning

Meeting Goal(s)

- Begin working on priority areas

Agenda Item

Call meeting to order, do introductions, and approve minutes

Judge Phelps called the meeting to order.

Attendees introduced themselves.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Review CJCC's progress to date

Mike Jones used a slideshow to guide discussion topics (see attached).

He reviewed the CJCC's major accomplishments to date, including following through on several of the National Institute of Corrections report's recommendations, including forming the CJCC, having broad membership, developing a purpose and objectives, selecting two initial priority areas, and beginning to hire staff for the Committee.

One objective was modified to read, "~~Have~~ *Develop* clear objectives and priorities."

Begin working on "Jail purpose, capacity, use, and allocation" priority area

Mike Jones showed the slide regarding the jail's purpose (slide 6).

The rest of the meeting consisted of discussion about the jail.

Aurora representatives stated that they would like to know whether they can find out very soon whether more jail beds would become available in the near future because this information affects their budget planning for the next year.

Captain Ester answered a variety of questions regarding jail staffing levels.

In sum, he said the jail has been averaging approximately 1,100 inmates per day. The jail is currently staffed to hold a maximum of 1,180 inmates. The jail is currently authorized to have 170 deputies, and needs at least 176 deputies to supervise the 1,180 inmates.

He distributed a classification mapping document that shows the number of beds in the various jail housing areas (see attached).

Various details about hiring and training jail staff, and having authorization from the BOCC to hire a certain number of staff and fill vacancies, were discussed.

County departments are no longer under a hiring freeze and can fill vacant positions if they can show two months' worth of vacancy savings.

One sentiment expressed was that if the overall jail population could be reduced further, then there could be more beds available for municipal court use.

A separate jail housing area for just municipal inmates is not an option because these inmates have different classifications based on their charges, criminal history, and other characteristics (e.g., behavior, mental health needs). This necessitates that they are housed in different areas in the jail.

One suggestion was to obtain data about the similarities and differences in bed use for sentenced inmates coming from county/district courts vs. municipal courts.

This information would help the CJCC and judges determine whether county-wide sentencing guidelines would be helpful to managing jail bed use.

Judge Phelps distributed a document on sentencing guidelines from the combined courts (see attached). This document was not discussed.

A suggestion was made for the creation of two documents:

- (1) Document listing the variety of changes to policies or practices that have occurred over the past year or two in an effort to reduce the jail population (e.g., awarding good time, not accepting parole technical violators)

- (2) Document listing what other jurisdictions have done to reduce their jail populations

Inmates charged with domestic violence do not count against the municipal cap numbers. The DA's Office may have data on the impact of the jail cap on their caseload by the next meeting.

The statement was made that to reduce the jail population, either the number of people coming in needs to be reduced, and/or the length of time they stay in jail needs to be reduced. Or, the capacity of the jail to hold more inmates can be increased if there were more jail staff.

It was recommended that the CJCC tell the BOCC what the justice system and CJCC has been and is willing to do regarding managing the size of the jail population before asking for more jail staff.

There were two questions that several CJCC members would like answered:

- (1) Some municipalities would like to know now whether there is a possibility that if the jail population was to be reduced by some number (e.g., 100 or 200 inmates), would the municipal cap be increased? Some municipalities may need this information to know whether they have an incentive to participate in jail bed reduction efforts.

- (2) What number of staff is the jail approved for and can the jail fill any vacancies to stay staffed at this number? What will the approved number of jail staff be for the foreseeable future – are there any planned increases or decreases?

The Committee did not yet begin to define the purpose of the jail (slides 6-8).

Ruth Kedzior stated that the CJCC planner position opening closes on June 28.

Adjourn

Judge Phelps adjourned the meeting.

Tasks

Mike Jones will work with Sheriff Darr and jail staff to get jail data that would help move the CJCC's discussions about the "Jail purpose, capacity, use, and allocation" priority area forward. Mike Jones will draft a CJCC work plan that can be shared with the BOCC. The plan will include options that others have used to reduce the jail population, focusing on one's that the NIC report's and the Sheriff's Office's jail data indicate would have the most impact.

Next Meeting(s)

July 31, 2012

1:30pm – 3:30pm

Adams County Justice Center, 1100 Judicial Center Dr., Brighton

First floor training room

August 9, 2012

1:30pm – 3:30pm

Adams County Justice Center, 1100 Judicial Center Dr., Brighton

First floor training room