

Adams County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

January 24, 2013
2 - 4 p.m.

Adams County Justice Center
1100 Judicial Center Dr, Brighton
1st Floor Training Room

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Attendees

Members Present

Vincent Phelps (Chair), Charlie Long, Dave Young, Doug Darr, Kimberly Kaufman, Randy Nelson, Richard Weinberg, Ruth Kedzior, Scott Evans, Sharon Dunlap

Members Absent

Lee Birk

Others Present

Kurt Ester, Adams County Jail Commander; Beth Daniel, CJCC Planner/Analyst

Meeting Goals

- ✓ Discuss the updated draft bylaws
- ✓ Update on status of performance objectives for planner/analyst
- ✓ Discuss the committee's performance objectives
- ✓ Update on Veterans and Mental Health Courts
- ✓ Update from the Court Appearance Subcommittee
- ✓ Update and recommendations from the Sanctions & Services Subcommittee
- ✓ Updates from all agencies regarding any changes that may affect others
- ✓ Determine next CJCC meeting date and time

Agenda Items

Call meeting to order and approve minutes:

- ✓ Judge Phelps called the meeting to order.
- ✓ The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Discuss the updated draft bylaws:

A few additional changes were made to the draft bylaws and were approved as amended. Beth Daniel will update the bylaws and email the final version to committee members.

Update on the status of the planner/analyst's performance objectives:

Beth updated the committee on the status of the items mentioned in the staff performance objectives and discussed some barriers that exist to the collection and analysis of some of the data necessary. She will be meeting with Karla Pickens, of the 17th Judicial District Court, and Susan Argo, of the Sheriff's Office, on February 4th to discuss potential methods for obtaining the necessary data. She will update the committee at the next meeting.

Discuss the committee's performance objectives:

The committee's draft performance objectives were discussed. A project plan was developed and presented to the committee and will be updated as appropriate.

Our Purpose

To provide an ongoing forum for leaders from the criminal justice agencies, general governments, and communities in Adams County to discuss and prioritize public safety and criminal justice issues and coordinate resources to address issues in the most evidence-based, cost-effective, and equitable ways possible.

Update on Veterans and Mental Health Courts:

Judge Phelps updated the committee on the development and implementation of a Veterans Court, as well as a Mental Health Court in the 17th Judicial District. Judge Phelps, Dave Young, Judge Bowen, and others had lunch this week with Laura Williams who has helped implement a Veterans Treatment Court in the 4th Judicial District over the past five years. The 4th JD has worked through a lot of the kinks to implementing a VTC and is willing to share its stories and products to help make an easier implementation for the 17th. The Court will start small with just county defendants as a probation program. Dave Young mentioned that it could eventually be expanded to a diversion program. Judge Bowen has volunteered to head up the Veterans Court. A good working relationship with the VA Hospital in Aurora will be critical to the success of the VTC. The Adams County jail does note inmates' veteran status; however, the VA does not offer any services to individuals in custody. The VTC would help these individuals get the treatment and services they need from the VA.

Judge Phelps is also in the process of developing a Mental Health Court in the 17th. Discussions are being held with the 18th JD Mental Health Coordinator, Judge Straus, and Dr. Tucker, of the Community Reach Center. Approximately 22% of the inmates in the Adams County jail have mental health issues. Community Reach currently provides services to these inmates inside the jail; however, a Mental Health Court would be very beneficial for additional services and treatment programs that could be offered to these individuals.

Judge Phelps hopes to have both courts up and running within the next couple of months. During that time, he will work with municipalities to identify potential court participants (i.e. veterans and individuals with mental health issues that have non-violent criminal histories/cases).

Update from the Court Appearance Subcommittee:

Sharon Dunlap updated the committee on the work of the Court Appearance Subcommittee. The subcommittee last met in November and discussed the challenge of collecting meaningful, comparable data; establishing baselines; and defining terms. The subcommittee is in the process of collecting baseline data that will allow the members to measure the impact of any court date reminder programs. They are also trying to identify the cost-benefit to implementing such programs. The subcommittee meets again on February 12, 2013.

Update and recommendations from the Sanctions & Services Subcommittee:

Dave Young and Scott Evans updated the committee on the Sanctions & Services Subcommittee. The subcommittee has met twice and has finalized four recommendations to present to the CJCC.

Recommendation 1: Uniform Municipal Bond Schedule

The recommended bond schedule is the average bond for all of the municipalities and the county excluding the highest and lowest bond amounts. Municipalities will review and provide feedback.

Recommendation 2: Standardized Pay or Serve Sentences and Failure to Pay Fines and Costs Sentences

The CJCC would like Beth to research the possibility of setting up an IGA to assist in collecting the fines and costs for those who fail to pay them.

Recommendation 3: Reduction in Sentence Length

The recommendation of a reduction in sentence length is for all judges within Adams County, including municipal, county and district judges. Probation is also on board with reducing the sentence length of their recommendations for violators.

Recommendation 4: Elimination of Suspended Sentences

The subcommittee is still discussing alternative sentencing options. The next meeting is set for March 1, 2013.

The CJCC will discuss these recommendations at the next meeting after having time to discuss them with other system participants.

Update from all agencies regarding any changes that may affect others:

Due to staffing and budget restraints, the Adams County jail had to close another housing unit. This means a reduction in 64 beds available for use.

Richard Weinberg mentioned that there is discussion among the Aurora judges for a reduction in their sentencing guidelines. Also of note, the Aurora's Prostituted Women's Court is up and running.

Randy Nelson updated the CJCC on the countywide committee set up to address juvenile intervention and prevention ideas and issues. He mentioned that data sharing is critical and has become a roadblock as the agencies aren't able to share juvenile information with those entities outside of law enforcement. The group would like to develop a universal assessment procedure. In the mean time, the Thornton Police Department is looking at taking away officer discretion regarding juvenile assessments and The Link. Juveniles picked up in Thornton will have to be taken to The Link for evaluation. The committee is also looking to develop universal drug messages.

Determine next CJCC meeting date and time:

Due to member commitments, CJCC meetings have been changed to meet regularly on the second Thursday of each month. However, due to prior invitations for guest speakers, the next CJCC meeting will still be held on February 28, 2013 from 2-4pm at the Adams County Justice Center. Subsequent CJCC meetings will be held on the new day, beginning on March 7, 2013 from 2-4pm.

Adjourn

- ✓ Judge Phelps adjourned the meeting.

Tasks

- Beth will update the draft bylaws with the additional changes made during discussion at the meeting. She will then email the final copy to committee members.
- Beth will research the possibility of an IGA regarding failure to pay fines and costs and inform the committee of her findings.

Next CJCC Meetings

February 28, 2013; 2-4pm; Adams County Justice Center
March 7, 2013; 2-4pm; Adams County Justice Center

Upcoming Court Appearance Subcommittee Meeting

February 12, 2013; 2-4pm; Thornton Municipal Court

Upcoming Sanctions & Services Subcommittee Meeting

March 1, 2013; 2-4pm; Adams County DA's Office