

Adams County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

March 14, 2013
12:30-1 p.m.

Adams County DA's Office
1000 Judicial Center Dr, Brighton
1st Floor Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Attendees

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Lee Birk, Ruth Kedzior, Scott Evans

Others Present

Daniel Oates, Aurora Police Chief; Charles Rose, Thornton Municipal Judge; Kurt Ester, Adams County Sheriff's Office Division Chief; Beth Daniel, CJCC Planner/Analyst

Agenda Items

Call meeting to order:

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

Discuss the Sanctions & Services Subcommittee recommendations:

On January 24, 2013, the Sanctions & Services Subcommittee made four recommendations to the CJCC: the implementation of a uniform bond schedule, a standardized pay-or-serve amount, a 20% reduction in non-mandatory sentences, and the elimination of suspended sentencing. Following the presentation and discussion of the recommendations, county and district court judges offered their full support of the recommendations. After lengthy discussions by stakeholders in the municipalities, three of the four recommendations were approved with amendments. The CJCC will go forward with these amended and approved recommendations and advocate for their immediate implementation by all local criminal justice system participants.

Recommendation 1: Uniform Bond Schedule Cap

The CJCC recommends that all jurisdictions within Adams County review the Uniform Bond Schedule Cap and implement an individual bond schedule that does not exceed the recommended bond amounts. The bond schedule is a recommended cap; it is not intended to increase bonds for those jurisdictions with lower bond amounts. The CJCC emphasizes that judges maintain the absolute discretion to deviate from this bond schedule when necessary.

Recommendation 2: Standardized Pay-or-Serve Sentences and Collection of Unpaid Fines & Fees

The CJCC recommends that all jurisdictions base sentences for fines on a minimum of \$75 per day. This is based on an average of the current amounts (\$50 and \$100) used in municipalities across Adams County. The Adams County Sheriff's Office notes that the daily cost to house an inmate in the Adams County Detention Facility is currently \$114. In an effort to provide the citizens of Adams County with the most efficient use of taxpayers' dollars, an amount closer to the daily housing cost may be the most efficient.

The CJCC also notes that C.R.S. 13-10-113 authorizes municipal courts to collect unpaid fines and fees through the same means as state courts per C.R.S. 18-1.3-506. Implementation of collection procedures for the collection of unpaid court-ordered fines and fees

CJCC 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.

as an alternative to sentencing offenders to the county jail will assist municipalities with the collection of fines and fees owed, increasing revenue; reduce the impact of a jail stay on defendants who are employed; and decrease the use of jail beds, helping manage the jail population. More information and detailed procedures regarding access and enforceability by municipalities will be presented by the CJCC in the coming days.

Recommendation 3: Reduction in Sentence Length

The CJCC recommends that all judges (municipal, county, and district) throughout Adams County reduce non-mandatory sentences by 20% in an effort to reduce the jail population without jeopardizing public safety or justice. The CJCC recommends implementing this policy for a six-month trial period beginning immediately through September 30, 2013. Following the trial period, the CJCC Planner will gather sentenced length of stay data from the county jail and analyze the data to determine the impact the reduction had on the jail.

Updates and changes regarding individual agencies:

The City of Aurora presented a recommendation to the CJCC to discuss the municipal inmate cap. Agreement was made to delay discussion until the April 11th CJCC meeting after members have had a chance to review the presented material.

Adjourn

- ✓ Judge Phelps adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting

April 11, 2013; 2-4pm; Adams County Justice Center