

Adams County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

May 9, 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, Emily Fleischmann (for Scott Evans), Kimberly Kaufman, Kurt Ester (for Doug Darr), Lee Birk, Randy Nelson, Richard Weinberg, Ruth Kedzior, Sharon Dunlap

Members Absent

Doug Darr, Scott Evans

Others Present

Ben Stough, 17th Judicial District Administrator; Brian Bowen, Adams County Court Judge; Jill-Ellyn Straus, 17th Judicial District Court Judge; Beth Daniel, CJCC Planner/Analyst

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 possibility of a district-wide juvenile diversion program:

The District Attorney's Office currently offers a diversion (deferred prosecution) program to 1st time juvenile offenders and has seen a positive result in lowering recidivism for those in the program. Dave Young would like to extend the program to include juveniles in municipal courts across the county. Some municipalities currently offer juvenile diversion programs, however, these programs grant juveniles deferred sentences as opposed to deferred prosecution; therefore, if the juvenile successfully completes the program, the sentence is forfeited, but the arrest remains on record. With the DA's program, juveniles who successfully complete the diversion program would not have an arrest on record for the original offense – benefiting the juvenile later in life. Dave has offered that the DA's Office would handle the municipal cases and incur the costs of the program. He would like to begin with a pilot program in one municipality. Depending on the available resources, the pilot program may be limited by size or offense type. Following feedback and review of the pilot program and the availability of future resources, the DA's Office may expand the program to all Adams County municipalities. Thornton is interested in participating in the pilot program. Dave will talk with the head of his juvenile diversion program for thoughts regarding pilot program capacity.

Update regarding the 17th Judicial District's Court Call Reminder Program:

Ben Stough updated the Committee members on the 17th Judicial District's Court Call Reminder Program. They have signed a contract for service and will begin training and test runs in the upcoming weeks. They hope to begin reminder calls for traffic court by the end of June. Westminster is also meeting with a vendor this week to move toward implementation of their reminder call program.

Update regarding the 17th Judicial District's Specialty Courts:

County Court Judge Brian Bowen updated the Committee members on the status of the 17th Judicial District Veterans Court. The Veterans Court will be a post-judgment court. Potential participants will be screened by the Probation Department to determine eligibility prior to sentencing. Judge Bowen and others are still determining what cases will be eligible for the Veterans Court. Other Veterans Courts

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.

incorporate ex-participants as mentors (known as a Navigator's Program) with much success. Judge Bowen would like to incorporate such individuals into the 17th Judicial District's Veterans Court as well. He mentioned the biggest challenge in preparing to implement the Veterans Court has been in identifying the Court's potential population. Probation has been gathering data for the past three months and will present it to Judge Bowen at the end of May. In the future, Judge Bowen would like the Court to be able to provide services to the municipalities as well, including training, housing ideas, and resource information, among other things. Judge Bowen will also provide contact information to local law enforcement departments to help provide street officers with resource information to distribute to veterans when first contact is made.

District Judge Jill-Ellyn Straus updated the Committee members on the status of the 17th Judicial District Mental Health Court. The Mental Health Court will likely become an umbrella court incorporating existing programs, ACT and CESE, with additional cases not currently eligible for ACT or CESE. Potential participants must be eligible for probation and must have significant mental health issues. The Court hopes to obtain initial funding from federal grants and is in the process of determining future funding resources and availability.

Discuss Failure to Pay collection authority for municipalities:

Judge Phelps has reviewed C.R.S. 13-10-113 (6) and interprets it to grant municipalities the same authority as the District and County Court to collect unpaid fines and fees from criminal offenders, with the exception of defendants convicted of violent offenses, via C.R.S. 18-1.3-506. Judge Phelps has offered to have Lorna Hein, with the 17th Judicial District Collections Department, provide training to the municipalities on the method for collecting those unpaid fines and fees. It may also be a possibility to have the municipalities pay the 17th Judicial District Collections Department to collect those fines and fees for them. Judge Phelps suggests the city attorneys should review the statute and provide any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the statute and the municipalities' authority to the Committee and Judge Phelps.

Discuss offender management options and potential recommendation to municipalities:

The Committee would like Beth to contact the local offender management companies again to collect solid proposals regarding in-home detention, GPS tracking, and alcohol/drug monitoring if all municipalities used the same company. Preliminary current usage figures from those municipalities represented at the meeting include: approximately 60 defendants per year from Aurora, less than 100 per year from Thornton, and about 60 per year from Westminster.

The Committee also discussed the jail's work release program. The program is available to county and district judges, as well as the municipal judges. Judges may authorize work release, but it is up to the Sheriff's Office to determine eligibility and acceptance. Defendants must be sentenced to at least 30 days in jail and must already have, or be able to obtain, a job. Some work release participants can also participate in the program on "school release" or "counseling release", depending on the situation. All participants must be able to pay their own expenses in the program.

Update regarding recommendations made to the local criminal justice system community:

Following the CJCC recommendations, some of the local jurisdictions have already made changes in an effort to be supportive of the suggestions. Both Aurora and Thornton have revised their bond schedules to comply fully with the CJCC recommended uniform bond schedule cap. Thornton continues to attribute \$100 per day to pay-or-serve sentences and Aurora and Northglenn have increased their pay-or-serve allocations from \$50 per day to \$75 per day to be in line with the recommended amount. Many jurisdictions are also working toward reducing non-mandatory sentence lengths by 20%.

Updates and changes regarding individual agencies:

The Board of County Commissioners has approved \$10,000 for use by the jail to hire an architect to convert an empty housing unit into a

mental health ward that will be utilized in cooperation with mental health assessments and services provided by Community Reach. Currently, approximately 23% of the Adams County Detention Facility's inmates have diagnosed severe mental illnesses and between 50-75% have some form of mental disorder.

Adjourn

✓ Judge Phelps adjourned the meeting.

Next CJCC Meeting

Thursday, June 13, 2013; 2-4pm; Adams County Justice Center