

AdCo CJCC Sanctions & Services Subcommittee

November 14, 2012
2 - 4 p.m.

Adams County DA's Office
100 Judicial Center Dr, Brighton
1st Floor Training Room

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Attendees

Members Present

Dave Young (Co-Chair), Scott Evans (Co-Chair), Adam Gollin, Chris Laws, John Stipech, Mike Garcia

Members Absent

Brian Bowen, Laurie Cole, Ruth Kedzior

Others Present

Beth Daniel, CJCC Planner/Analyst

Meeting Goals

- ✓ Discuss the purpose of the Sanctions & Services Subcommittee
- ✓ Decide on initial topics and issues of interest to research and discuss
- ✓ Determine next meeting date, time, and location

Agenda Items

Call meeting to order and do introductions:

- ✓ Dave Young and Scott Evans called the meeting to order.

Discuss the purpose of the Sanctions & Services Subcommittee:

The purpose of the Sanctions & Services Subcommittee is to research and discuss ideas regarding methods for reducing the jail population and increasing the effectiveness of the Adams County criminal justice system. These ideas will then be presented to the Adams County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee as recommendations.

Decide on initial topics and issues of interest:

Ideas on ways to help reduce the Adams County jail population and increase the effectiveness of the local CJ system were discussed, including policy and procedural changes such as triage efforts, development and use of a consistent bond schedule, reduction in sentence length, and alternative sentences.

Triage Chart

In an effort to help reduce the jail population, several municipalities are currently altering the type of offenses for which they send a defendant to the county jail. Currently, for concurrent jurisdiction cases, the city of Brighton only sends its worst repeat offenders through the County system. Likewise, Commerce City only sends assault cases to County and has decriminalized traffic violations reducing the number of offenders booked into county jail. Probation is also making similar efforts and uses jail only as a last resort for probation violators. Adam Gollin suggested a countywide triage chart may help in eliminating some of the wide variety in procedures across municipalities and the county and may help in reducing the jail population. Mesa County has recently implemented a similar system following the findings of evidence-based research. Beth will contact Mesa County for a copy of the chart and email it to subcommittee members.

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.

The Adams County Sheriff is also considering implementing a policy to not accept defendants for petty offenses. Because the charges in municipalities are not coded the same, the subcommittee members would like an offense classification list demonstrating what the Sheriff's Office classifies as petty offenses. Beth will contact the Sheriff's Office to obtain this information.

Consistent Bond Schedules

The wide variety of bond allocations between jurisdictions was discussed. Data from the Adams County Sheriff's Office regarding municipal inmates in the jail between 01/01/2012 and 11/05/2012 showed Aurora as having the highest average bond amount per defendant (\$1,455.68) and Arvada as having the lowest (\$291.67). When comparing only the bond amounts for non-compliance charges, there is again a wide range (e.g., Aurora = \$1,041.67, Arvada = \$291.67). The subcommittee would like to examine the bond schedules for the county and municipalities, as well as the bond schedules for Jefferson and Arapahoe counties (for comparison) so they can make a recommendation to the CJCC that the county and all municipalities formulate and implement a consistent bond schedule. Beth will obtain and organize the bond schedules from all jurisdictions in Adams County, as well as the Jefferson and Arapahoe County schedules.

Evidence-Based Sentencing Guidelines

Standard sentencing practice is to recommend monthly increments (e.g., 30, 60, 90) of jail time; however, this practice seems to be based on arbitrary numbers. It would be beneficial to research the results of evidence-based practices in terms of effective sentence lengths. The subcommittee foresees recommending reductions in sentencing standards to be in line with evidence-based research and national averages. To make the comparison and conduct the research, Beth will gather and analyze ALOS data for sentenced municipal inmates at the Adams County jail per offense and per municipality. Much of the local research has already been completed and will be presented to the subcommittee along with the evidence-based research findings.

Alternative Sentencing

Dave Young has suggested sentencing non-violent, repeat DUI offenders to Community Corrections instead of jail. The benefits of this alternative sentencing strategy include reducing the jail population, providing more treatment and service options to DUI offenders, reducing the costs to the community (\$37/day compared to \$88/day), and allowing DUI offenders to maintain their current jobs. Dave will look into the legalities of such sentencing, as the state statute currently requires mandated jail sentences for repeat DUI offenses.

It was also suggested that in-home monitoring and day reporting be used more often, when appropriate, instead of jail. Probation uses combination EHM/GPS bracelets that allow the GPS mode to be turned on by the monitor at any time. Probation currently uses Behavioral Intervention (BI) at \$3.33/day (\$3.70 for cellular) with a DOC and state probation contract. The municipalities use companies such as Rocky Mountain Offender Management (RMOMS), High Tech Offender Monitoring, and Intervention Community Corrections Services. For these offender monitoring services, municipalities pay \$13-\$16/day. The subcommittee members wonder if all of the municipalities would commit to using a specified offender management company if one of these companies may be willing to reduce their prices for a large group rate. Beth will contact the companies to discuss the options.

The District Attorney's Office is looking into the possibility of expediting disposition cases by including a letter and plea offer at the first court appearance for those offenders who would receive them later in the process anyway. This would allow a judge to immediately sentence the defendant to probation and could drastically reduce the time a defendant spends in jail. Dave Young and Scott Evans are discussing this possibility.

Determine next meeting date, time, and location:

The subcommittee would like to allow enough time for Beth to gather and research the requested information and, therefore, has set the next subcommittee meeting as taking place on Monday, January 14, 2013 from 2-4pm at the DA's Office Training Room.

Adjourn

- ✓ Dave Young and Scott Evans adjourned the meeting.

Tasks

- Beth Daniel will contact Mesa County for a copy of their triage chart and email it to the subcommittee members.
- Beth will contact the Sheriff's Office for a list of offense classifications and email it to the subcommittee members.
- Beth will obtain bond schedules from all jurisdictions in Adams County, as well as the Jefferson and Arapahoe County schedules, and email her findings to the subcommittee members.
- Beth will research evidence-based practices regarding effective sentence lengths and email her findings as well as the countywide ALOS data per municipality and offense.
- Dave Young will continue looking into the legalities of sentencing repeat DUI offenders to Community Corrections instead of jail and relay this information at the next subcommittee meeting.
- Beth will contact local offender management companies to discuss options for reduced group pricing and email her findings to the subcommittee members.
- Dave Young and Scott Evans will continue discussing expediting disposition cases and inform the subcommittee of the outcome of their conversations at the next subcommittee meeting.

Potential Draft Recommendations to CJCC

Below are potential recommendations suggested at the meeting that may be presented to the CJCC following research and analysis of the data, information, and results.

- Consistent bond schedule for the county and all municipalities
- Reduction in sentence lengths
- Increased use of in-home monitoring and day reporting sentences

Next Meeting

Monday, January 14, 2013; 2-4pm; Adams County DA's Office