

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM PROCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE**

**AUGUST 14, 2008**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Wopat at 12:00 P.M. in Conference Room 519 of the Rock County Courthouse-West.

**Committee Members Present:** Judge James Daley, David O'Leary, Tom Gubbin, Commander Tom Gehl, Supervisor Bob Fizzell, Charmian Klyve, Kelly Mattingly, Marv Wopat, Rich Gruber.

**Others Present:** Supervisor William Grahn, County Administrator Craig Knutson, Corporation Counsel Jeff Kuglitsch, Criminal Justice Planner/Analyst Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen, Assistant to the County Administrator Joshua Smith.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Moved by Supervisor Fizzell, second by Judge Daley. APPROVED.

**Approval of Minutes from Meeting on 7/10/2008:** Moved by Judge Daley, second by Commander Gehl. APPROVED.

**Follow up of Discussion Regarding Excessive Hospital Waiting Time for Police Officers for Medical Clearance and Detoxification:** Ms. Pohlman McQuillen provided three handouts to the group: a sample page of data she had received through the Communications Center, a summary of the amount of time spent on 51.15 cases, and a timeline outlining the 51.15 process.

Ms. Pohlman McQuillen described the timeline first and noted she received input from law enforcement and Human Services Department staff. Judge Daley confirmed that this is what he intended for her to produce. She noted that there will be changes to the process outlined here once Human Services makes changes, and she will update the timeline once implemented.

Ms. Pohlman McQuillen next described the data that was extracted from the Law Records Management System (LRMS). To get access to the data she received releases from six law enforcement agencies in the County. Unfortunately, there is not much detail in the records and it does not allow one to tell the amount of time spent waiting in the emergency room. There were 663 51.15 cases from January 2006 through July 2007. Only 37 of those cases mentioned going to the hospital, and 1 of those only mentions being en route. This information is not kept unless the officer enters it. Judge Daley confirmed that the data showed the amount of time spent on the total call, which Ms. Pohlman McQuillen confirmed. It represents the amount of time from dispatch to when

the case is closed. It varies by agency, with the lowest being Evansville PD at about 2 hours and 40 minutes and the highest by the Sheriff's Office at nearly 6 hours.

Mr. Gruber asked for clarification that not all 51.15 cases end up at the hospital, which Ms. Pohlman McQuillen confirmed. He offered to look into Mercy's clocking system, which tracks check-in and discharge times, to see if that data would show the amount of time in the emergency room. Judge Daley asked how the system tracks individuals. Mr. Gruber responded it includes name and party responsible for bringing the person in, which is not the same and part responsible for paying. The DRG likely notes whether it is a mental health issue. Judge Daley suggested looking at the same time period as the data we already have. Ms. Klyve asked if it specifically said the event was related to a 51.15, as law enforcement may bring people in for other mental health reasons. Mr. Gruber said a subset of data should have that. Vice-chair Wopat suggested day and time of day, such as a weekend or evening shift, would be important to know. Mr. Gruber said he suspects most extended waits occur during weekends or evenings.

Ms. Pohlman McQuillen noted that she had presented this information to a recent law enforcement association meeting and it was received well. She said the police chiefs have agreed to attend the training with Dr. Ron Diamond on these issues to be held October 7 at the Job Center. The session will last most of the day. All law enforcement is invited, and she is encouraging a range of attendees from staff to supervisors.

Ms. Klyve said that Human Services is implementing a number of changes that should help with this issue, although she said she did not want to over-promise results at this early stage. The plan is for Crisis Intervention staff implement limited mobility from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. as from September 1 through September 22. A new staff member will be on board as of September 22, which will allow Crisis to expand mobility from 7 a.m. to 12 a.m. (about 17 hours). She noted they can't respond to all requests but will see what the need is and evaluate data on whether this is a good way to divert people. Denny Luster will be on-site with responding staff to assist as it gets underway.

Ms. Klyve noted Crisis will be re-organizing the way it handles its 18,000 calls per year to accommodate this change by adding pool psych techs during the day. One Crisis worker needs to remain on site at all times. She hopes that up to two Crisis workers will be available to be in the field at any one time to assist law enforcement, resulting in fewer 51.15 involuntary commitments and possibly more voluntary commitments instead.

Ms. Klyve also discussed reducing wait times in the emergency room by using telehealth technology that is currently used in other areas. She said Mercy and Beloit hospitals are interested, and she will be talking to Edgerton. This technology consists of a video monitor between the ER and Crisis to evaluate individuals, which should reduce the time it takes to assess.

Ms. Klyve said a letter of intent to expand the County's crisis stabilization facility to North Washington St. has been completed, which would expand the facility from 8 to

12 beds. They are hoping to get some changes completed by mid-late September to allow for occupancy. The Sheriff's Office has agreed to provide RECAP/Workender workers to assist with cleaning the grounds and painting to decrease the cost. She has been talking with Dr. Blakeslee regarding the appropriate acuity level for the facility and whether it can increase. Dr. Blakeslee at this time will not require a formal medical evaluation. This will be the first option to avoid the State institutes.

Ms. Klyve stated that for this to work they will need the support of law enforcement to stay on-site during the assessment for safety purposes. She said the officer will need to stay to know whether the case becomes a 51.15 or not. Supervisor Fizzell asked who would transport the individual if it is a 51.15. Judge Daley said the officer would transport, as it only becomes the responsibility of Crisis at the end of the process. Ms. Klyve said she hopes there will be some agreement on an appropriate safety plan. If the situation is calm, the Human Services security officer may be able to transport. Judge Daley said getting Crisis involved earlier and allowing law enforcement input into alternatives should help. Right now, the only law enforcement option is a 51.15. This should divert some people altogether and also allow some involuntary commitments to become voluntary. Ms. Klyve said one alternative could be a priority appointment the next day at one of the counseling centers, or Crisis could follow up via phone or mobile the next day.

Ms. Klyve said Marathon County appears to have a good system in place that supports this kind of activity by identifying those in the mental health system and having information on medications and history readily available to staff to be able to share with the officer. Ms. Pohlman McQuillen said they have individuals sign a release form so the 911 center can notify the officer to contact Crisis if an individual who has been under treatment is the subject of a call.

Mr. O'Leary asked if Marathon County was mobile and whether their Crisis staff transport voluntary commitments. Ms. Pohlman McQuillen said she did not discuss voluntary commitments with them but would find out. Mr. O'Leary said the less confrontational we can make these the better. Vice-chair Wopat asked where individuals go on voluntary commitments if Mercy can't take them and Jackson House is full? Ms. Klyve said options include Aurora and Rodgers. St. Mary's may take some if Dr. Blakeslee contacts them, and UW Hospital is about ready to re-open after construction. She noted that the 12-bed Washington Street facility may allow expansion to 14 beds if 2 additional rooms are refurbished.

Mr. O'Leary asked if the County was still in negotiations with Mercy on taking individuals into the inpatient unit. Mr. Gruber said these discussions are ongoing. Mr. Wopat asked Mr. Gruber for clarification on a statement made at the last meeting regarding whether certain types of individuals, such as individuals who are frail or bipolar, are not accepted at Mercy. Mr. Gruber said Mercy does not exclude any class of individuals and that decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

Supervisor Fizzell asked how 911 would be able to check that an individual has a treatment history. Would soundex or some other technology be used? Ms. Pohlman McQuillen said she was not sure what technology Marathon County uses. Supervisor Fizzell said it would have to be sophisticated. Do all Crisis workers have access to this history? Ms. Klyve said they do. Mr. O'Leary said the LRMS system has some capability to provide aliases. Commander Gehl said if a name is close to another in the system, it provides those other names. Mr. O'Leary said common names are more difficult and it takes time to make sense out of it. Commander Gehl said he thinks it might be a separate computer system that allows for the lookup. He said the system has a feature that allows for an "address caution" to be noted, but these must be purged within 30-45 days. Mr. O'Leary suggested we see how Marathon County does it. He said he frequently gets information from Human Services and they are a great source of information after he gets reports. Ms. Pohlman McQuillen will call Marathon County. Mr. O'Leary suggested for a future meeting we invite someone from Marathon County to participate via teleconference. Supervisor Fizzell will get information to Ms. Pohlman McQuillen on the system he used to work with.

Supervisor Grahn said a big issue was the long-term aftercare involved for these individuals. He sees an opportunity for the County to save money by providing cheaper services that are more cost-effective. Judge Daley has the courts have authority only to order individuals to a type of program, not a specific program. That is up to DOC probation staff. Mr. Gubbin said that with 65,000 individuals on probation, it becomes difficult to provide funds for every person to get treatment. They would quickly have no budget left. He said mental health issues are particularly hard to supervise. It would be helpful if CJCC could find some alternatives so DOC staff would not have to deal with these issues as much. Mr. O'Leary said this is a good example of how improving communication might help.

Judge Daley said the defense attorney also has a role in making sure the follow up happens. Mr. Kuglitsch noted that from his office's perspective they must prove that the person is a danger to himself or others. Mr. Mattingly said while his office counsels individuals, they must do what the client wants.

Vice-chair Wopat asked Mr. Gruber whether Mercy was making any changes in the ER. Mr. Gruber said they are looking at adjusting staffing to have psych staff on call, but he will update on status at the next meeting.

**Feedback on Planner/Analyst Update & Priorities:** Ms. Pohlman McQuillen noted that in addition to the 51.15 issue she was also working on mental health care issues in the jail. Good information on re-entry has also recently been published, but we will wait until we hear the status of the re-entry grant to discuss. She will also be looking into OWI Court.

**Time and Date for Future Meetings:** The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the same location.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Smith  
Assistant to the County Administrator

**NOTE: MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.**