

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

July 16, 2009

Call to Order. Chair Deupree called the meeting of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to order at 4:00 P.M. in the Courthouse Conference Center on the second floor of the Rock County Courthouse-East.

Committee Members Present: Chair Neil Deupree, Supervisor Sandy Kraft, Supervisor Marv Wopat, Chief David Moore, Regina Dunkin, Jason Witt (for Charmian Klyve), Art Thurmer, Barb Gerber (for Eric Nelson), Judge James Daley, Ruth Bettin, Captain Russ Steeber (for Sheriff Spoden); Rich Gruber, Jan Devore.

Committee Members Absent: David O'Leary, Jose Carrillo, Lorenzo Henderson, Ed Pearson.

Staff Members Present: Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen, Criminal Justice Planner/Analyst; Josh Smith, Assistant to the County Administrator (at 4:27 P.M.).

Others Present: Kay Deupree, League of Women Voters; Supervisor Robert Fizzell; Effie Garrett; Tom Gubbin.

Approval of Agenda. Chair Deupree requested "Citizen Participation and Announcements" be moved up right after "Approval of the Minutes of June 18, 2009". Supervisor Wopat moved approval of the agenda with this change, second by Judge Daley. ADOPTED as amended.

Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2009. Ms. Dunkin moved approval of the minutes of June 18, 2009 as presented, second by Judge Daley. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation and Announcements. Captain Steeber said with the upcoming retirement of Commander Tom Gehl, Sheriff Spoden is requesting that he be appointed as the Sheriff's Alternate. This request will be forwarded to the County Board Chair for his approval and will be placed on the August 13th County Board agenda.

Ms. Pohlman McQuillen advised Rock County received a Drug Court Enhancement Grant from the Department of Justice - \$199,000 over two years. She said we will be able to provide residential AODA services (12 placements per year) and 23 hours of Psychiatrist time per month. She said the Drug Court Team has been doing a fantastic job and with this grant funding, the Team will be able to attend the two national Drug Court conference trainings in 2010 and 2011.

Mr. Gruber commented he may be able to assist in providing Psychiatrist time.

Ms. Pohlman McQuillen reminded the Council of the Drug Court Open House on Thursday, July 23rd, at Attic Correctional Services, 303 W. Court Street, 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M., with the presentation at Noon.

Chair Deupree said he will be attending a Disproportionate Minority Contact event on Thursday and Friday of next week. He commented it connects criminal justice with education.

Chair Deupree said a week ago he was at the fundraiser concert for the school system. At the end of that concert, Supervisor Marv Wopat received the “Fire Starter Award” from the Studer Group.

Ms. Pohlman McQuillen said this is her last meeting until October, as she will be out on maternity leave as of the middle of August. Everyone wished her well.

Update on Advocating for Alcohol Tax. Chair Deupree reminded the Council that this was discussed at the last meeting – whether or not this group wants to encourage our Legislators to increase the beer tax and designate the extra money for treatment around the State. With regard to Rock County raising an alcohol tax for treatment, Rock County Corporation Counsel Kuglitsch believes there is no legal authority for this action. In addition, the WCA does not feel the Department of Revenue will give anybody else the ability to raise excise taxes. They feel we would be better off advocating for an increase in the County sales tax for this purpose.

Judge Daley commented that to get something in the County budget takes three years – the first year the answer is “no”, the second year the answer is still “no”, and if you request it a third time it may be taken seriously. He advocates contacting our Legislators to start the word going around. Mr. Gruber said the time frame to get anything through the State Legislature is six years. He said this has been proposed several times in the last few years, but went down in flames. He thinks we should continue to pursue this option. Ms. Dunkin suggested doing a Public Service Announcement in community papers to make people aware of what we are trying to do and why.

Chair Deupree said we need a broader base of support than just this group and asked who would be interested in working with Supervisor Wopat and himself to put together a strategy? Mr. Gruber, Supervisor Kraft and Supervisor Fizzell volunteered.

Veteran’s Court Update. Judge Daley said he, Ms. Pohlman McQuillen and John Solis recently completed mentor training. He said they will be having a rehearsal for court next Monday during the noon hour and hope to start by the end of this month. A meeting will be held with attorneys to let them know what they should do if they have a veteran.

Judge Daley explained this is a court intended for people who have served in the armed forces and who are eligible for veterans’ benefits. Veterans Administration services will be connected with the local courts to get veterans signed up for the benefits they are entitled to and to provide treatment services. Judge Daley said we will be able to treat addictions and psychological issues at the same time. He commented the V.A. has services available and also has a program dealing with the long-term affects of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Rock County will be the test for the State. Judge Daley advised the federal and state governments have a robust program in place for working with veterans to assist them with an education and to help them get back into the community. Ours will be a diversion program to keep them out of prison.

Heroin Seminar Report. Chief Moore said he attended a presentation, sponsored by Partners in Prevention, at the Job Center on July 15th. Mike McGowan, an addictions counselor and speaker, gave a very interesting review of his take on drug use and abuse, particularly from the parental responsibility piece. Chief Moore referenced a very good article in today's Gazette on the presentation.

Supervisor Wopat said an important issue is the lack of money for treatment and Mr. McGowan talked about the importance of 12-Step recovery, which doesn't cost a dime. He said Mr. McGowan also addressed the issue of kids getting prescription drugs from their parents' medicine cabinets. Supervisor Fizzell commented that Mr. McGowan emphasized the importance of having support systems in the community as a preventative and as a follow-up.

Chief Moore said he feels the word is out to the community that heroin is out there. Judge Daley said we should start with the parents and make them aware of how kids get started. Ms. Dunkin asked about the signs of a heroin addict. Mrs. Deupree said the comments here today indicate the need for education and asked what is the responsibility of this group to the problem? Judge Daley commented that the system is reactive, not pro-active. Mr. Gubbin suggested getting those who generate the prescriptions involved in discussions.

CJCC Priorities.

Continue Discussion of CJCC Priorities from February 19, 2009 Meeting. Judge Daley said, with regard to "Fees/Fines", the County has no control over these costs. Captain Steeber advised there are currently 42 in the Workender Program. Mr. Gruber moved to place the issue of "Fees/Fines" lower on the priority list (#7), second by Judge Daley. ADOPTED.

Judge Daley said with regard to "Minority Issues", we are asking the wrong question. We should be asking: Why can't we get minority kids to graduate from high school and raise their children in two-parent units? That is where it starts. Chief Moore said he supports Judge Daley on this issue. Supervisor Wopat said we need mentors to help young people. Mr. Gruber said the question is: How and why did they get into the system? Mr. Witt said we need to determine if there is anything in the criminal justice system that is contributing to disproportionate minorities - trace things back and look at the data.

Chair Deupree said the conversation about "Fees/Fines" and "Minority Issues" has been helpful, however, "The Big Picture" should be the first issue because this is what the CJCC is all about.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations. Chair Deupree advised the next meeting of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council will be Thursday, August 20th at 4:00 P.M., in the Courthouse Conference Center, second floor, Rock County Courthouse-East.

Citizen Participation and Announcements. Ms. Garrett commented that with regard to "Minority Issues", statistics show more minorities are incarcerated. Why does this happen? Mr. Thurmer said we have to look at the pathways that get people into the system. Ms. Bettin emphasized the importance of two-parent families. Mr. Thurmer commented on the make-up of

our law enforcement agencies. He said he would like to hire more minorities, but does not have the candidates. Supervisor Fizzell said he thinks this group can go back and address the root of these problems – the total failure of the school system to deal with minorities and poverty.

Chair Deupree said he appreciates today’s discussion, especially about Minority Issues. This is what the CJCC is all about – having differences of opinion and trying to come up with a healthy understanding.

Adjournment. Chair Deupree adjourned the meeting at 5:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Milligan
Confidential Administrative Assistant

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