

**Cuyahoga County Criminal Justice Governing Board**  
**Minutes of the Organizational meeting April 2, 2007**

1. Call to Order- Commissioner Hagan welcomed the members of the new Governing Board, and the former Criminal Justice Services Supervisory Board.
2. Dan McNea gave a brief overview of the reform progress so far and explained the new governance structure, calling attention to the Governing Board By-laws, participant memorandum of Understanding and the Amended agreement with the City of Cleveland allowing the formation of the Governing board and its councils.

Mr. McNea announced Chairman Hagan's appointment of Prosecutor William Mason as chairman of the Agency Council, Carole Rendon as chairwoman of the Community Council, and Linda Lingler as chairwoman of the Technology Council.

3. Robert Coury (County Prosecutor's Office) briefed the Board on the progress made during the Early Assignment of Counsel pilot projects in Shaker Hts. and Lakewood. He said that while the pilots had required changes in "culture" procedures for all concerned, the results had reduced the overall arrest to disposition time for cases in the pilot program from an average of 240 days to an average of 100 days. He noted that the Early Case processing model was poised to expand to Parma, and then to the Fourth District of the City of Cleveland, and that together, that would account for about 4,500 cases, or one third of the total.

Chief Michael McGrath said the City was excited about the prospects for expanding the programs, and was committed to doing whatever is necessary to make it work.

Chairman Hagan applauded the efforts and the cooperation, and noted that the justice reform in Cuyahoga County should make all agencies and participants more accountable to the public.

4. Ken Kocevar (County Sheriff's office) made a presentation demonstrating the need for more housing facilities for low level and "short-time" offenders.

He noted that more than 8,000 of the 15,000 offenders per year in the county are sentenced to less than six months time and that the County currently is forced to send low-level offenders into the state prison system. There they receive little in the way of rehabilitation, which results in them being unprepared to re-enter the community at their release. Most of these offenders have drug treatment, mental health, employment and educational issues which could be addressed in minimum security jails (MSJ) or community oriented re-entry (CBCF) facilities in the community. He estimated that a 1,500-bed MSJ could significantly reduce the number of inmates in the sent to the state, and allow the County to take a leadership position in addressing the needs of low-level offenders.

Chairman Hagan noted that the United States incarcerates more people than Russia, and that it is “fundamentally wrong to do so. He said the Governing Board should consider measures such as low level, community-based facilities to reduce recidivism.

5. Steven Terry (Director of the Department of Justice Affairs) and Korean Stevenson ( Criminal Justice Services Agency), presented information on the Ohio Incident-based Reporting System (OIBRS), noting that some of the municipalities and other authorities do not report crime data using this system.

They said the U.S. Justice Department uses OIBRS data to determine the level of funding available for justice programming in the County, and that the fact that some places do not report through OIBRS means that the County loses out on some federal money to address problems. Dennis Madden (County Administrator) said the County should estimate the increase in funding that would occur if all municipalities reported through OIBRS, and Mr. Coury noted that the Cuyahoga Regional Information Service (CRIS) does collect OIBRS data from its members.

6. Chairman Hagan adjourned the meeting after commenting that the new structure for the justice system in the County offered the chance for profound changes to be made, and urging the members and council participants to move forward.

The next meeting of the Governing Board is at 9 a.m. June 25, 2007 in the training room in the Justice Center.