

Cuyahoga County Criminal Justice Governing Board
Minutes of the meeting September 18, 2007

1. Call to Order- Commissioner Hagan, welcomed the members and noted that the reform was making good progress.
 - Minutes of the Meeting June 25 were approved
 - William Mason (County Prosecutor, Agency Council Chair) gave a short overview presentation noting that much progress has been made in the last 18 months, especially in the area of expediting low level felony cases.

2. CBCF- Judge Nancy McDonnell (common Pleas Court) said she had appointed the Court's members to the Community-based Correctional Facility governing board as required by the State.
 - She said she was considering who to appoint to the advisory board, and that there should be representatives of the banking, construction and treatment communities.
 - Members of the Court staff and others were going to visit CBCF facilities in Summit and Lorain Counties.
 - Commissioner Hagan noted that the project is important because the County spends \$8 million to \$9 million on housing prisoners outside the county every year.

3. Technology Committee – Linda Lingler (CCISC) said progress had been made on a number of technology-related areas.
 - The JSR website is up and in use as a repository of information about the reform.
 - Implementation of the video-conferencing grant is well under way, and should be completed early next year
 - The “bridge equipment that will enable the video-conferencing system should be in place by October.
 - The inmate tracking system is proceeding and efforts are being made to integrate it with the Ohio Courts network

4. Drug Court – Judge Larry Jones (Cleveland Municipal Court) said the Greater Cleveland Drug Court should be expanded to a county-wide operation within 8-10 months.
 - He said he was willing to work with the Common Pleas Court to discuss how to fund the expansion

5. Common Pleas Court – Thomas Pokorny (Court Administrator) said the Court is devoting significant resources to the expedited case management programs.

- The Bond workgroup was also reassembling to begin working on the various bonding suggestions in the JMI study
6. Central Booking – Ken Kocevar (Sheriff’s Office) gave a presentation on the need for central booking.
 - He said the video-conferencing capabilities with establishing “virtual central booking capabilities
 - He said, however that the County should continue to look for a “bricks and mortar” site for central booking to handle the overflows that have been affecting jail operations.
 - Commissioner Hagan and Judge Timothy McGinty both noted that not only was central booking, and the accurate and efficient handling of prisoners essential to the success of the reform, but that it is critical to develop a measurable system for tracking prisoners, and the progress of their cases through the system.
 - Both noted that the potential savings from reducing jail populations and more efficient processing of prisoners are substantial, and that the system should be “transparent” so that the public can be informed of how the system is working.
 7. Standardization of Forms – Michael O’Malley (County Prosecutor’s office) said his committee is working hard to implement a standard incident report for the entire county by January 2008
 - The committee is working with software vendors from various jurisdictions to design a new set of forms.
 8. Community Council – Carole Rendon (Defense Bar) said the Council has determined to focus on helping on two areas.
 - Aiding with the expansion of the drug Court, and
 - Identifying funding sources and helping to secure funding for JSR projects.
 - She said the Advocacy work group was developing a plan for carrying the message of the reform to the public.
 9. Expedited Case Management – Jerry Dowling (County Prosecutor’s Office) said the Parma pilot had begun, will begin soon, and that preliminary data from all the pilots showed significant success.
 - The pilots had resulted in substantial progress in low level felony cases, with about 70% of those selected for the program avoiding the Grand Jury, and being assigned to treatment or some other diversion.

- The Court will be working to familiarize the Judges with the system, and will work with the pilots to develop tracking and reporting protocols.
- Judge Patrick Carroll (Lakewood Municipal Court) said he has seen an increase in the number of offenders who are willing to plead out at initial appearances, including to misdemeanor charges.

10. Grants – Lee Trotter (Deputy County Administrator) said the Grant resource work group and the Grant Optimization Committee are working on assembling a comprehensive database for all justice-related grants.

- He said he hoped to be able to present such a database to the Governing Board soon, and that
- The groups were working to integrate their grant identification and writing activities with the Community Council and other community sources.

11. Re-Entry – Mr. Pokorny said the Court is hiring a coordinator to run the re-entry court, and that Judge Nancy Margaret Russo will be presiding

- Russell Kaye (County Drug Board) said the Greater Cleveland Leadership Coalition is working with the county's new office of re-entry to secure funding from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
- The grant would make it possible to provide services for as many as 1,000 re-entry subjects.
- Commissioner Hagan commented that with nearly 3,500 of the 5,000 prisoners released to the community per year, returning to prison or re-offending within a short time, it is critical to do more for them so they can be successful in assimilating back into society.

12. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Governing Board will be December 11, 2007 at 9 a.m.