

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

NOTES		DATE	4/24/14
ATTENDEES	<p><u>Voting Members</u></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Judge James Fleetwood <input type="checkbox"/> Judge Jennifer Jones <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge John Kisner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheriff Jeff Easter <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Norman Williams <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Attorney Marc Bennett <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Karl Peterjohn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Dave Unruh <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Councilmember Lavonta Williams <input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Dickgrafe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Buchanan <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Masterson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Osburn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marilyn Cook <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marv Duncan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Alumbaugh </p> <p><u>Ex Officio Members and Others in Attendance</u></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Judge Ben Burgess* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Swegle* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Struble* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Scheck* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gail Villalovos* <input type="checkbox"/> Colonel Powell* <input type="checkbox"/> Jama Mitchell* <input type="checkbox"/> Chief John Daily <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major Glenn Kurtz <input type="checkbox"/> Erica Lopez <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Tim Rohrig <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Powell <input type="checkbox"/> Renfeng Ma <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zach Gearhart <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Miller <input type="checkbox"/> Roger Taylor <input type="checkbox"/> Melinda Wilson <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Fisher <input type="checkbox"/> Stephen Owens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Todd <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janice Bradley <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Anderson </p> <p>* Voting designee</p>		
LOCATION	Ark Valley Lodge, 1st Floor Conference Room		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	COMPLETION DATE	
None	N/A	N/A	

Discussion

Marv Duncan called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The minutes from 3/27/14 were approved.
2. New Business
 - a. Criminal Justice System Population Discussion
 - i. No discussion
 - b. Jail Population Cost Savings Review With Projections (William Buchanan)
 - i. Mike Alumbaugh asked if this was at all related to the WSU tool that had been developed in the past. DA Marc Bennett commented that it is unlikely that the tool WSU provides to judges would likely have a large impact on the jail population data.
 - ii. County Manager Bill Buchanan stated that there is no one alternative program that is responsible for the trend in the jail population.
 - iii. Commissioner Peterjohn asked if there was a way to identify the impact of the State's policy change to force counties to house state inmates in county jails. Bill Buchanan noted that the County has always had to house some level of



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state offenders. Glenn Kurtz did note that a change in how the State treats traffic fellons increased the jail population but could not say by how much.

- iv. Council Member Lavonta Williams asked what is the future going forward for alternative programming. County Manager responded that the group should go back and look at the original report that made recommendations for alternative programming and review what might work today. The Sheriff stated that the recent implementation of the Mental Health Pod has lead to a decrease in the number of people returning to the jail. DA Marc Bennett also noted that judicial assessment is helping keep jail numbers static.

3. Old Business

- a. Sheriff Jeff Easter reported on the Mental Health Pod. It has been fully operational for two months and has performed better than expected in terms of the number of individuals utilizing the facility and the behavior of that population. Via Christi has inquired why they cannot send referrals to the Mental Health Pod.
 - i. Marilyn Cook informed the body that Via Christi is confused about the Mental Health Pod due to the presence of COMCARE, and Via Christi was operating on the belief that the pod is a COMCARE program. Also noted that there has been a lof of change at Via Christi with regards to behavioral health.
 - ii. Sheriff Easter stated that hospitals should be used for what they are meant to be used for and jails should be utilized for what they are meant to be used for.
 - iii. Commissioner Peterjohn asked if there has been a lot of media attention about the success of the pod. Sherriff Easter responded that he wanted to wait for more data to provide the media with a complete picture.
 - iv. Commissioner Unruh stated that the Communitcy Crisis Center should help alleviate some of Via Christi's growing population.
 - v. DA Marc Bennett stated that a lack of action on mental health issues increases the jail population. Marilyn Cook responded that the State sending people back to County Jail is also a part of the problem. Last week, there was a return rate of 20%. Everyone agreed that the recommendations from the past report need to be reviewed.

4. Other Business

5. Public Comment

- a. John Todd commented, in regard to the State sending more of their population to county facilities, that there are currently 150 beds being utilized by individuals who would otherwise be in a state facility at a cost of \$3 million dollars a year and recommended working with the legislature and adding something to the legislative platform to address this. Commissioner Peterjohn noted that the County and Kansas Association of Counties has had that as an issue in the past. DA Marc Bennett commented that the Sheriffs Association has also been vocal on this issue. Ann Swegle did note that there is a mechanism to recoup the cost associated with housing state inmates; however, that particular fund has not been provided resources in recent years.

Adjournment