

LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE
March 15, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Anthony (left at 6:30 p.m.), Crenshaw, Banas, Hope, Celentino, and Maiville

Members Absent: Schafer

Others Present: Judge Tom Boyd, Mary Sabaj, Cynthia Johnson, Ericanne Spence, Shauna Dunnings, Jessica Escobedo-Emmons, Gregory Feamster, Jason Ferguson, Chris Trubac, Teri Morton, Lindsey LaForte, and others

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Crenshaw at 6:00 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room D & E of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the March 1, 2018 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CELENTINO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2018 LAW AND COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Schafer

Additions to the Agenda

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that there were no additional items to the agenda but pointed out that there were additional supplemental materials passed out for the discussion portion of the meeting.

Limited Public Comment

None.

MOVED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, SUPPORTED BY COMM. HOPE, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. Sheriff's Office
 - a. Resolution to Accept the 2018 Medical Marihuana Operation and Oversight Grant
 - b. Resolution to Authorize an Amendment to a Current Contract with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for Transport Services of Specific Juveniles by Sheriff's Deputies

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Schafer

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Schafer

2. Law & Courts Committee

a. Justice Complex Millage Programming Options (*Discussion*)

Mary Sabaj Community Corrections Advisory Board, stated that she had provided the Community Based Programing informational sheet. She further stated that she had asked about community based programs to be included with jail-based programming at a previous meeting and was told it would be.

Ms. Sabaj stated that a group developed this proposal based on what was currently funded, as well as adding some programming. She further stated that it included funding for Sentinel electronic monitoring, substance abuse assessment and psychological evaluations, day reporting, Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT), PA5111 program referral and gatekeeper services.

Ms. Sabaj stated that incarceration alone would not reduce recidivism, but it was generally agreed that education and programming was what was needed to change behavior.

Commissioner Anthony asked if the total dollar amounts shown in the handout were based on an annual funding.

Ms. Sabaj stated that the hand out showed the funds needed annually for programming.

Commissioner Hope asked if the programs listed were already in place.

Ms. Sabaj stated that many of the programs were already in place, but the substance abuse programs were new and were critically needed.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked how many individuals would be served with the \$20,000 proposed for substance abuse assessments and psychological evaluations.

Ms. Sabaj stated that it was difficult to predict, and would depend on what services were needed.

Commissioner Banas asked what kinds of outcomes were expected and how much of an impact the programs would have overall.

Ms. Sabaj stated that there were many factors, but using evidence-based curricula would help improve the impact. She further stated that research showed a 30-60 percent reduction in recidivism based on helping a medium- to high-risk population.

Commissioner Banas asked how many people would be served with the \$150,000 over the current amount that was requested in the proposal.

Ms. Sabaj stated that more than double the amount of people would receive help, but needed more time to figure out exact numbers.

Cynthia Johnson, Sheriff's Office Intake Referral Coordinator, stated that she was hired in January but had a lot of experience prior to this position. She further stated that she had been looking at this with new eyes and that helped to see issues with current programming and how to improve it.

Ms. Johnson stated that there was a real need for programming for females and the proposed funding could really help that population. She further stated that the Seeking Safety program would help domestic violence victims and there was a real need for that.

Ms. Johnson stated the restorative justice program that was running needed to be expanded, especially for females. She further stated that the anger management program needed to be updated.

Commissioner Celentino asked how the Restorative Justice Program worked in the jail.

Ms. Johnson stated that the inmates usually requested to be placed in the program, and if they meet the criteria, they would be placed in the program. She further stated that the program was court-ordered for some people to go into this program, as well.

Commissioner Celentino asked how successful the programs had been and what the measure of success was.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Restorative Justice program was new, very limited, and only offered for males. She further stated that the current program had been done for no cost.

Ms. Johnson stated that she had witnessed the Restorative Justice Program happening last week and it was impressive how well it was going.

Ms. Sabaj stated that she had also observed that program in action and it was very impressive. She further stated that there was not a measure for it since it was a new program, but it was evidence-based.

Ms. Sabaj stated that the MRT program was one of the most highly researched modalities and research showed it reduced recidivism by 30-60 percent. She further stated that these programs could be continued after the individual was released, which could help additionally reduce recidivism.

Ms. Sabaj stated that the cap for the number of people in each program was pretty low and was currently between 10-20 people, in order to ensure everyone could participate fully and safely.

Ms. Johnson stated that other two initiatives were inmate initiatives. She stated that one was a gardening program with MSU Extension.

Ms. Johnson stated that there were strong educational components and would like to provide additional educational programming, including DVDs.

Ericanne Spence, Director of Corrections Mental Health Correction Assessment & Treatment Services (CATS program), stated that she wanted to thank the Committee for providing funding for a full-time position that had been requested earlier in the year. She further stated the position had been filled in the last week.

Ms. Spence stated that the number of individuals coming into the jail and needing mental health help continued to increase. She further stated that the current CATS program screened and did a risk assessment for mental health if an inmate needed attention, was suicidal, needed medication.

Ms. Spence stated that the CATS program had lacked the ability to help with actual therapy. She further stated that they wanted 3 full-time employees to work with group and individual therapy, including juveniles.

Commissioner Banas left at 6:25 p.m.

Ms. Spence stated that the CATS program could also use another therapist for screening. She further stated that they wanted to develop a robust jail diversion program.

Ms. Spence stated that the CMH programming was expensive, but it came with great staff, and the administrative costs were also in the proposal.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked how many people would qualify for the jail diversion program.

Commissioner Banas returned at 6:28 p.m.

Ms. Spence stated that there was not a way to track that at the time, but there was a need but they were always in crisis mode.

Commissioner Maiville asked if there were any other jails participating in this programming.

Ms. Spence stated that Oakland County was closest to this since they had a jail diversion program, but the County would really be at the forefront for the State in doing this.

Commissioner Anthony left at 6:30 p.m.

Shauna Dunnings, Circuit Court Administrator, stated that she wanted to speak about pre-trial services. She further stated that they had three full-time employees and one part-time employee for Circuit Court and 54A and 55th District Court bonds.

Ms. Dunnings stated that the Court did not have any clerical help right now outside of occasional interns. She further stated that there were 185 felony arraignments in the three District Courts in

January, and from the 109 people who were referred to pre-trial services from 54A and 55 District Courts, 60 of them enrolled.

Ms. Dunnings stated that the volume was too high to properly monitor and investigate as much as needed. She stated that pretrial services believed that adding just one employee was a low cost but it would have a great impact.

Jessica Escobedo-Emmons, Circuit Court Pretrial Services, stated that many employees did not have mental health education, so it would be so beneficial for the defendants to be able to reach out to CMH and get help but they did not have the time to help make the connection now. She further stated that the staff could not take time to do anything extra now, as they had such a large workload.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that intern training took so long, that by the time the interns were trained to do the clerical work, then their internship was over.

Jessica stated that it was correct.

Gregory Feamster, Circuit Court Pretrial Services, stated that the interns moved quickly once they learned the system and they made a huge impact. He further stated that it helped everyone be more productive when the clerical work was completed.

Mr. Feamster stated interns completing the clerical work reduced the entire staff's workload an incredible amount and made the staff more productive because they had information at their fingertips rather than sorting through files. He further stated that the investigator position would allow each client to have better supervision and the ability to provide better feedback to the courts and other stakeholders.

Commissioner Banas stated that it seemed that a modest increase in staffing had a potential for a large impact.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that there were comprehensive proposals before the Committee and these proposals had helped to make the millage language better.

2. Law & Courts Committee

b. Justice Complex Millage Education and Outreach Plan (*Discussion*)

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that this had been discussed during the Joint Caucus meeting, which had included a plan for a FAQ sheet to be sent to clerks and elected officials and put on social media on County sites.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that Board of Commissioners outreach events were being planned.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the Sheriff had a PowerPoint presentation being converted into a video that showed the need for the Justice Complex.

Commissioner Hope stated that she wanted more publicity for the outreach events. She further asked if a video tour could be done.

Jason Ferguson, Chief Deputy Sheriff, stated that a video tour was a security concern.

Ms. Morton stated that the PowerPoint video showed a lot of photos that may help without being an actual tour video and the photos were approved to avoid security concerns.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the Sheriff had sent supplemental information.

Commissioner Hope stated that reaching out to the Clergy Forum might be helpful too.

Commissioner Celentino stated that tours of the jail had begun and suggested reaching out to the superintendents of the local school districts.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that Ms. Morton would communicate the information about the millage and jail tours to the Clergy Forum and the school superintendents.

Commissioner Celentino stated that Judge Boyd had sent an email with concerns including a jury assembly room or conference room.

Ms. Morton stated due to these concerns and the increased costs, Tim Dolehanty, Controller, had requested that Redstone update costs for the additional square footage and 2020 building cost since this proposal had last been updated in 2016. She further stated that the 2016 plan had a reduction in square footage from the original plan.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that layout was on the agenda for an upcoming meeting after the language portion was completed.

Discussion.

Commissioner Celentino stated he would like a further discussion of Judge Boyd's concerns.

Chairperson Crenshaw invited Judge Boyd to join the discussion.

Judge Thomas Boyd, 55th District Court Judge, stated that the courts needed a jury assembly room for three hours twice a month, so he understood that building a standalone jury room did not make sense. He further stated that this building would have a lot of space, but the common spaces needed to be under the auspice of the Controller in the resolution language so that it may be reserved for this important use.

Judge Boyd stated that he offered language in his email to the Board of Commissioners which helped to resolve this concern.

Commissioner Banas stated she supported that language.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the Committee could look at adding to the resolution.

Commissioner Celentino stated that it made sense to include that language in the resolution but not in the millage language.

Judge Boyd stated that the County needed to take advantage of economies of scale when building but needed to protect the operational side or there would be further problems down the road.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that once the millage was approved, it would be sent out for RFP.

Ms. Morton stated that Judge Boyd would like to see this in the same resolution with the language. She further stated that at the next meeting they were to discuss the millage language which was at the County attorney after Commissioner Grebner had reviewed it.

Ms. Morton stated that a draft resolution could also be brought to the Committee to work on adding in this language.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked about the will of the Committee to include Judge Boyd's suggested language into the resolution.

Commissioner Banas stated she supported the Court being assured that jury space was available when needed.

Discussion.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that Ms. Morton would make a note that this language concerning shared space be included in the resolution in addition to the millage language.

3. Board Referral – Letter from the State 911 Committee Regarding 911 Surcharges in Michigan

No action was taken on this item.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

Judge Boyd stated that he had been left out of the Justice Complex process and did not know what had been planned for the Justice Complex. He further stated that Chairperson Koenig and Ms. Morton had met with him on Friday it was the first time he had been updated about the Justice Complex since 2016.

Judge Boyd stated that the programming presented tonight showed a lot of great things being done currently; however that it was happening in silos. He further stated that the presentations basically showed five silos, which were important, but the system needed to be improved.

Judge Boyd stated that he had a person in jail for 37 days because they could not get the medication they needed. He further stated that every morning, he received a list of who was going to be before him at Court and every Thursday, he received a list of who was in the County Jail due to his authority and he determined if they should still be there.

Judge Boyd stated that the communication between the groups needed to be improved. He further stated that the Health Department had a grant to help with the caseload due to the opioid crisis.

Judge Boyd stated that the County needed to look at some different ways in addition to what was already being done and proposed. He stated that there are people in jail because there are no else to go and many needed help with medication.

Judge Boyd stated that he would like to bring the Health Department in to work with the population that needed medication. He further stated that he would like to see the building include a breezeway for people released in the middle of the night to sleep in, if necessary.

Judge Boyd stated that some programs are only in place for male; therefore, females do not have the same opportunities to reduce their sentences. He further stated that if the County was looking to do something different and make substantial changes with the Justice Complex, changes needed to be made.

Judge Boyd stated that there was a conflict with getting medication to inmates and it would help if the Health Department could be able to provide methadone. He further stated that there were a lot of things the County can do differently in order to plug the missing holes to bring the County toward the future.

Judge Boyd stated that there were a lot of examples of other jails working better than us when it came to reducing the jail population.

Commissioner Maiville stated that Oakland County had a diversion center previously mentioned by Ms. Spence.

Judge Boyd stated that Oakland County had a building where there was an immediate determination of where the person should go, like an immediate triage center, which worked well to keep those people out of jail who did not need to be in jail. He further stated that Ionia County did some similar things.

Commissioner Banas asked how we could remedy this now and bring more people to the conversation.

Judge Boyd stated that all of the people who spoke tonight did good work and the programming was important. He further stated that there was a need to do things differently in addition to the proposed programing.

Judge Boyd stated that the opioid epidemic had caused a crisis, and medication, specifically methadone, was much needed in jail. He further stated the importance of involving the Health Department in this conversation.

Judge Boyd stated that maybe the jail needed a different layout and plan to allow methadone to be given to inmates. He further stated the importance of 24/7 access to mediations, which was not happening.

Judge Boyd stated that the Health Department cannot be left out of this conversation and funding. He further stated that the Health Department's work with the Blue Cross Blue Shield grant with opioid addicts had given them the knowledge that would help craft a comprehensive plan.

Judge Boyd stated that if the goal of this programming plan was to continue to do what the County was doing and this was a fig leaf for a new jail, then that was great. He further stated that there was a real need for a new jail, but while the County was making changes, the County could maybe do more.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he had spoken to Ms. Morton about bringing everyone to the table when the time was right.

Ms. Morton stated that this presentation today was a discussion, and would need to be approved by the Board of Commissioners each year. She further stated that these were all concepts at this time.

Judge Boyd stated that the Health Department needed to be brought to the table.

Commissioner Banas stated that she would like to suggest that the Courts and Health Departments be brought to the table for these meetings and further talk about how opioids may need to be accounted for in this plan.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he had previously asked for everyone to be brought to the table, including the Courts and Health Department, once the millage language piece was completed, which would probably be in May.

Ms. Morton stated that there was a challenge because at this point the County did not know how much money would be available.

Commissioner Hope stated that the Board of Commissioners had a deadline and the agendas had been made public.

Judge Boyd stated that his office cannot read every agenda to see what action was planned in every committee without additional staff.

Ms. Morton stated that she would send agendas pertaining to this Complex directly to Judge Boyd's office.

Commissioner Hope stated that the Board of Commissioners relied on help from the groups to be experts on matters such as these, and the groups present today had come forward to offer their expertise.

Ms. Morton stated that this started process had started last year and District Court Judge Don Allen had been at that meeting. She further stated that she thought that the District Court had known about these planning meetings and was unsure where the disconnect had occurred.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that they came up with a plan to hear various programming requests at a previous meeting and some of the groups were at that meeting.

Commissioner Banas stated that she would like to have a meeting sooner than May with everyone at the table because what happened now could make things move smoother down the road. She further stated that she was hopeful that Ms. Morton could facilitate that.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked Ms. Morton if she would have time to do this now.

Ms. Morton stated that now was the time to work on the millage and resolution language and more programming concerns could be addressed with everyone at the table a bit later.

Discussion.

Judge Boyd stated that he requested the Committee to not think in silos, or else the County would be set in silos. He further stated that collaboration was going to make this the best.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that she thanked Judge Boyd for sharing his ideas.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD