



Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

Tuesday, May 27, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.
800 Livingston Blvd, Multi-Purpose Room
Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

I. Call To Order

Chairman McBride called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

Members Present: Sheriff Jim McBride, Jack Thompson, John Burt, Ken Glasser, Paul Liss, Rudi Edel, Kyle Legel, Diane Rekowski, Rachel Frisch, Mike Hyde, Brian Webber, Chief Joe Fitzgerald, Dorothy Barry, Holly Furgeson (for Alexis Kaczynski), Mike Turnbull, Nancy Morgridge, Don Koeppen

Members Excused: Judge Patricia Morse, Gary Gelow, Lt. Blake Davis, Mary Sanders

Others Present: Bob Mammel, Erma Backenstose

II. Approval of Minutes

Glasser moved, seconded by Thompson to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2008 regular meeting. Motion Carried.

III. New Business

A. Criminal Justice Master Plan

1. Data Sheet 1

Rudi Edel passed out a data sheet showing the number of criminal charges in various categories for 2005, 2006 and 2007. Mr. Edel informed the Committee that during that time, the number of Sheriff's deputies dropped from 13 to 7 deputies, and the number of State Police troopers stayed steady at 22 troopers but is now covering three counties including Otsego, Montmorency and Oscoda. Mr. Edel also informed the Committee that while overall crime is down, many categories of major crimes (both for severity and complexity) are up including arson, identity theft, and sex crimes. Mr. Edel decided to report criminal charges rather than convictions since many charges are reduced through plea bargaining, which would not show as complete a picture of the type of charges being experienced in the criminal justice system.

Kyle reported that the number of bad checks is down because he took care of a back log of cases when he first took office, and he aggressively pursues restitution in which case the charges are often dropped.

The Committee asked whether they could get information on convictions for comparison. Mike Turnbull and Kyle Legel both responded that they have that capability. It was decided that Mr. Legel would compile the report.

2. Review of Preliminary Draft

Mr. Burt discussed the preliminary information that he and Rudi Edel have compiled concerning the justice system. Burt reminded the committee members that he and Mr. Edel did not have time to proofread the document. The Committee discussed the draft and suggested many changes. Mr. Burt will make the changes and redistribute the plan to committee members in the next couple of weeks.

During a discussion on treatment programs, Mike Turnbull pointed out that he has always been able to get people into treatment and probably gives more chances than he should to offenders. He discussed a shift occurring at the State in the Department of Corrections to using Evidence Based Practices to change the way that the State is approaching offenders who fail probation. Turnbull reported that he would rarely send someone back to prison for failing a drug test, they would be more likely to be sent to another treatment program. There is much more emphasis now on encouragement and they are tracking offenders beyond release.

Nancy Morgridge reported that Catholic Human Services was approached to do a pilot program using Evidence Based Practices to track the effectiveness of programs.

Mr. Burt asked Ms. Morgridge and Mr. Turnbull if they could give presentations at the June Citizen Jail Committee meeting. Both responded that they would be willing to present to the Committee.

IV. Next Meeting

The Committee decided not to schedule a meeting yet of the full Committee since there will be subcommittees meeting over the next several weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.