



## **Jail Technical Committee**

Thursday, February 7, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.  
225 W. Main Street, Room 212  
Gaylord, MI 49735

### **MINUTES**

Chairman McBride called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Members Present: Sheriff Jim McBride, Brian Webber, John Burt, Mike Hyde, Rudi Edel, Erma Backenstose, Ken Glasser, Rachel Frisch, Marie Frick, Judge Morse, Chief Joe Fitzgerald, Holly Furgeson, Mike Turnbull  
Members Excused: Lt. Blake Davis, Kyle Legel

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Hyde to “approve the minutes of November 27, 2007 as presented.” Motion Carried.

### **III. Old Business**

None

### **IV. New Business**

#### **A. Work Release Center**

##### **1. Internal Control Policy.**

Ms. Frisch distributed a draft of the System of Internal Controls concerning the collection and handling of fees. Mr. Edel suggested that only the Jail Administrator be authorized to expend money out of the Work Release Center budget. Mr. Turnbull suggested we include wording to reflect that the participants will receive a receipt upon payment of participant charges.

##### **2. Curfew**

Judge Morse discussed concerns over setting a curfew for Participants in the program. The concern is that without anyone checking on the participant at night, we are setting the program up for failure. Sheriff McBride said that he would have a Sheriff’s patrol check on participants when the patrol is not on other calls. Mr. Webber will also look at having a corrections officer occasionally work a later shift to check on participants. Chief Fitzgerald said that his deputies could arrest someone breaking the curfew within the City limits, if requested by the Sheriff’s Office. He will also ask Lieutenant Davis if the State Police could help outside of the City.

Mr. Glasser said that we should look into the cost of using a tether program in association with the work release program. Mr. Burt agreed and stated that the Committee should be pursuing all options as alternatives to jail. Mr. Turnbull suggested that the tether could be used if the person is first caught violating the program.

The Committee discussed the need for immediate follow-up in the case of violations.

### **3. Miscellaneous Discussion**

The Committee members discussed whether the work crews should be available to private businesses. There is a concern that this will take jobs away from other people who need them. The Committee also discussed the need to generate enough revenue to keep the program running and this could be a way for some inmates to reenter the workforce, which is one of the goals of the justice system. The priority should first be on working for non-profits. The Committee decided to allow work crews to do work for private entities but to continue to evaluate how it works. The Committee also discussed options on having earnings from employment for participants going towards either victim restitution or court costs.

The Committee also questioned who has the liability for the participants that are inmates. Mr. Glasser responded that it would be the County's responsibility. The Committee asked Mr. Burt to update MMRMA on the Work Release Center program.

Judge Morse asked Mr. Webber to email the jail count to her, community corrections and the County Administrator on a daily basis.

## **B. National Institute of Corrections Study**

### **1. Review of Recommendations**

- Organize a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC)

The Committee discussed that the Study's suggested membership is very similar the Jail Technical Committee membership. The Committee discussed the following membership for the CJCC:

- Chief Judge
- Court Administrator
- Jail Administrator
- Sheriff
- North Country Community Mental Health Director
- Catholic Human Services Director
- Public Defender
- County Administrator
- County Finance Director
- County Commissioner (3)
- Parole/Probation
- Private Citizen
- State Police Post Commander
- City Police Chief
- Community Corrections Director
- Prosecutor

After further discussions, Mr. Edel moved, seconded by Chief Fitzgerald to "recommend to the Board of Commissioners to change the Jail Technical Committee to the Otsego County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee with the above adjusted membership". Motion Carried

- Development of a Data Base/Management Information System

Mr. Webber informed the Committee that he has been training his corrections officers on how to input data into the system. The Committee discussed the need for the various agencies in the criminal justice system to have access to information. This should be part of the on-going focus of the new CJCC.

- Criminal Justice Master Plan

This would be one of the first tasks of the CJCC. The Committee discussion of the Plan included the need for a vision and goals/objectives for the criminal justice system, a need for an overview of existing programs, and recommendations on new programs (including costs).

- Long-Range Crime Prevention Plan

The Committee discussed the possibility of these either being an annex to the Master Plan or a separate document.

- Development of Intermediate Sanction Options

This would be part of the Master Plan process. The Day Reporting program will be one of these intermediate sanction options.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.