



Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

Thursday, February 19, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.
Room 100– Otsego County Building
225 West Main Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Liss called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Members Present: Paul Liss, John Burt, Undersheriff Matt Muladore, Sheriff Matt Nowicki, Chief Brett McVannel, Jennifer Pewinski, David Duffield, Erma Backenstose, Richard Sumerix, Captain Brian Webber, Tim Cherwinski, Judge George Mertz

Others Present: Tracey Cruz, Jill Thompson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by McVannel, seconded by Nowicki, to “approve the June 26, 2014 Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee minutes with the addition of Kevin Tate under Members Present”. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Jail Alternatives

Thompson discussed changing trends in community corrections. Community Mental Health dollars have historically been used to provide cognitive therapy and life skills. The focus for grant funding is evolving towards evidence based programs that will reduce recidivism, which may put other programs in jeopardy of losing funding. The G.E.D. program for inmates is one of those programs in danger of losing funding. They are seeing a reduction in success of participants in the program due to a lack of access to studying since the inmates do not have computer access. As changes occur, interested parties will meet to discuss options.

B. Residential Work Camp

Captain Webber discussed the need for a residential work camp to supplement the jail and the day work camp. The residential work camp would be a 24-hour per day program serving as an intermediate step between the day camp and the jail. The same type of inmates would be allowed as the day camp, but the 24-hour per day nature would allow for out of town participants that have historically been housed in the jail. Parolees could also be housed there with a potential of five parolees at one time, though it was brought up that they may find alternative places to stay to avoid being as closely monitored. The hope is that approximately 20 people could stay at the facility, depending on state rules and regulations. This type of program is needed to help strengthen the results of programs like the Drug Court by providing more options for punishment. There would be some increased costs for staffing (likely two more part-time and two more full-time employees) and food costs. There should not be increased costs for health care since they are not inmates. Captain Webber is working on getting participants of the day camp

enrolled in the Healthy Michigan Plan health insurance plan. Everyone agreed the idea was worth researching. The next steps include the following:

- Captain Webber will check with Judge Morse to determine how many people would be eligible for the program.
- Check further into the possibility of housing parolees.
- Check into state rules and regulations for this type of program.
- Make contact with Houghton County to find out more details about their similar program.
- Check into costs to renovate (expected to mostly be cosmetic) along with costs for furnishings.
- Check into staffing and food costs.

C. Department Updates

Sheriff: Today is the last day for Corrections Officer Thomas Boughner who is retiring after more than 30 years. The Sheriff also announced that he and the Undersheriff will be going to Lansing with Deputy Holzschu so that the Governor can congratulate Holzschu for his role in the rescue of the boy in the fire on Helen Street.

CMH: Pewinski introduced herself as Kevin Tate's replacement. Pewinski also mentioned changes in funding from the State affecting their general fund and who they can serve. They can no longer provide general services to those who have private insurance. They can continue to serve those with Medicaid and Medicare. Emergency services will not be affected by the changes.

Jail: Captain Webber indicated that the jail count is at 30 and there are 13 participants at the work camp.

Courts: Judge Mertz announced the retirement of his assistant Kay Pagel, who will be replaced by Jennifer O'Rourke.

Fire Department: Duffield thanked the State Police and the Sheriff's office for their work at the Helen Street fire. He also mentioned that they received approximately \$170,000 worth of equipment from FEMA grants. Only 10% had to be matched locally.

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 23 at 10:00 am in Room 100.

Commissioner Liss adjourned at 10:37 A.M.