



Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 – 1:30 p.m.
Room 100– Otsego County Building
225 West Main Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Liss called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM

Members Present: Paul Liss, Ken Glasser, Erma Backenstose, John Burt, Undersheriff Matt Muladore, Sheriff Matt Nowicki, Chief Brett McVannel, Jennifer Pewinski, David Duffield, Captain Brian Webber, Tim Cherwinski, Judge Patricia Morse, Jon Deming, Mike Rola, Mike Turnbull

Others Present: Bradley Grew

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by McVannel, seconded by Nowicki, to “approve the February 19, 2015 Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee minutes”. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Transition House

Judge Morse updated the Committee on her dialogue with the Salvation Army concerning operating a transition house for those being sentenced that don't have a stable place to live and for parolees coming out of prison. Salvation Army would charge approximately \$7 per night to users of the facility. There would also be state funds used currently to house parolees in local hotels. Salvation Army indicated that there needs to be 6 to 10 participants at all times to make the funding work. Turnbull indicated that he would advise that Community Corrections Grant dollars not be counted upon for stable funding.

Salvation Army also indicated that there would be a case manager assigned to help the participants with getting jobs and other needs. Since there would not be a live-in manager there would need to be a security card entrance system and video cameras. There would not be a cost to the County for the facility.

Judge Morse indicated that the Salvation Army understands that if the County is ever ready to expand the Work Camp another location for the transition house would have to be found. Cherwinski indicated that he did not believe there would be an issue with the facility as long as it is separated from the Work Camp. Since no one voiced any opposition, Judge Morse will contact Salvation Army to tour the building as well as other potential sites.

B. Animal Control Grants

Burt updated the Committee on the efforts of Missy Fitzgerald to obtain grants to update a room at Animal Control to be sufficient to accommodate animal surgeries. She is also looking at bringing veterinarians to the facility on a regular basis to provide medical care.

C. Mental Health

Glasser updated the Committee on the issue of housing people in jails that used to be located at mental health facilities. Studies are showing the best chance of helping a person with potential mental health issues is to intervene when they are young with the idea of getting all relevant people involved to create a plan to help the child. These changes, which are being looked at by federal agencies, may work its way to the local level in the next year or two.

D. Department Updates

Deming reported that the EMS building expansion is approximately 50% completed and is going well.

Pewinski reported that Community Mental Health is continuing to provide their usual services. She also updated the Committee on the use of Mental Health Therapists at some medical facilities to better give well-rounded treatment.

Cherwinski reported that the Work Camp is staying busy. The Jail has 31 inmates with 12 at the Work Camp in-lieu of jail.

Captain Webber reported that they have had a couple of Work Camp participants violate the rules and were sent back to jail.

Judge Morse asked whether there are any life skills classes being given at the Work Camp. Cherwinski and Webber indicated that there are Alcoholics Anonymous classes once per week. They are also working on getting a life skills class at the Work Camp and jail.

Captain Webber indicated that he is working on getting a new Live Scan (finger printing) machine. The Committee discussed the need for police, especially the Michigan State Police, to get portable Live Scan machines.

Sheriff Nowicki reported that James Myler has replaced Deputy Tim Hogan. They have also hired Ben Hass temporarily to help the Department while two other deputies are on injury leave. He also indicated that the Sheriff's Office had their annual shooting event at the Sportsman's Club the prior evening.

Undersheriff Muladore discussed an on-going sexting issue within the schools.

Turnbull introduced Bradley Grew, his new Probation Agent.

Rola updated the Committee on a Safe Schools Committee meeting recently held. The schools are trying to be proactive on the sexting/child pornography issue. Rola also discussed his office approaching 1,100 cases so far this year. He anticipated reaching the 1,246 cases soon that he had for all of 2014. Much of the increase is due to issues related with the three methadone clinics in the area.

Rola also mentioned the possibility of transitioning away from Maximus for handling Child Support records to another company if service isn't improved.

Chief Duffield updated the Committee on the Fire Department receiving approximately \$46,000 for turnout gear. His number of calls for this year has surpassed numbers for 2014.

Chief McVannel indicated that his criminal complaints are the highest the Department has ever had with numbers from January through May being 43% higher than the previous year, which was the highest number on record.

Backenstose reminded people about the upcoming Marijuana trainings.

Commissioner Liss adjourned at 2:30 PM.