



## **Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee**

Tuesday, March 17, 2009 – 11:30 a.m.  
800 Livingston Blvd, Multi-Purpose Room  
Gaylord, MI 49735

### **MINUTES**

#### **I. Call To Order**

Chairman McBride called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.

Members Present: John Burt, Mike Hyde, Mike Turnbull, Sheriff Jim McBride, Judge Pat Morse, Vicki Courterier (for Rudi Edel), Darlene McKinley (for Diane Rekowski), Kyle Legel, Brian Webber, Don Koeppen,

Members Excused: Paul Liss, Mary Sanders, Gary Gelow, Jack Thompson, Rachel Frisch, Chief Joe Fitzgerald, Lt. Blake Davis, Alexis Kaczynski, Nancy Morgridge

Others Present: Erma Backenstose, Brendan Curran, Undersheriff Matt Nowicki, Amy Neubecker,

#### **II. Old Business**

**None**

#### **III. New Business**

##### **1. Jail Alternatives**

The Committee members discussed the article in Saturday's Herald Times Newspaper concerning jail alternatives. The Committee requested Burt to send a letter to members of the Citizen's Committee to thank them for their efforts.

##### **2. Sheriff's Work Camp**

Judge Morse provided a draft policy that would allow a trustee who is approved in advance by the sentencing judge to receive a day credit against his/her sentence for each day of satisfactory performance as a trustee. Any credit will be limited to 25% of the sentence imposed by the judge. Judge Morse indicated that this policy follows state statute. This would be a change from the current practice of allowing day for day credit. There was discussion about other counties following Otsego County's current practice concerning sentence reduction. Dar McKinley will check with the Office of Community Corrections in Lansing to determine whether there is another statute that we are unaware of at this time. Sheriff McBride indicated that he would follow the policy, pending any new information.

Don Koeppen asked about the effectiveness of the alternative programs and what Committee members are seeing with respect to attitudes on jail alternatives. Judge Morse responded that she is seeing a greater emphasis on rehabilitation versus punishment. Brian Webber informed the group that the jail population has been hovering just below its capacity of 34 inmates. He believes this is due in large part to the Work Camp. Dar McKinley informed the group that Alpena County is looking at doing a work camp similar to Otsego County's Work Camp. She also reported that there appears to be a rise in assaultive cases in counties that she services.

### 3. Transition House

Mike Turnbull reported that he has been working to obtain funding to re-establish a transition house in Otsego County. Dar McKinley asked whether he is looking at PRS funds. Mr. Turnbull responded that he is looking into all sources of funding. Ms. McKinley warned that using PRS funds helped lead to the demise of the Women's House in Cheboygan. The funding is competitive, and each Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) has to support these projects rather than just the CCAB in the area.

### 4. Mental Health Court

Judge Morse reported that Community Mental Health recently hired a case manager. There is not a large enough caseload for the Court's to justify hiring a person yet.

### 5. Residential Detoxification Facility

Brendan Curran expressed the need for a residential detoxification facility for opiate addicts. He believes there will be higher recidivism without such a facility. The Committee discussed the fact that these are often located within hospitals. Judge Morse also expressed the need for training for doctors on the numbers of prescription drug overdoses and the need to be careful in prescribing these drugs. Commissioner Hyde asked whether anyone has approached the hospital on these needs. Dar McKinley will talk to Dennis Priess at Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services (NMSAS) about working with the hospital on this. Judge Morse reported that EMS is putting together information on prescription drug overdoses. She will forward that information to John Burt after she receives it. Burt will coordinate with Priess and the Committee on approaching the hospital.

### 6. Other

Mike Turnbull reported that Chet Krupiarz has accepted a promotion to a Parole Violation Specialist in Jackson/Lansing.

Burt reported that the County is planning on making improvements to the ventilation in the Jail this summer.

The Committee will hold the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee meetings on a quarterly basis, unless needed sooner.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.