

**LOUISVILLE METRO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Members Present: Judge Judith Bartholomew, Chair; Kim Allen; Major Chris Hancock (Designee for Sheriff John Aubrey); Mark Bolton; Sheriall Cunningham; David J. Beyer (Designee for SAC Elizabeth Fries); Pete Schuler (Designee for Dan Goyette); Metro Councilwoman Judith Green (Designee for Metro Council President Tom Owen); Walter Jones, Jr.; Shelly Knopf (Designee for Carla Kreitman); Ginny Lee; Richard Lewis; David L. Nicholson; Mike O'Connell; and Colonel Robert White.

Excused Members: D. Scott Furkin; Roger Henderson; Lucy Lee; Charlotte Van Meter

Guests Present: Judge Angela Bisig; Jeff Koehl (Jefferson County Public Schools); Maurice Risner (Jefferson County Public Schools); Pat Davidson (Department for Juvenile Justice); Kristie Wetterer (Stoll, Keenon & Park); and Tom Williams (Stoll, Keenon & Park).

Staff Present: Dr. Deborah Keeling; Faith Augustine; Betsy Helm; Bruce McMichael; Tracey Neathery; and Stephanie Stidham.

I. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Judge Bartholomew called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance and called for introductions.

On behalf of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) Board, Judge Bartholomew presented Maurice Risner with a Certification of Appreciation thanking him for his service to the Board. Mr. Risner is retiring on August 1st from Jefferson County Public Schools after 39+ years of service. He has been an active participant with the Commission and involved in many CJC committees for a number of years.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY OF April 15, 2010 MEETING

The summary of the April 15, 2010 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Deborah Keeling reported that CJC staff recently developed and disseminated a survey of criminal justice system stakeholders' perceptions of pretrial and sentencing options. The survey was distributed electronically on June 15th to 418 stakeholders (including all Commission Board members). She reminded members to respond to the survey.

In addition, Dr. Keeling advised that a criminal justice issues survey will be distributed in mid- to late August. This survey, regarding major criminal justice issues in our community, is a revision of the survey completed in 2007. Dr. Keeling noted that the survey will be disseminated to Board members and other criminal justice and public safety stakeholders and the results will be compared to the 2007 version.

The summer issue of the Metro Justice Forum (CJC quarterly newsletter) will be delayed until August in order to include preliminary results of the stakeholders' perceptions of pretrial and sentencing options survey and a report on the impact of House Bill 1 (Amanda's bill).

Commission staff is also conducting research on recidivism. Dr. Keeling advised they are gathering evaluation reports and studies on the effectiveness of various pretrial and sentencing options, as well as analyzing data from our local jail, Community Corrections Center, and Home Incarceration Program, to determine a recidivism rate.

In July, the CJC office will welcome a graduate student intern from the University of Louisville School of Justice Administration. Dr. Keeling added that the intern is interested in Domestic Violence issues but will also be working on various projects and initiatives including the recidivism study.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. *Restorative Justice Pilot Project*

Judge Angela Bisig, Jefferson District Court
Tom Williams, Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC

Mr. Williams began the presentation with an explanation of what Restorative Justice (RJ) is and what it is not. It is an alternative response to addressing criminal offenses. It is not a replacement for the current criminal justice system. It is intended to be a supplement to the current system. According to Mr. Williams, RJ has proven successful around the world, most notably in New Zealand. RJ for juveniles became law in New Zealand in 1989. Since that time there has been an 80% reduction in the number of juvenile court cases.

Mr. Williams reported that a pilot program is being planned in Louisville. A sub-committee of the Louisville Bar Association (LBA), made up of representatives of the juvenile justice system, social services, private bar, non-profit organizations, community members, faith-based organizations and members of the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Advisory Board, is preparing to launch a pilot project in October or November 2010. The committee has obtained grant funding to train facilitators and coordinators in preparation for the pilot.

One of the processes of RJ is Family Group Counseling (FGC). Judge Bisig spoke to the process of FGC and the implementation plan for Louisville. The Jefferson County Attorney will review all cases to determine appropriateness for referral to the RJ process. If so, the case is assigned to a facilitator. Judge Bisig continued that the facilitator then calls a conference of the offending youth (with counsel and his/her support system; i.e. family members, the arresting police officer, victim and his/her support system, and if appropriate, community representatives. Following the seven principles and seven practices of FGC, the group will come to mutual agreement on a solution with appropriate consequences and positive incentives. Judge Bisig asserted that this is not a replacement for due process. If there is no consensus from the group, or if the offender maintains his/her innocence, the matter is handled through the normal court process.

B. *Restorative Justice in JCPS*

Maurice Risner, Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS)

Mr. Risner reported that Restorative Justice was a focus of Superintendent Berman's plan for JCPS since his first year in Louisville. RJ is not a new program for JCPS; it is a change in mindset. To assure success, implementation in the schools will proceed in small steps. According to Mr. Risner, JCPS teachers are already beginning to use group meetings in classes to address issues.

Mr. Risner introduced Jeff Koehl, JCPS staff assigned to research and assist with the implementation of RJ in JCPS schools. Mr. Koehl has visited other school systems to observe RJ in practice. He reported that schools in Peoria, Illinois have seen an 80% reduction in suspensions. School systems in West Philadelphia and Baltimore have experienced similar successes, including a significant reduction in bullying. According to Mr. Koehl, the victim in a conference may be a teacher, student or even an entire class.

In response to questions, Mr. Risner advised that RJ will only be implemented in a few schools initially. JCPS is working with the LBA to coordinate implementation actions. At present, JCPS plans to implement at Moore Middle and High Schools and at Liberty High School.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. US Senate Bill 714 – Creation of National Criminal Justice Commission

Kim Allen updated the Board on the progress of US Senate Bill 714 which would establish a national Criminal Justice Commission to study the criminal justice system and make recommendations to Congress and the President. According to Ms. Allen, the Senate bill is out of Committee but has not yet been presented on the floor. A similar bill was introduced in the House by Representative Bill Dellahunt of Massachusetts. Ms. Allen noted that the bill, which now has four co-sponsors, was assigned to Committee on June 15.

B. Enhanced Family Supervision Docket

Judge Bisig reported regarding a recently completed 2-year study of the Enhanced Family Supervision Docket. Completed without funding, Judge Bisig advised the study showed that enhanced supervision resulted in a significant reduction in recidivism. She noted that this study will be considered as part of the District Court Reorganization effort currently in process. In addition, Judge Bisig advised the results may be useful to CJC staff in the recidivism research.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Review/Approval

The Criminal Justice Commission Board serves as the local public review body for the Justice Assistance Grant Program. Chief White presented information on the proposal to purchase mobile data terminals and video cameras for the Louisville Metro Police Department. Judge Bartholomew called for a formal vote. A motion was made by David Nicholson, seconded by Mark Bolton, and unanimously approved to accept the grant proposal as presented.

B. Electronic Bond System

Director Bolton reported that after 14 months of work to put systems, hardware and logistics in place, the Electronic Bond System will go live on July 5th. Initially, for misdemeanants with a pre-set bond only, Circuit Court and then District Court will be phased in.

VII. ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, August 19, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the Crown Room of the Judicial Center.