

**LOUISVILLE METRO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Members Present: Judge Judith Bartholomew, Chair; Major Rodney Middleton (Designee for Col. Aubrey); Richard Badaracco; Dwayne Clark (Designee for Tom Campbell); Judge Sheila Collins; Sheriall Cunningham; William DeNardi; Elisa Freeman-Carr; Jay Lambert (Designee for Dan Goyette); Bishop Walter Jones, Jr.; Richard Lewis; David Nicholson; Judge James Shake; Carla Kreitman; Lt. Col. Troy Riggs (Designee for Chief White); and Clarence Williams.

Excused Members: Rev. Dr. Kevin Cosby; Roger Henderson; David Huber; Dave Stengel.

Guests Present: Dr. Howard Bracco (Seven Counties Services, Inc.); Jim Burch (Seven Counties Services, Inc.); Dr. Andrew Cooley (Central State Hospital); Marlene Gordon (Louisville Homeless Coalition); Allison Kern (Jefferson County Attorney's Office); Marty Meyer (Congressman Yarmuth's Office); and Charlotte Van Meter (Seven Counties Services).

Staff Present: Kim Allen; Faith Augustine; Betsy Helm; Bruce McMichael; Tracey Neathery and Stephanie Stidham.

I. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

With Judge Bartholomew delayed in court, Kim Allen called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY OF JUNE 26, 2008 MEETING

The summary of the June 26, 2008 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Overview of Mental Health Services

Presenters: Dr. Howard Bracco, President & CEO, Seven Counties Services, Inc.
Dr. Andrew Cooley, Associate Hospital Director for Clinical Services,
Central State Hospital
Jim Burch, Unit Manager, Criminal Justice/Jail Diversion Services,
Seven Counties Services, Inc.
Charlotte Van Meter, Court Liaison, Seven Counties Services, Inc.

In light of serious funding cuts in mental health programs and services as part of the state budget, local mental health representatives were invited to discuss the impact of those cuts, especially as they relate to the criminal justice arena.

Dr. Bracco reported that Seven Counties Services (SCS) has experienced systemic reductions in budget for some time. SCS has received the same amount of funding from the state for 13 years. That coupled with rising costs has resulted in reduced services. In 2000, there were 25,000 persons served by SCS at an average of 26 care hours per person. However, in 2007, a total of 32,000 were served at an average of 16 hours of care per person.

Dr. Bracco stated that jails and prisons are major mental health institutions in our country. The goal is to provide appropriate services at the appropriate time to the appropriate persons. This requires budget dollars to be re-distributed as needed.

Through its diversion program, SCS has diverted 60% of clients entering University Hospital's Emergency Room to alternative services instead of admission to the hospital.

Central State serves SCS as well as eight additional counties. Dr. Cooley reported that the cost for Central State to assume SCS' reduced services alone is approximately \$17 million. He noted that monies tend to be spent on tertiary care of individuals rather than focused on prevention and early intervention. The higher the level of care, the more costly it will be.

House Bill 843 set up regional planning bodies in each community for all 12 systems (Criminal Justice, Healthcare, Social Welfare, etc.). Dr. Bracco invited those interested to participate in the "843 Group" which identifies local priorities to submit to the legislature and to the Cabinet for Community Based Services.

Regarding Jail Diversion, Jim Burch reported that SCS is taxed to find services and resources for those leaving jail. Often clients leave jail without benefits and it may take months to get the, restarted. On average, clients receive more that 16 hours of personal support. Mr. Burch also notes that the program is receiving individuals with more serious charges and more complex needs.

Charlotte Van Meter works daily in District and Circuit Courts. She reports that many days she has 20-25 cases on the docket requiring intervention. She is unable to cover all cases now and has delayed expanding services to Family Court. Although additional workers are needed to expand the program, it is not possible within current budget constraints.

Judge Sheila Collins presides over the Mental Inquest Docket in local hospitals. The caseload has increased dramatically from 20-25 up to 40 cases each week.

Homeless Court Program Update

Presenters: Marlene Gordon, Louisville Homeless Coalition
Allison Kern, Jefferson County Attorney's Office

Marlene Gordon reported that in 2007, 11,000 persons were served by the Homeless Coalition. There are 7,000 children in Jefferson County Public Schools that are homeless.

The Homeless Court Docket targets homeless individuals picked up on misdemeanor charges for minor offenses and attempts to clear bench warrants. The program is still seeking referrals and anticipates that the first docket will be scheduled soon.

According to Ms. Kern, Homeless Courts began in 25 jurisdictions in the western United States. Marlene Gordon reported that the Coalition will be releasing a report on the cost of homelessness in October and would be happy to share this with the Commission

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee

Stephanie Stidham reported that there are not as many legislative recommendations as in years past. This is likely due to budgetary constraints and the cost impact of suggestions limiting their viability. Stephanie noted that the only new recommendation under consideration involves raising the monetary threshold for felony charges. Richard O'Malley recommended that the amount for misdemeanors also be increased.

Warrant Process Committee

Kim Allen reported that the E-Warrant program, which is now only in Jefferson and Campbell Counties, will soon be implemented statewide. Bench warrants were loaded into the system in September. Kentucky is one of the few states that have included old warrants in the system. Since the original legislative funding for the program has been spent, an alternate funding source must be identified for future program modifications.

Vision 20/20 Commission

The Vision 20/20 Commission convened in November, 2007 and completed its work in May 2008. Kim Allen reported that a series of briefings have been scheduled for the judiciary before the recommendations are released to the public. There are 37 recommendations covering subjects from Technology to Case Processing. It is hoped that a new director for LMDC will be in place in time to implement the recommendations.

V. ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the Crown Room of the Judicial Center.