

**LOUISVILLE METRO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday, November 16, 2006

Members Present: Dave Stengel, Vice-chair; Judge Donald E. Armstrong, Jr.; John Aubrey; David Tandy; Tom Campbell; Sheriall Cunningham; Richard Lewis; Roger Henderson; Joe Miller (Designee for Patricia Combs); Walker "Critt" Cunningham; Mike Losavio; Richard Badaracco; Tim Vize; Maj. David Wood (Designee for Chief White); and Clarence Williams.

Excused Members: Judge Kathleen Voor Montano, Chair; Kim Allen; William DeNardi; Marjean Martin; Elisa Freeman-Carr; Tracy Reinhold; and Louis Willis.

Guests Present: Maurice Risner (Jefferson County Public Schools); Carla Kreitman (Circuit Court Administrator); Julie Hayes (District Court Administrator); Laura Shaughnessy (Commonwealth's Attorney Office); Peggy Kidwell (Criminologist); Suzanne McElwain-Seabold; and Betsy Helm (Public Protection Technology).

Staff Present: David Nicholson; Stephanie Stidham; Bruce McMichael; Faith Hartlage; and Barbara West.

I. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

In Judge Montano's absence, Dave Stengel, Vice-chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance and asked for introductions.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 19, 2006 MEETING

The meeting summary of the October 19, 2006 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

III. PRESENTATION

Suzanne McElwain-Seabold, Executive Director, Prodigal Ministries, Inc. - provided an overview of Prodigal Ministries. She indicated that Steve Smith, Executive Director, Louisville Metro Reentry Taskforce, had planned to co-present today, but was unable to attend. Founded in 1994, Prodigal Ministries has a mission to assist ex-offenders in assuming a productive role in society, living out a meaningful life and resuming family responsibilities. Staff of Prodigal Ministries has significant experience working with the Department of Corrections (DOC). Prodigal Ministries train churches and volunteers with helping offenders prior to release and staff and volunteers assist released offenders with aftercare.

Ms. Seabold noted that there appears to be a lack of communication between Probation and Parole and DOC regarding releases of inmates into the community (such as the lack of an official identification card issued to released offenders or the issuance of a paper bank check that offenders can not cash without proper identification). To assist with this gap, in 2000, Prodigal Ministries formed the Offender Reentry Taskforce. Private funding was received to hire an executive director for the Taskforce. The Taskforce is also seeking a 501(c)3 (non profit) status to assist with fund raising.

The Taskforce works with DOC personnel, community nonprofits, key criminal justice stakeholders, and community leaders to assist offenders with reentry into the community. She said drug treatment, housing, and employment are vital to an offender's ability to successfully reenter into the community. Prodigal Ministries currently offers housing for offenders in Louisville and Oldham County. When asked about recommendations, Ms. Seabold suggested better coordination of mental health treatment for those leaving the institutions. Additionally, attendance at AA/NA programs needs to be stressed because the majority of offenders have alcohol or substance abuse problems.

IV. STAFF UPDATES

Faith Hartlage reported that the Criminal Justice Commission assisted the Offender Reentry Taskforce in the submission of a grant proposal to the Open Society Institute (OSI). This proposal builds upon the previous planning grant received from OSI. If funded, the pilot project will be located in the Newburg Community (chosen because of need). The project would fund personnel to assist with employment, housing, and other community services for offenders returning to the Newburg Community from jail and prison.

Bruce McMichael reported that the Criminal Justice Commission Legislative Committee has met three times and is reviewing approximately 25 recommendations received primarily from the Commonwealth's Attorney and Metro Police. Once consensus is reached on draft recommendations, they will be provided to Representative Joni Jenkins for review and guidance. A final draft of agreed upon recommendations list will be submitted to the Criminal Justice Commission Board for final review and approval.

Dave Stengel announced that Barbara West is leaving the Commission on November 20th for a new position within Louisville Metro Youth Detention Services. Mr. Stengel presented Ms. West with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked her on behalf of the Commission for her many years of dedicated service.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

David Nicholson reported that this will be his last report as Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Commission. He is leaving the Commission at the end of November and will be sworn in as the Jefferson Circuit Court Clerk in January. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity to work with them for the past 15 years, eight of which as the Executive Director. The Commission is an asset to the community due to the advocacy it provides on the full range of criminal justice services and initiatives. David said he would work with the new Executive Director to ensure a smooth transition. He noted the Commission will be celebrating its 40 year anniversary in October 2007. David indicated that he is working with Michael Losavio and thanked him for assisting with the Circuit Court Clerk's office transition.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Michael Losavio announced that the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has purged misdemeanor records which are five years old or older. This purging has resulted in many difficulties to system personnel. Additionally, the destruction of documents proving dismissal or expungement is causing problems for individuals needing this documentation for employment,

background checks, or criminal history for prosecution. AOC has reported that the purging of these records is part of its regularly scheduled court process. Mr. Losavio asked members to contact his office if this purging has caused difficulties as he is compiling a report to AOC.

VII. ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, February 15, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in the Crown Room of the Judicial Center.