

**LOUISVILLE METRO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Members Present: Lt. Col. Carl Yates (Designee of Sheriff John Aubrey); Richard Badaracco; Mary Ann Wolf (Designee for Patricia Boyd-Shaw); Tom Campbell; Rev. Charles Duncan; Judge Audra Eckerle; Elisa Freeman-Carr; Leo G. Smith (Designee for Dan Goyette); Richard Lewis; David Nicholson; Tim Vize; Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh; Clarence Williams; Lt. Col. Tim Emington (Designee for Chief White); and Louis Willis.

Excused Members: Patricia Combs; William DeNardi; Judge Stephen George; Roger Henderson; Judge Kathleen Voor Montano; and Dave Stengel.

Guests Present: Julie Hayes (District Court Administrator); Allison Kern (JCAO Drug Court); Peggy Kidwell (Criminologist); Maurice Risner (Jefferson County Public Schools); and Evan Roach (Probation & Parole).

Staff Present: Kim Allen; Faith Augustine; and Tracey Neathery.

I. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Judge Montano, Chair, and the anticipated late arrival of Mr. Stengel, Vice Chair, Kim Allen called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance, introduced guests, and called for introductions.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY OF MAY 17, 2007 MEETING

The meeting summary of the May 17, 2007 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Allen advised that analysis of the Criminal Justice System Stakeholder Survey is still in process and will be presented in September.

Presentations at upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows: September – Criminal Justice Kentucky Treatment Outcome Study by Dr. Michele Staton-Tindall; October – Jefferson County Commission on Racial Fairness by Judge Denise Clayton; and November – 2007 Competitive City Report by Carolyn Gatz, Greater Louisville Project.

In preparation for the 2008 legislative session, Louisville Metro Government will be working in collaboration with Lexington/Fayette Urban County Government on a number of legislative issues. The Commission has been asked to forward potential items as they are identified. As a result, the Legislative Committee will be reconvened in the near future.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Ms. Allen introduced David J. Voorhis, Criminal Justice Consultant, to present preliminary findings of the jail population analysis and projection study.

Mr. Voorhis began by stating that while four separate population samples were taken from the jail's Inmate Management System, extracting information was problematic. Mr. Voorhis stressed that the data is preliminary and will be reviewed and verified before the final report is issued. He presented a series of slides depicting data on the jail population from 1990 through the present.

Despite opening of the new jail in 1999 and release from the Federal Consent Decree in 2001, the jail continues to be seriously crowded. Mr. Voorhis noted that the jail population is ultimately controlled by two factors: 1) the number of people booked into the jail and 2) the length of stay. Louisville Metro Department of Corrections (LMDC) has a bed capacity of 1,919 and today's population (6/28/07) is 2,100. The major contributing factor to crowding is the increased length of stay which has gone from 14 days in 1999 to 22 days in 2007. Tom Campbell, Director, anticipates a population of 2,200 by the end of the summer. Once the population reaches 2,150, inmates will need to be housed in the gym and multi-purpose room. These facilities are extremely limited in regard to housing inmates and will result in additional overtime costs for staff.

With up to 200 inmates sleeping on the floor today, new construction is the costliest solution, but not the only one. With knowledge that public safety is the number one goal, Mr. Voorhis identified four options to help relieve jail crowding:

1) Increasing the Use of Alternatives to Incarceration

Although Louisville Metro has implemented a number of alternative programs, there are additional options that should be considered. Mr. Voorhis suggested moving work release inmates to home detention, with a corresponding increase in field supervision. He noted that several jurisdictions have eliminated work release programs in favor of electronic monitoring. Additionally, subgroups of the population could be moved out to a Day Reporting Program and DUI offenders could be diverted from the jail either through third-party release or to a treatment facility.

2) Building Additional Jail Beds

Building 1,000 beds would meet a short-term need, but the estimated cost of \$90-120 million would have a significant impact on funding for other government programs and services.

3) Building Structure for Low Security Options

4) Developing Revised Policies and Practices to Reduce the Population

A number of options were raised as possible ways to better manage the jail population. A major focus should be placed on improving criminal justice system case processing. Options also include modifying case processing to decrease the length of stay; increasing the number of citations issued, and increasing release options.

Mr. Voorhis emphasized that public education is critical and necessary for successful jail population management. The public must be a part of these discussions along with the criminal justice community.

Mr. Voorhis will have a final report issued in the near future. The report will include an analysis of the jail population and recommendations for managing the population. As an attachment to the report, Mr. Voorhis plans to include a report issued by the Criminal Justice Commission in 1988 which included findings and recommendations that remain accurate nearly 20 years later. Ms. Allen noted that the Jail Policy Committee will be reconvened to review the report and revisit all of the available options to effectively manage the population. This will be an ongoing discussion for the future that will require full participation from all of the key players in the system to be successful.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Drug Court Transition Process- Allison Kern, Interim Director, reported on the status of the transition. The Administrative Office of the Courts will take over the Drug Court Program on July 3, 2007. Regional Supervisor, Tina Messer, will be the primary contact. On August 1st, the program will move to new space at 717 W. Market Street. Following staff resignations, only three counselors remain, however, personnel from other communities will assist until the program is fully staffed. Currently, there are 95 clients with a capacity for 120. Ms. Allen noted that the Drug Court Transition Work Group was put in place to monitor the transition, and if needed, will continue to meet to ensure that the program meets the needs of the local judiciary and that the quality of the program is maintained.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Youth Representation on Commission Board – Metro Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh reported that during the recent review of Louisville Metro Code of Ordinances Chapter 32, questions were raised regarding youth representation on the Criminal Justice Commission Board. Questions included whether youth should be

considered for appointment to the board and whether the meeting time could be changed to 3:00 p.m. to allow youth member(s) to attend after school. Kim reported that a separate Youth Crime Commission existed in the 1970's, but there has never been a youth appointment to the board. Although members agreed that it would be helpful to enlist input from youth and expose them to the criminal justice system, it could be difficult to identify participants, youth might not feel comfortable participating in an adult forum, and transportation could be an issue. Suggestions included finding other groups to connect with for youth input, i.e. the Alliance for Youth, or considering use of focus groups. The issue will be taken under consideration for possible future action.

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - The Criminal Justice Commission Board serves as the public review body for the JAG program. In addition to Commission Board members, a member of the Jefferson County Public Schools and a member of a substance abuse treatment program also review and vote on the proposals. Maurice Risner, Jefferson County Public Schools and Allison Kern, Jefferson County Drug Court, serve as these respective representatives. Lt. Col Tim Emington, LMPD, briefed members on the JAG equipment proposal totaling \$408,058. The proposal covers the purchase of in-car video camera systems. Faith Augustine reported on the remaining component totaling \$75,000.00. This proposal covers the provision of services to persons released from jail or prison that are returning to the Newburg neighborhood. It also proposes funding for an automated risk and needs assessment tool for Louisville Metro Corrections to identify appropriate referrals for treatment programs and services while in jail as well as facilitate pre-release planning. Ms. Allen called for a formal vote. A motion was made by David Nicholson, seconded by Clarence Williams, and unanimously approved to accept the grant proposal as presented.

VIII. ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in the Crown Room of the Judicial Center.