

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**April 25, 2019 @ 3:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Greg Mattingley  
Jim Gresham  
Debra Kraft  
Bill Oliver

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Verzell Taylor  
Dave Drobisch

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

David Ellison, Public Defender  
Jay Scott, State's Attorney' Office  
Pat Berter, Probation  
Lois Durbin, Circuit Clerk's Office  
Carol Reed, Auditor  
Judge Webber  
Jon Perona, DPBC  
Lt. Jim Root, EMA  
Lt. Jon Butts, Sheriff's Dept  
Sheriff Antonio Brown  
Mike Day, Coroner  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3/28/19 Macon County Board Justice Committee meeting, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 4-0.

**CLAIMS**

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 4-0.

**REPORTS**

***Circuit Clerk –***

Ms. Durbin reported that Tyler Technologies is working on site. Training and implementation of the new system have started. Zelda Jones, Project Manager for Macon County from Tyler, addressed the committee members saying that this is the operating system that the County purchased a year or so ago. Currently the SMEs, the Subject Matter Experts, are being trained. These are the Clerks, State's Attorney's, etc. These are the folks that are configuring the system to operate the way it should. The next phase, configuring the system by pulling the data from the current system and putting it into the Odyssey Program and then checking to make sure all the data is there will be done in iterations for about a year with a go live date of May 3, 2020. There is about a year left to get all of this done. Status reports will be provided monthly and questions can be directed to Lois Durbin. Ms. Kraft asked Ms. Jones if she would be the person who would be continually working with the County. Ms. Jones confirmed saying that they are on site 3 weeks out of 4.

***Circuit Court – No report***

***Coroner – No report***

***Court Services / Probation –***

Mr. Berter reported that he had had a meeting with Senator Manar a couple of weeks ago to talk about the Probation Funding Formula and to brief him on how it is impacting the county's probation department. The bottom line is that the department does not expect full funding from the state and because of that the actual funding formula set up by the AOIC needs to be revamped. He said he had had another discussion with Wendy Venvertloh, Director of Adams County about the formula. She is also part of the Legislative Committee for IPCSA which is Illinois Probation & Court Services Association. There is a group of individuals that are hoping to educate the legislators on the formula. There are different classifications. For one group, it is called salary subsidy and they only reimburse up to \$12,000. Because of the cuts, we only received \$7,000 this year. He said all they are asking for is an evidence based and fair funding formula. That was the discussion that was had with Senator Manar. Chair Mattingley asked how receptive Senator Manar had been. Mr. Berter said he was very receptive and a very good individual that he had enjoyed talking with. He said Senator Manar had advised Mr. Berter that he needed to talk to Senator Rose as well. As many individuals that the formula can be explained to the better off it will be. Mr. Berter said that if the same formula is going to be kept, the percentage, if staff is lost should be adjusted accordingly. If they fund at 100%, then yes, that money should be cut, but they don't. If they would just start looking at adjusting that percentage, it would help, but in a perfect world, the whole system needs to be revamped. They need to be able to tell what the acceptable caseload number per officer should be and funding should be done according to that.

#### ***Emergency Management Agency –***

Lt. Root reported that the Nuclear Power Plant exercise had been held in the first part of the quarter. There was one flaw that had to be re-demonstrated. Overall, the exercise was a success. He expressed appreciation to everyone that had participated.

The EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) was approved as of April. It is for a two year cycle. That is one of the requirements for the County and for the department to be accredited. The next review of that is 2021. The supporting documents that go with that are referred to as an ILCATT which is the Illinois Capability and THIRA (Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment). It is a 101 page document. This requirement was announced at the very end and so there is some work that needs to be done on it. Some of the items were not completed. Assessments on 10 hazards are required and the department only had 7. There are 4 or 5 hazards that have not been properly assessed. This is something that helps with bridging the exercise gaps. There is also a new requirement under the 301 Rule which requires 32 core capabilities be exercised in a four year cycle. That is part of the ILCATT. Those assessments give the ability to identify any shortfalls within the program. If you don't identify the shortfalls, you can't fix the issues. This is new and kind of scary.

The new Plan Development and Review Document is going to be released in June. That is the Plan Review Document for the Emergency Operations Plan. It is anticipated that the next cycle's plan which will be in 2021 will require a full rewrite of the entire plan to incorporate all those core capabilities. That will need to be addressed.

There is also a requirement, as of 9/1/20 which is undeveloped right now. It is the Continuity Of Operations. Also, the Continuity of Government is one that will be required by 9/1/20. This is part of the accreditation and required for the Plan.

A Recovery Plan will be needed as of 9/1/20. It is also an undeveloped plan. This is a new requirement.

Yearly submission to the Local Emergency Planning committees documents is an annual report that is submitted every year to the State Response Center. It tells what the LEPC consists of. Vice Chair Kraft is on that committee. There is an LEPC Plan, a Hazardous Material Plan, that is a part of the regular Emergency Operations Plan.

The 32 Core Capabilities begins 4/16/2019 and all 32 have to be exercised in the 4 year cycle.

Maintenance of Accreditation is an ongoing process. IT is a 2 year cycle. The next accreditation is in September, 2020.

The Department is also the Rep support for the Excelon Clinton Nuclear Power Plant. That is a two year cycle with the next exercise in 2021. Those are done through the office via two grants, the \$47,000 FEMA grant and the \$10,000 Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents grant. There is also a grant from the City of Decatur for \$10,000.

Lt. Root thanked everyone for their support over the last 10 years that he has been over the program. As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, Lt. Root said he would be assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> shift patrol and his hope is that the Sheriff will put someone in place quickly because the requirements are something that need to be done and the program needs someone in that spot to make sure everything is accomplished for the County.

Mr. Oliver asked about intergovernmental cooperation from other counties in the case of problems. Lt. Root explained that the Law Enforcement side of things are done through ILEAS; the fire Department has MABIS. He said that EMA is a part of all of them. Mr. Oliver asked about who the lead agency would be if there were problems at the power plant in Clinton. Lt. Root said that would be DeWitt County with the actual response out of IEMA who is the plan holder and coordinator. They have the regulatory authority over the nuclear power plants. The majority of the mutual aid comes from the Sheriff's Office, County Highway and Red Cross. Our Plan consists of traffic and access control points along the northern border of Macon County and the Public Works Department's responsibilities include putting up signs and procedures to prevent access into DeWitt County in the event of evacuations. The Red Cross sets up a reception center which will have to be exercised. Anyone evacuated out of DeWitt County will go to three different counties; Macon, Bloomington & Parkland in Champaign. These three centers will accept people being evacuated out of the emergency zone. IEMA has the authority over this and have nuclear scientists that work in their office and can actually predict how much radiation there will be and where it is going.

***Public Building Commission – No report***

***Public Defender's Office – No report***

***Sheriff's Department –***

Sheriff Brown reported that the jail population is 265 today and the federal numbers are back up to 39.

Lt. Root's new assignment is a temporary assignment due to some restructuring that has to be done around the office to fill some spots. At the end of the day, he will eventually go back to EMA once those critical spots are filled.

***State's Attorney's Office – No report***

**CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Dennis Durham, 2445 Country Trails, Decatur, IL

Mr. Durham stated that he works at St. Mary's Hospital where they have been observing Child Abuse Awareness Month during the month of April.

Today, April 25, is National Parental Alienation Awareness Day. Parental Alienation occurs when a parent denies the other parent contact with their child. Sometimes it is a minor interference and other times the other parent is completely removed from the life of their child. Mr. Durham said that he believes this is the most prevalent form of child abuse today. It is going to take everyone to prevent it. He said he was at the meeting today with Aaron Wemple and they have an organization called Clean Law Union and they are working with the Decatur Township on a Loss Center that will help resolve some of these issues, hopefully, but it will take everyone to do the necessary changes that our children deserve. Parental Alienation is a human rights violation against our children. There is an epidemic of fatherlessness and the court system is a part in this fatherlessness. We have children that are being damaged by a broken family court system. The problem of fatherlessness will not be stopped until the court stops taking good responsible fathers from their children. What fathers are asking for is equality. Every child should have rights to see both parents equally. Unfortunately, this is not the case. All too often, the father's rights to his children are based upon how much money he has. The criminal is given free counsel, but a parent who is fighting for his own children does not have that same right. We must begin the process of taking profit out of the legal system. The person with no money should have the same legal standing as anyone else. Children are being removed from their fathers and sometimes mothers for profit. The legal system unwittingly engages in extortion. For example, when a judge orders a mediator, the litigants must come up with a great deal of money to pay the mediating attorney. If someone says that you can have rights to your children, but you must pay me money first, that is extortion. Mr. Durham said that if he had power over someone in this room and said, "you have to pay me money to have rights to your children" that is extortion. He asked if anyone on the committee would say that is just. If you don't have money, then you have lost rights to even fight for your kids and that is a human rights violation. If a person does pay for a mediator and it doesn't work out, many times a judge will order a Guardian Ad Litem which means much more money. In reality, a person should not have to spend any money to have basic rights to their children. It is one thing if a parent does not want to be involved in the life of their child, but that is not the primary problem. Most fathers who are not involved, want to be, but they are being denied access to their children or they have severe restrictions placed on them. There are many reasons why a child may be taken from a parent, but no child should be taken from a good, responsible one. How can we expect to address fatherlessness if even the fathers who want to be involved are

not allowed to be. Mr. Durham said he would like for Macon County to be on the frontier of changes to the legal system to stem this tie to fatherlessness. He said he believes many changes can be made to the system locally to support all willing and capable parents. That is why they have been working with the Decatur Township and recently began working with CASA to develop something called safety file. That is just a file where children can work on these files and it is a positive thing that they can do. It is just little things like that that can be done to help. He said they would like to do the safety files in the family court system, not just with CASA. Mr. Durham said that at the end of his life, no one would be able to say that he did not seek to be involved in the lives of his children. Yet, the court system fights him every step of the way. He said that if anyone would like to speak to him after the meeting, and he hoped they would, and he hoped everyone there would take his comments in the spirit they are intended and he appreciates all their hard work on the committee.

**Old Business** None

**New Business**

Chair Mattingley questioned Judge Webber about a letter regarding the CART availability, costs that might be associated with it, and if it is a forever thing or a case thing. Judge Webber said he did not have information and was hoping to hear something from the Administrative Office about it. He said he had asked the Clerk Supervisor and the Disability Coordinator to look into it. It is probably a type of voice recognition software that will create, somewhat like closed captioning on TV, a display which sets forth what is being spoken. That is a guess, based on the letter and at this point, Judge Webber said he has no information to give the committee about what it is and if it is something that is feasible for the courtroom, if it has to be purchased or can be rented, etc... There is a trial scheduled for August of this year, but there are several scheduled in front of him, and things happen to cases so some of those may fall by the wayside. His case may go from #4 to #1. Nobody knows, but hopefully by next month Judge Webber said he may have more information for the committee about that system, if there are alternatives for it, and how a reasonable accommodation can be made to his request.

**Closed Session** – none needed

**NEXT MEETING** Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. Oliver made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office