

JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
May 23, 2013
3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Greg Mattingley (came in @ 3:06p.m.)
Jay Dunn
Gary Minich
Jon Baxter
David Williams
Bill Oliver
Dave Drobisch

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Jay Scott, State's Attorney
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Judge A. G. Webber
Amy Stockwell, Auditor
Jerry Lord, DPBC
Lt. Jon Butts, Sheriff's Office
Lori Long, Probation
Lois Durbin, Circuit Clerk
Rodney Forbes, Public Defender
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Merv Jacobs

This meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jay Dunn at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Motion to approve the minutes of prior meeting (April 25, 2013) made by Gary Minich, seconded by David Williams, and motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Motion to approve the claims made by Dave Drobisch, seconded by Bill Oliver, motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk

No Report

Coroner

No Report

EMA

No report

Public Building Commission

Jerry Lord had no report

Public Defender

Rodney Forbes had no report

Sheriff

Lt. Jon Butts reported on the jail population.

State's Attorney

Jay Scott reported that a new attorney, Diane Couri started on Tuesday. Her folks own La Gondola's here in town and we're really excited about having her come on. Three law student and two college interns will be serving with us this summer and we hope to get a lot of work out of them for nothing. Jay Dunn asked if they were all from in-state. Jay Scott confirmed they are all from in-state with some being local and one girl from U of I is originally from Minnesota. He said it is a good mix and they are having fun with them. Jay Dunn asked if they normally get that many. Jay Scott said no, they had only 2 last summer and they go a lot of summers without any. The College students are working on going through stats to get a picture of what we are doing with cases. We try to keep them all busy.

Circuit Court

Macon County Board Resolution approving increase in appropriations in the Circuit Court's budget for attorney's fees in certain appeals and for expenses in certain appeals

Judge Webber explained that he has been before the committee several times with this line item to ask for additional appropriations for juvenile appeals. This is again, involving cases of termination of parental rights. It is an unfunded mandate from the state that the county provide representation for parents in this situation. For many years, we had about 6 per year, so we budgeted for 6 per year. Last year we went to 8 in the budget and we actually had 9, so I had to ask for additional money for that 9th one. I budgeted for 9 this year and we hit 9 in March. I talked with the Circuit Clerk and we have about 4 in process right now. Of course, we are only 1/2 way through the year. I am budgeting for another 8. I hope that will be all, but I cannot guarantee it. Jay Dunn asked if the \$18,000 is for 8 more. Judge Webber explained that they have a contract with Attorney Monica Hawkins who handles the cases on a flat fee basis of \$2,000 plus expenses per case. With preparation of record, it's about \$2,250 per appeal. There is also a small \$640 appropriation for Dr. Killian included in the resolution as well for a sexually dangerous case.

Motion to approve moving the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation for approval was made by Dave Drobisch, seconded by David Williams, and motion carried 7-0.

Greg Mattingley arrived and Jay turned the Chair over to him for the remainder of the meeting.

Macon County Board Resolution approving contract with RK Dixon for Sophos Security Software

Judge Webber explained this is a contract for new anti-virus software for the computer system that services the Courts, Circuit Clerk, Probation, and Public Defender. We are unhappy with the anti-viral updates we get plus the filters have been a little loose. Melenie Milliman is on vacation this week, but she is satisfied that Sophos is a better vender. The attached proposal was for a 10 day special, so the cost will be a bit more, however, Melenie believes she can do a lot of the professional services on her own, so the \$3,000 should be somewhat less. I just wanted to bring this before the supervisory board before entering into the contract.

Motion to approve moving the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation for approval was made by David Williams, seconded by Dave Drobisch, and motion carried 7-0.

Probation

Macon County Board resolution approving contract between Macon County Mental Health Board and Macon County Probation to sustain Mental Health Court

Lori Long explained that several years ago the county was awarded a Federal Mental Health grant to implement a strategy designed to reduce the likelihood of individuals with mental illness from getting caught up in the criminal justice system when what they really need is community based services and treatment. For those who do enter the criminal justice system, the goal is to help them more easily access the services and treatment they need in order to prevent them from progressing further into the system, especially jail and prison. The creation of a Mental Health Court has been a major part of this overall strategy. It has been successful in achieving those goals and there has been a shared desire in sustaining it beyond the life of the grant. There has been a lot of work done by a collaborative team called the Mental Health Court Advisory Council to come up with a viable sustainability plan. The team is made up of members from the Circuit Courts, Mental Health Board, State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office and the Probation Department. The sustainability plan consists of community based support, primarily consisting of funding from the Mental Health Tax Levy and behavioral health fees collected in certain criminal and traffic cases. Beginning April 1st, Macon County began taking active steps to transition from sole grant support of the Mental Health Court to include community based financial support. In order to proceed with the plan, a contractual agreement outlining the financial relationship between the Mental Health Board and Probation is necessary. We currently have a contractual agreement with the Mental Health Board that deals with funding for juvenile sex offenders to attain assessments and treatment services and so Dennis Crowley created an addendum for that contract. Mr. Baggett reviewed and approved it. We are asking authorization to proceed with the contract amendment. Assuming that this resolution is approved this afternoon, we would be presenting a second resolution next month that addresses the associated budget revisions.

David Williams asked about the behavior health fees collected in the criminal and traffic cases. Are these line items that come through the Circuit Clerk's office? Lori confirmed. David asked about a dollar amount. Lori said approximately \$20,000.

Bill Oliver asked what the length of the contract was. Lori explained that the amendment would take them through the current County FY – through the end of November. Bill asked what the projection for next year was. Lori said to enter a new agreement. The budget revisions being talked about for presentation next month are a plan to keep things viable and to keep the ability to accept clients into court for the rest of this FY. The grant period was initially scheduled to end in March and the State's Attorney was successful in getting an extension through September. The team did not want to rely on that. There were a lot of things that were fluid at that point.

Jay Dunn stated that if anyone was interested, he would encourage them to attend one of Judge McCarthy's court cases. It's like an 18 month process or so and these people have to report to the judge. Lori agreed that it is really something to observe. The interaction between the judge and the probationers is unlike anything you would see in a traditional court setting. There is a huge amount of accountability. The Judge knows those clients and the clients know that she knows them and has connections in the community. Jay said he sat through it for about an hour and after watching several clients come before the Judge, he remembered one who had been on medication

and was just about to graduate from the class. He hadn't had a job for many years and had been in and out of the Mental Health Wards, ER's and all kinds of places. He, through the process, was now on the medication and had a job and was being productive in society. It also keeps a cell open. We set this up several years ago. We've gotten several grants and we still have some grant money, but Dennis Crowley is putting some Mental Health money in and we've asked him to reach out to the hospitals, the City and some others who are benefitting from this court being in place. We are hopeful we can raise some money from other entities in this next FY as well.

Bill Oliver asked where the proof was on the success of the program. Lori explained that the State's Attorney's Office submits quarterly reports on program participants, success rates and that sort of thing. I can tell you that the model that was selected by the team that implemented this model, selected an evidence based model called the Sequential Intercept Model. There's a lot of proof in the research. It is effective. The numbers show that it is an effective model. The Sequential Intercept model looks at the system as a type of funnel. The idea with this model is that you want to divert people who have mental illness from entering the criminal justice system. Knowing that there was not enough money in the grant to do everything we wanted to do at every single intercept point – at point of arrest, pleas, sentencing, jail, Department of Corrections. So, we, as a team, had to pick and choose what points we were going to focus our attention on. There were two that had most of the attention placed on them. One was the mental health part which we just talked about and the other was on providing critical incident training to first responders. Not only police officers, but ambulance drivers, firemen, and so forth to help identify when they come into contact with people who may have mental illness, they will be properly trained in recognizing certain behavior indicators and be better equipped to de-escalate rather than have a situation where you don't know what you are dealing with and you're not sure how to handle it, you end up unintentionally escalating the situation and it becomes combative. Then the person ends up in jail when if you really understood how you could be more effective interacting with the individual, it might not have ended up to that degree. Bill stated he asked the questions he did so that the committee could have a better idea of what we are voting on. Judge Webber added that they have these programs now because the State has for decades now, been getting out of the mental health business. Centers, like Adolph Meyer Zone Center in Decatur, have closed. Similar things have happened throughout the state, but people with mental illnesses have not gone away. Instead of being treated at a facility, they end up on our streets, in our jails and the prisons. Programs like this are an attempt to keep those persons out of the criminal justice system and afford them some treatment as they might have received in a setting such as Adolph Meyer. Most states, not just Illinois, have gotten out of treatment of mental health and it has fallen to localities to provide that as best they can. Judge McCarthy has devoted a lot of time to this. She has attended lots of training and it is really something that, as lawyers and judges, we don't get to go to law school for. It is a whole different type of thing. We don't have 100% success, but what success we do have, I think, is to the benefit to both the County and locality.

Motion to approve sending the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation for approval made by Gary Minich, seconded by Bill Oliver and motion carried 7-0.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

CLOSED SESSION

None needed

NEXT MEETING

June 27, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Bill Oliver, seconded by Dave Drobisch, motion carried 7-0, and meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham
Macon County Board Office