

Cuyahoga County Criminal Justice Governing Board
Minutes of the meeting March 11, 2008

1. Call to Order- Commissioner Hagan, welcomed the members and noted that the reform was making good progress.
 - Minutes of the Meeting December 13, 2007 were approved
2. Community Council – Christine Lawton (proxy for Carole Rendon) said a grant had been applied for to fund a “report card” evaluation of where the Reform stands.
 - In addition, the Ohio Supreme Court has expressed interest in assessing the progress too.
 - The advocacy workgroup was meeting to put together a “sophisticated” communication strategy
 - Commissioner Hagan stressed the importance of a a common message and gaining a sense of direction
3. CBCF- Judge Nancy McDonnell (Common Pleas Court) the committee was moving on several issues.
 - A professional planner will be sought and brought on by early April
 - The committee is working on a decision on who will operate the facility.
4. Drug Court – Judge Larry Jones (Cleveland Drug Court said plans are in place for the Drug Court’s tenth anniversary event May 10.
5. Reform Budgets – Prosecutor Mason said the Agency Council had asked all parties to submit “wish list” budgets.
 - The proposed budgets had been received, and will be reviewed by the leadership of the reform.
 - Commissioner Hagan stressed the importance of budget planning, and for the Commissioners to have a “synchronized” approach with respect to the reform when the County’s budget deliberations begin.
6. Reporting – Thomas Pokorny (Common Pleas Court) said the Court had made a change in local rules affecting reporting.
 - The Judges will now set pre-trial dates at the time of the arraignment, in order to speed up the system.
 - The court is trying to devise a system for tracking offenders who find their way into the jail before the prosecutors are aware of charges against them.

- Populations in the jail are down from last year
 - Thomas Arnaut (Common Pleas Court) noted good results from the Parma pilot project, with reduced arrest to disposition times, and better tracking.
8. Standardization of Forms – Michael O’Malley (County Prosecutor’s office) said his committee is working hard to implement a standard incident report for the entire county.
- The committee is working on an electronic (report) submission system that would be usable by all police agencies.
9. Expedited Case management (Pilot) – Jerome Dowling (County Prosecutor’s Office) said the Parma pilot is yielding satisfactory results.
- Overall the arrest to disposition rate is about 16 days for pilot cases.
 - 35-40% of the Parma Court’s case volume is being diverted to the pilot, and a majority of those cases are resolved in the expedited model even without centralized booking.
10. Grants – Gary Holland (Director, Department of Justice Affairs) said that staff is working to coordinate grant-seeking, and to integrate it with the spending plans brought forward by various participants.
- Marty Murphy (AD, DJA) said staff is examining the potential availability of grants for the Drug Court expansion, and for universal crime reporting and data gathering.
11. Reentry – Tom Pokorny (CC Common Pleas Court) said the reentry court is up and running, and that staff had been gathering information about the experiences of other counties.
- Judge McDonell said she had talked to state authorities to clear the way for releases from the state prison system without agreement from sentencing judges.
 - Prosecutor Mason said that witnesses and victims should also be factored into the release and reentry discussion.
12. Reentry (Countywide) – Dr. Russell Kaye (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services Board) said the County leadership coalition has been focusing on funding development and sustainability issues for the reentry programs. He added that it is also focused on improving access to recovery programs and services for reentry “clients.”

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Governing Board will be June 10, 2008 at 9 a.m. in the Sheriff's training room of the Justice Center.