

Cuyahoga County Criminal Justice Governing Board
Minutes of the meeting June 10, 2008

1. Call to Order- Commissioner Hagan, welcomed the members and noted that the reform was making good progress.
 - Minutes of the Meeting March 11, 2008 were approved
2. Community Council – Gary Holland (proxy for Carole Rendon) explained the current grant landscape, and specifically asked the Governing Board to recommend the awards for the 2008 Justice Assistance Grant program to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).
 - A resolution recommending the awards for the Justice Assistance Grants was approved by voice vote.
 - Ms. Rendon also suggested a resolution recommending the hiring of the Justice Management Institute to prepare an evaluation of progress made on the Reform thus far, and the hiring of Edward Howard & Co. to develop a communications plan for the reform to BOCC.
 - The second resolution was approved by voice vote.
3. Technology Council – Linda Lingler (ISC) presented status reports on the activities of the Technology Council, including the video-conferencing project, and the draft county e-mail retention policy.
4. Drug Court – Judge Larry Jones (Cleveland Municipal Court) reported that the recent fund raiser for expansion was a success, and that he would be talking to the jurists of the Common Pleas Court about expanding Drug Court by the fall.
 - Thomas Pokorny (Common Pleas Court Administrator) in response to a question from the Chair, said that there is very little opposition among the Common Pleas bench to the expansion of Drug Court since the statistics bear out its success.
 - Jerry Dowling (Prosecutor's Office) noted that about 20% of the offenders in the expedited case management pilot programs go to Drug Court, with success.
 - Dan Peterca (Pretrial Services), said Drug Court is a useful tool in the overall picture of how to deal with offenders
 - The Chair suggested that maximum effort should be made to share the success of Drug Court with the public, and its criteria for participation.
5. Reporting – Mr. Pokorny reminded the Board of his imminent retirement and introduced Greg Popovich as his successor.

- Mr. Popovich said new data elements are being added to the Court’s periodic report format, including a category for “days in jail,” and that plans were being made to disseminate the Court’s statistics to other parties in the Reform.
 - He said the Court was thankful for the help of the Board and the Reform in securing funding for a visiting Judge to handle Second Docket and EDC hearings.
 - Tom Arnaut shared the latest statistics with the board, including those for the pilots, showing that pilot cases averaged 71 days from arrest to disposition, a significant improvement over those cases not handled in the expedited program.
 - In response to a question from the Chair, a discussion ensued about identifying indigent defendants and how to ensure they were truly indigent, Prosecutor William Mason said his guess was that many defendants who are assigned counsel or public defenders, are not really indigent.
 - The Chair noted that the public will lose faith in the system if defendants are assigned counsel erroneously, and that perhaps the issue should be studied.
8. Expedited Case Management (Pilot) – Jerome Dowling (County Prosecutor’s Office) said the Parma pilot continues to yield satisfactory results.
- Average jail time for pilot cases is about half of the “traditional” time.
 - About 60% of the Parma cases are assigned counsel by the five-day hearing, and of those, about 50% are settled or diverted to services.
 - The pattern is similar for the new Cleveland Fourth District cases.
 - Mr. Dowling is negotiating with “satellite jails for more jail space for the pilot defendants, and misdemeanor cases are all sent to Geauga County.
 - Efforts are being made to conduct the cases of offenders housed in satellite jails using the video-conferencing system. The system is helping save time for grand jury, witness, and police officer time, as well as transport costs.
9. Standardization of Forms – Michael O’Malley (County Prosecutor’s office) said his committee is working with the two major vendors on developing electronic police reports, and may be able to begin changing the report process within 30 days.
10. Bonds/ Pre-Trial Services – Mr. Peterca said the committee is gathering data in conjunction with the University of Akron on all the types of bonds used by the Court, from which recommendations can be made on more efficient use.
- Pre-Trial Services is working to develop ways to keep up with the investigation and screening needed for the pilot programs, and will be

aided by new personnel hired on grants from the Criminal Justice Services Agency, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

11. CBCF – The Hon. Nancy McDonnell (Common Pleas Court) the CBCF is making swift progress.

- Oriana House has been engaged as planner for the facility and an architect could be on board by the end of the summer.

12. Reentry – Mr. Pokorny said capacity is in place for 100 participants per year.

- Recruitment of participants is slow, and the administration is working with the judges to increase their awareness and use of the re-entry program.
- Dennis Madden (County Administrator) mentioned that the Court's cooperation in the re-entry concept is essential, given the parallel efforts of the BOCC administration to operate the Office of Re-Entry in the County.
- The Court Administration is working with probation officers to make them aware of the re-entry options and to identify possible candidates, as well as mentioning the option to those qualified.

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