

Cuyahoga County Criminal Justice Governing Board
Minutes of the meeting December 9, 2008

1. Call to Order- Commissioner Hagan, welcomed the members and noted that the reform was making good progress.
 - Minutes of the Meeting September, 2008 were approved subject to correction.
 - The chair urged all involved to be aware that there will be a changed atmosphere for reform coming from Congress and the the new administration in Washington, and that leaders should work together to take the utmost advantage of this “friendlier” atmosphere.

2. Community Council/drug court – Carole Rendon (Defense Bar) The council is pursuing plans for the 2009 Drug Court Gala on May 16 and will be seeking partners as well as sponsors for the event.
 - The Council is also working with ISC and participants on a video presentation about the Justice Reform that can be used to promote what has been done, and our continuing efforts. It is critical that the community knows about the reform and the things that have been accomplished. The video should be done by early next year.
 - The Council is working to revamp the reform website, and to upgrade the information on it, including hard numbers on court and other processes, objectives, cost savings, and other information.
 - A discussion ensued as to what information could be presented, including such as ideas as looking at jail populations, and cost benefit analyses, best practices and explanations of overarching philosophies.

3. CBCF – Greg Popovich (Common Pleas Court) said an architect and a operator have been selected, and an RFP is being prepared to recruit a private operator for the facility.
 - The state has been apprized of the progress and is in agreement with the programmatic concepts.
 - Councilwoman Cleaveland is on board and cooperating with the committee.

4. Statistical Reporting – The Court is working to keep probation violation data from skewing the overall data .
 - Commissioner Hagan said perhaps statistical needs should be incorporated into budget discussions so that cost savings may be tracked more accurately

5. Expedited Case Management – Jerry Dowling (Prosecutor’s Office) said the next are of expansion would be East Cleveland, and that when accomplished that would count for 30 percent of the suburbs and 60 percent of the City of Cleveland. The committee is continuing to fine tune the process as the volume of cases increases, and issues occur.
6. Grants – Gary Holland (Department of Justice Affairs) sought Board approval of three resolutions accepting awards and recommendations on use of previously unallocated funds.
7. Pre-Trial Services – Dan Peterca (pre-trial services) said the committee will be meeting in early January to work on identifying populations as early as possible in the process, and in piloting some sites for new screening procedures.
 - The Reform received grants which will enable pre-trial services to hire two specialists to incoming offenders for mental health issues, and potential assignment to mental health court.
8. Re-Entry – Mr. Popovich said the Court’s re-entry program had received grant funding for 2009, and that participants were continuing to be identified and assigned to the system.
 - Mr. Holland said that the Office of re-entry is also gearing up, and that Luis Vazquez had been appointed to coordinate the programming. The Center for Families and Children has been selected as the lead agency to provide services.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Governing Board will be held on March 25, 2009 at 9 a.m. in the Sheriff’s training room of the Justice Center.