



Justice System Reform Governing Board

Minutes from December 16, 2009
9:00 am

1) Call to Order

Commissioner Hagan, welcomed the members, and urged all members to cooperate in adapting to the changes that will be occurring due to the recently- approved changes in government structure. The incoming government may hold the justice sector to a different standard than in the past, and so it is imperative that all stakeholders cooperate for a smooth transition.

2) Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the JSR Governing Board meeting were approved.

3) Discussion of Agenda Items

- **JSR Supervisory Committee**

- The Chair recognized Geoff Mearns, (Dean, CSU Law) chairman of the new JSR Supervisory committee, saying that the group will bring an independent “eye” to planning and evaluating the Reform.
- Mr. Mearns said the group has already met and begun reviewing the Reform report card. The committee will be meeting with agencies and stakeholders in the future, as well as assessing technology issues going forward.

- **Drug Court**

- Hon. Judge David Matia (Common Pleas Court) said there are about 50 defendants in the program now, and the court is working on streamlining intake procedures as well as the issues of provision of medications in treatment facilities.

- **CBCF**

- Ground has been broken for the facility and construction could be complete in about one year.

- **Case Processing Workgroup**

- Greg Popovich (Common Pleas Court) reported that the Court has some issues with the volume of cases, and that may result from further expansion of the the Early Disposition program, and that the jurists would be addressing it in coming weeks.
 - Prosecutor Bill mason said the momentum gathered by the EDP should not be lost, and pledged to work with the jurists to resolve any problems they may have.
 - A discussion ensued in which various problems with the flow of cases through the court were discussed and what the ramifications of a higher volume from expansion of the EDP would be. Judge Matia said the Court should not be blamed for delaying expansion, while Mr. mason said that IT interfaces that would aid the case flow have been made and that the expansion should proceed.
 - Commissioner Hagan said he would be willing to host a meeting with Judges and the Prosecutors to resolve differences on the expansion, while Bob Tobik (Public Defender) said that much progress has been made and that the issues could be worked out.
 - Jerome Dowling (prosecutor’s Office/EDP) offered to meet with any judges at any time in order to keep the program going.
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- **Central Booking Workgroup**
 - Ken Kochevar (Sheriff's Office) reported that The Sheriff is interested in working on a plan to house short-term state felons in the jail instead of shipping them to state facilities. The practice might reduce recidivism, and cut costs in the long run.
- **Reentry**
 - Mr. Popovich reported that the Court reentry program is showing some good signs of success, although with relatively small numbers. About 50 percent of those going through the program are employed.
 - He said the program could be expanded to about 75 participants, especially if funding issues around the administration of medications to those with mental health issues can be resolved.
- **Grants**
 - Hugh Shannon (Justice Affairs) presented the agency's proposed allocations for the \$1.32 million Violence Against Women grant the County has received.
 - Prosecutor Mason moved approval of the allocations, and they were approved.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is March 31, 2010 in the training room of the Justice Center.
