

Cuyahoga County Criminal Justice Governing Board
Minutes of the meeting December 13, 2007

1. Call to Order- Commissioner Hagan, welcomed the members and noted that the reform was making good progress.
 - Minutes of the Meeting September 18 were approved
2. CBCF- Judge Nancy McDonnell (Common Pleas Court) said plans for the new facility were moving ahead quickly.
 - Cleveland City Council has approved rezoning the Croton Road site
 - Councilwoman Phyllis Cleaveland has endorsed the project
 - The next step is to bring a construction advisor for the project, and to begin working with the state on the site requirements
 - The possibility of siting an additional misdemeanor “jail” on the site should be explored, per a request from the County Sheriff.
3. Justice System Reform/Expedited Case Management – Bill Mason (County Prosecutor) gave an update on the pilots and other parts of the reform.
 - The Cleveland Police Division Fourth District will come “onboard in January or February, and is expected to increase greatly the number of cases expedited.
 - The Fourth District contributes about 20% of the crime overall, and thus will pose a challenge for all the agencies concerned, including the shift of resources to handle the increase flow.
 - The Common Pleas Court has modified its reporting to include special data tracking the Parma pilot cases, and will make the data available on a regular basis. Chairman Hagan thanked the Court for its collaboration in the data collection.
 - Mr. Mason suggested that a visiting judge or magistrate be engaged to help with the flow of cases through the arraignment room.
 - Plans to have the progress of the overall reform evaluated to produce a “report card” status report is moving forward, and Cleveland State University is being asked to do the evaluation.
4. Reporting – Thomas Arnaut (Common Pleas Court) explained the modifications being made to create the new tracking report on cases from the pilot communities.
 - End users should be able to track defendants, and analyze and break down data to apply to the overall goals of case management
 - Reports will be forwarded to stakeholders each month.

5. Expedited Case management (Pilot) – Jerome Dowling (County Prosecutor’s Office) said the new reporting data will help greatly in establishing baseline information
 - Preliminary data from Parma show the arrest-to-indictment average being reduced from 31 days for non-pilot cases to 9 days. Average jail days from arrest to indictment was 2.9.
 - About one third of the cases are being processed by way of bills of information, and about 15% of the cases are being referred for diversion programs.

6. Drug Court - Dan Peterca (Pre-Trial Services, proxy for Judge Larry Jones) said if the expansion of the drug court operation is successful, as many as 1,000-1,500 cases could be handled in the new drug court.
 - Eligibility criteria are being studied for the drug court.
 - A fund raising event for the expansion will be organized in April or May
 - A University of Akron study of previous drug court data is showing a 50% reduction in new arrests among drug court participants.

7. Technology Committee – Linda Lingler (CCISC) said progress had been made on a number of technology-related areas.
 - ISC is working on the Prosecutor’s new case management system, and the Sheriff’s office on selecting a phone vendor.
 - ISC is working on wiring the Coroner’s Office and creating a second internet gate
 - The ISC has met with officials of the Euclid Corridor project on the installation of fiber infrastructure in the corridor.
 - The inmate tracking system and first portions of the video-conferencing system are ready to go live.

8. Community Council - Carole Rendon (Defense Bar) said the Council is moving ahead in three areas.
 - Planning and support for the Drug Court expansion fund raiser
 - Its Advocacy workgroup is approaching the Levin School at CSU for help in evaluating the overall progress of the reform (report card).
 - She said the Advocacy work group was also developing a plan for carrying the message of the reform to the public.

9. Forensics – Commander Ed Tomba (CPD) said the forensics work group has rendered its recommendations.
 - A countywide crime laboratory is desirable as a long term goal

- Improvements in the CPDSIU will improve the evidence handling times for weapon and drug testing and could be used by police departments that are currently using the state Bureau of Criminal identification for such testing.

10. Central Booking – Ken Kocevar (Sheriff’s Office) said the search for an appropriate site for Central Booking is ongoing.

- He said the video-conferencing capabilities will go a long way temporarily to establishing “virtual central booking” capabilities
- He said, however that the County should continue to look for a “bricks and mortar” site for central booking to handle the overflows that have been affecting jail operations.

11. 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 with Clerk’s and Prosecutor’s software to integrate them and streamline the document flow.
- Efforts are being made to incorporate Department of Justice Standards for forms with those in use in the county, so as to have one workable system of documents.

12. Pre-Trial Services – Mr. Peterca said working with the Parma pilot is challenging.

- The reduced jail stays of offenders has challenged the ability of PTS to make the same day bond investigations necessary, but so far it has kept pace.
- The greater challenge is to develop screening for offenders with mental health and dual diagnosis issues, that can be completed in time to keep up with the expedited pace of the cases’ progress.

13. Re-Entry – Mr. Pokorny said the Court is hiring a coordinator to run the re-entry court, and that Judge Nancy Margaret Russo will be presiding

- The first participants are expected in January
- Grants may be sought to support more re-entry activities
- Russell Kaye (County Drug Board) said the Greater Cleveland Leadership Coalition is working with the county’s new office of re-entry to secure funding from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services

14. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Governing Board will be March 11, 2008 at 9 a.m.