

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Law & Justice Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes, once approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Law & Justice Committee Minutes
July 25, 2016**

The Law & Justice Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Monday, July 25, 2016 at 6:30pm in the Administration Building's Conference Room East in Sycamore, Illinois. Chairman Frieders called the meeting to order. Those present were Ms. Askins, Mr. Cribben, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mrs. Tobias and Chairman Frieders. Mr. Stoddard was absent. A quorum was established with 6 members present and 1 absent.

Others that were present included Michael Douglas, Margi Gilmour, Thomas McCulloch, Richard Schmack, Judge Stuckert, and Michael Venditti.

APPROVAL OF THE MIINUTES

It was moved by Ms. Tobias and seconded by Ms. Askins to approve the minutes from May 23, 2016. Chairman Frieders asked for a roll call and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Cribben and seconded by Ms. Tobias to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Frieders welcomed everyone that was in attendance.

SOBER LIVING HOUSE UPDATE

Mr. Michael Douglas, Drug Court Administrator referenced the "Sober Living Home Construction Update" document that was distributed to the committee members. Mr. Douglas mentioned that bids for the HVAC work are pending, as the bids initially received are 8 months old and were only valid for 30 days. Mr. Douglas added that final drawing modifications are being made and will be submitted to the contractor so that construction can begin within the next few weeks. The water main / pipe replacement will require IDOT approval, and the hope is that provisional occupancy will be granted in the event there is an IDOT approval delay.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S REPORT

Thomas McCulloch, Public Defender referenced his recently submitted report, stated that cases are moving along promptly and that there is a reduction in the jail population that he credits to a successful pretrial program. Mr. Cribben inquired about the staffing level in the Public Defender's office and Mr. McCulloch mentioned that they lost one person in March to a graduate level program in California. The replacement is a Vanderbilt law school graduate who has relocated to DeKalb and is doing well in the position.

COURT SERVICES' REPORT

Margi Gilmour, Court Services Director referenced the "Itemized Expenses for Dependent Children's Account" report that was distributed to the committee members. Ms. Gilmour stated that there are currently no juveniles awaiting residential placement. She mentioned that detention numbers are up, as there have been a record number of admissions (16) in June, some with serious charges. Ms. Gilmour mentioned that Michael Venditti, Pretrial Services Supervisor has been working with Judge Buick and the Intensive Probation Services (IPS) program in identifying higher risk youth and has started a weekly court call for the youth that are on IPS. She stated that Mr. Venditti is working with the court and his staff to see what can be done to better equip the IPS program to deal with repeat offenders. Ms. Gilmour said that her department is also working in conjunction with the Juvenile Justice Council (JJC) to review gang activity and to evaluate and implement new programming. Mr. Venditti explained that more than half of the admissions to the JJC during the last month have been gang related and that he is collaborating with the head of the JJC as well as research partners to identify evidence-based programming that would be appropriate to implement in DeKalb County with its unique demographics. He referenced the revamping of the IPS program that's underway, with the objective of getting the very high risk youths in front of the court on a more regular basis and ultimately, reducing the time juveniles are spending in the JJC.

Ms. Gilmour and Mr. Venditti provided an overview of the Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) program, outlining that the program is designed to provide intensive therapy to high risk youth and their families and that the program has been supported the last 6 years through an intergovernmental agreement with Kane County. Ms. Gilmour reference the proposed Resolution (R2016-48) that will authorize the continued intergovernmental agreement with Kane County for an additional year, with the objective of obtaining grant sources to allow for a local MST provider after the agreement expires. Ms. Leifheit requested additional details on the proposal. Mr. Venditti outlined that securing a local MST provider will allow for an increased number of juveniles to be serviced, easier access to outcome data and should improve the overall quality of the program. Ms. Gilmour added that an objective of the program is to better equip the family in setting parameters and to hold the youth accountable. Ms. Gilmour asked for the support of the committee in bringing the Resolution to the DeKalb County Board for approval.

It was moved by Ms. Askins and seconded by Ms. Leifheit and carried unanimously to forward the proposed Resolution R2016-48, authorizing the intergovernmental agreement with Kane County for the provision of multi-systemic therapy to juveniles and their families to the County Board, recommending its approval.

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PRETRIAL ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Gilmour prefaced Mr. Venditti's presentation by stating that one of Mr. Venditti's strengths is his thorough understanding of the pretrial program and his ability to understand the importance of various data points in measuring the success of the program. She expressed a high level of confidence in the data and in the information contained in his presentation.

Mr. Venditti presented "DeKalb County Pretrial Services – 2 Year Review". ([A copy of the presentation is included with these minutes.](#))

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Venditti stated that Pretrial Services is unable to supervise the current number of defendants in addition to completing bond reports, unless resources are allocated to fund an additional position. He mentioned that he is appreciative of the County Board's and committee's support and the opportunity to serve the County. Mr. Venditti urged the committee to consider making a further investment in the program that he feels will result in a savings for the County in excess of a million dollars annually.

Ms. Tobias asked if all counties within the state have a Pretrial Services program. Mr. Venditti responded that they do not, and mentioned that the DeKalb County program is helping to lead the charge statewide and to a certain extent, nationwide.

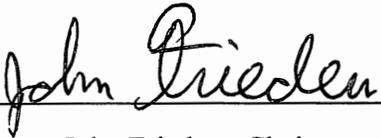
Ms. Gilmour stated that she will be formally requesting the additional personnel via her budget request. She mentioned that there aren't subsidies available from the state and that adding personnel is critical for the success of the program.

Judge Stuckert mentioned that an initiative of the Illinois supreme court is bail reform and the adoption of pretrial risk assessment programs. She stated that Pretrial Services will become a normal part of how business is conducted in the state of Illinois. Judge Stuckert said that Mr. Venditti is considered a leader in this state with regard to Pretrial Services programming and additionally, other states call him for information and advice. Judge Stuckert stated that DeKalb County is fortunate to have such a strong program.

Mr. Venditti commented that the investment in Pretrial Services has yielded significant returns, as the program has saved the County a half million dollars in under two years of operation and is projected to save the County 1 million dollars with the addition of just one more staff member. Mr. Venditti stated that he is very willing to make himself available to discuss the proposal further, if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Leifheit moved to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Ms. Little. The motion carried unanimously.



John Frieders, Chairman



Christie Klein, Recording Secretary