

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

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Law & Justice Committee Minutes
March 28, 2016**

The Law and Justice Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Frieders called the meeting to order. Those present were Ms. Askins, Mr. Cribben, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Stoddard, Mrs. Tobias, and Chairman Frieders. A quorum was established with all seven Members present.

Others present were Margi Gilmour, Honorable Judge Robbin Stuckert, Richard Schmack, and Jackie Schmack.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Ms. Askins and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from February 22, 2016.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mrs. Tobias, seconded by Ms. Little and it was carried unanimously by voice vote to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments made by the public.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S REPORT

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Defender's Report for February 2016. No additional comments were made.

COURT SERVICES REPORT

DeKalb County Court Services Director Margi Gilmour presented and placed on file her monthly reports with the Committee. She additionally shared that one juvenile that has been in residential placement was successfully released last week. Ms. Gilmour noted that the monthly adult report was showing numbers that are typical for the time of year and there were 27 new active cases in the month of February and had 16 successful terminations. The office in general is keeping very busy but it has not been unmanageable with their resources. There were 7,000 community services hours order in February and a little over 3,700 were completed, which is not bad for February, Ms. Gilmour noted.

Ms. Gilmour additionally noted that she is very pleased with the direction the Pretrial Program is heading and she reviewed the February report with the Committee. She believes they are doing what the program was designed to do and they are seeing low-risk clients getting out of the County Jail much quicker than in the past, especially due to the change of the 1 p.m. bond call. She also shared that when the Department presents their Annual Pretrial Report to the Committee

it will be shown that DeKalb County's statistics are well under the national average as far as new offenses and failures to appear.

The Committee and Ms. Gilmour spent a little time discussing staff with the Pretrial Program. Ms. Gilmour noted that they are very busy. On average the Pretrial Officers are doing at least 6-8 reports a day and since the bond call time moved they are having to get those out quicker. The vision for the future is that the program will grow and they will deal with that when the time comes but as of right now the program is manageable with the staff that they have.

Chairman Frieders wanted to commend the County and the individuals involved with the Pretrial Program because it seems to be a real success so far and everyone has done a great job with it. The Honorable Judge Stuckert additionally spoke regarding changing Judge's perceptions or bail report and Pretrial evidence-based services.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT UPDATE

The Honorable Judge Stuckert joined the Committee to provide a status update regarding the Mental Health Court and the current lack of funding coming from the State for the launching of the Court. She continued that the County has received a grant that would pay for a counselor as well as another case manager in order to be able to have a Mental Health Court. The Judge noted that she just received last week the status update from Adult Redeploy Illinois and wanted to share it with the Committee it read: "As of March 2016, Adult Redeploy Illinois site have been operating eight months without state funds. Sites report impacts on people and programs and blow are our results of a survey of sites. Of the twenty-one sites, many face challenges in serving clients, maintaining fidelity to evidence-based practices, and meeting their contractual goals."

The Judge added that in order to keep the funds from Adult Redeploy Illinois, the Courts are to keep individuals out of prison, because that is the sole purpose of the program. So when the Courts contract with the grant, they have to have a percentage of all of their people not go to prison. If the goal is not met then the County may be responsible for paying those grant dollars back to the State. With the State budget impasse, monies have been tied up that would assist in helping employ a counselor which is needed to run the Mental Health Court and aid in keeping up with the goals of the Redeploy Illinois Grant.

Judge Stuckert continued that eight sites state that they may not meet their goals to reduce prison population, nine programs have stopped or decreased program enrollment, eight programs have laid off or lost thirteen total staff through March 2016, eleven sites reported a direct and measurable impact on clients, reduced access to services, decreased supervision and monitoring, change in probation officers and treatment providers, increased jail time, and non-cognitive behavioral therapy. Last quarter these eleven site served 638 prison-bound defenders and six sites plan to drastically alter, suspend or close programs by June 30, 2016. Kane County closed their program as of December 31, 2015.

With this information that was received from Adult Redeploy Illinois, they have also noted that they are wanting County Courts to refresh their grants and to provide additional information to them, although no one has provided any indication that those grants are actually going to be forthcoming.

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Judge Stuckert noted that even if they were to secure Adult Redeploy Illinois Grant monies, she questions how secure those funds will be in the future. Some Mental Health Courts are currently only running because County Boards are funding them in the interim. The original grant that was awarded to the County was for about \$135,000 but none of those funds have ever been allocated.

The Judge shared she believe everyone within the County and out in the Community are on the same page and the need for a Mental Health Court has been identified, it is just how are they going to fund a program such as this. She also spent a little time explaining how Drug/DUI Courts are run completely differently than a Mental Health Court.

Judge Stuckert and other staff have had the opportunity to visit some surrounding Mental Health Courts to see how they are being run and an advantage that some counties have is they have a County Health Department that has staffed counselors and psychiatrists. DeKalb County would have to run their Court much different and plan to visit McLean County in the near future to see how they are running with having to go through private agencies to fill those positions. One interesting feature they have found in most Mental Health Courts is the staffing is comprised of one Registered Nurse that works along with a psychiatrist.

Judge Stuckert shared that she hopes to come back in the near future with better news but as of right now they will continue to get everything in line and hope that the grant money from the State is freed up soon.

The Committee lastly reviewed what took places at the recent Dispatch Meeting that took place with the Rural Police and Fire Districts. The Chairman noted that all in all the meeting was receptive and there is to be the first of what they hope will be monthly "User Meeting" that will continue to address issues the Fire Districts have and will additionally finalize their contract provisions regarding paying for dispatch services.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Ms. Askins, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.


Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,


Chairman John Frieders

2016 Pretrial YTD Information

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bond Investigations Completed												
Felony	28	39										
Misdemeanor	24	33										
Released on Pre-Trial Supervision												
Felony	19	20										
Misdemeanor	3	7										
Released with no Pre-trial Supervision (Including those who posted)												
Felony	13	29										
Misdemeanor	19	22										
Active Pre-Trial Supervision Cases												
Felony	122	136										
Misdemeanor	30	37										
Violations Reported												
Rules Violation	1	6										
Failure to Appear	0	0										
New Offense	3	8										
Violations Revoked												
Rules Violation	0	0										
Failure to Appear	0	0										
New Offense	0	2										
Successful Terminations	8	5										

Cost Avoidance

The Pre-Trial program was operational as of June 9, 2014.

From 6/9/14 - 3/9/16, 312 individuals were released from custody and placed on pre-trial supervision for a total of 48,778 days.

We can't definitively say the pre-trial program is the only element responsible for the release of those individuals, as other factors may be involved. However, prior to the implementation of the pre-trial program the court did not have the benefit of the bond investigation reports with verified information to include a risk assessment or the ability to order individuals released to report to the Pre-Trial Officers for supervision while out on bond.