



Dave Heineman
Governor

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
(Nebraska Crime Commission)

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December 30, 2005

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

The Community Corrections Council (Council) met Friday, December 30, 2005, 9:00 a.m., at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was open to the public and was preceded by advance publicized notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Members present:

Scot L. Adams
Mike Behm
William Burgess
Ellen Brokofsky
Catherine Cook
The Honorable Karen B. Flowers
Dr. Aileen Gruendel
Robert Houston
The Honorable John P. Icenogle
Joe Kelly
Robert Lindemeier
Jim McKenzie
Senator John Syowiecki
Janice Walker
Senator Kermit A. Brashear, Chair

Members absent:

Esther Casmer
Julie Hippen
Nancy Montanez

Council staff present:

Linda Krutz, Executive Director
Julie L. Rogers

Others present:

Jeff Beaty
Robert Bell
Shannon Black
Scott Carlson
Michael Flood
Aaron Hendry
Liz Hruska
Frank Jenson
Doug Koebernick
John Krejci
Rochelle Mallet
John McVay
Tom Nesbitt
Jim Pieper
T. Hank Robinson
Steve Rowoldt
Kristine Salvatore
Jessica Watson
Larry Wayne
Dave Wegner
Don Wesley

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Chairperson Brashear called the Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and gave an overview of the meeting. Attendance is indicated above. Expected absences were announced.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Two corrections were made to the minutes of the December 16, 2005. The minutes stood approved as corrected.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FEE REPORT

There was no new report.

TARGET POPULATION REPORT

There was no new report. Mike Behm, Crime Commission Executive Director, reported that "felony drug offender" on the Target Population Report is defined as "an offender admitted (probation, dcs, jail) with at least one felony drug offense."

TIMELINE

The 2006 Timeline was reviewed.

PROBATION FEE PROPOSAL

Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky, Probation Administrator, requested that the Council approve the spending of additional Probation fees for the purpose of Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision program training costs. \$78,000 has already been approved by the Council for specialized training. The additional training costs were provided to the Council at \$141,836. The 6-week intensive specialized training begins the first week in January 2006 and includes training on evidence-based practices, offender management, criminal thinking, and substance abuse/behavioral health treatment. All probation personnel are not able to be trained during this 6-week course, but the hope is that the rest of the training will occur this summer.

Council member Bill Burgess *made a motion to approve Probation's request to spend \$141,836 on Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision intensive training.* The motion was seconded by Mike Behm and approved.

SPECIALIZED SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPERVISION (SSAS) - PROBATION & PAROLE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Steve Rowoldt, Lancaster County Chief Probation Officer, and Jim McKenzie, Parole Administrator, presented a PowerPoint of the draft memorandum of understanding regarding how Probation and Parole will work together in coordinating the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision program (SSAS) between agencies. The memorandum is presently in draft form and will be signed by the appropriate parties after approval by each agency.

SSAS officers' case levels will be controlled—each will be limited to a certain number of offenders to supervise. Concern was raised that offenders on parole participating in SSAS will count against that caseload.

SPECIALIZED COURT START-UPS

Janice Walker, State Court Administrator, and Scott Carlson, Statewide Coordinator for Problem-Solving Courts, presented a PowerPoint of a request to utilize probation program cash fund monies to support problem-solving court start-ups.

Discussion of the proposal included concerns about:

- The process of letting communities know what is available,
- Balancing the Council providing support and partnering with the courts and the community with the sustainability of funding from fees only,
- Not allowing all funding to be tied to one source,
- Creating a vision of how such start-ups should operate,
- Establishing a system that does not lose creativity or leadership, and
- Assessing the true effectiveness of drug courts.

It was suggested that inter-locals be utilized to help start-ups as there is a difference between providing seed money for planning, organizing, and starting a specialized court and the continued sustainability of funding the operations such a court. Local entities—the judge in particular—ought to be invited to present their plan, specifically that they have an inter-local agreement with Probation; their budget, including what is needed to get their specialized court started; and what they have done to move the process forward, including identification and action taken to secure other sources for start-up funding.

This process will be considered a pending matter, processes will be developed, and it will be an Agenda item for the next Council meeting.

The Council recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

STANDARDIZED MODEL – SUPREME COURT RULE

Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky, Probation Administrator, explained that the Nebraska Supreme Court has officially approved the Standardized Model, the model was sent out in the Court's administrative memo this month. Fabian-Brokofsky also explained the model's key components as described in the material included in the Council's materials.

COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STANDARDIZED MODEL

Aileen Gruendel, Ph.D., presented a PowerPoint regarding the various levels of training of psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers in mental health and diagnosis and treatment; legislative bills regarding the former Substance Abuse Task Force as well as the Council; and current statutes related to alcohol and drug counseling. Dr. Gruendel supplemented her presentation with a handout titled "Considerations for the protocol for the Standardized Model" and concluded by answering questions regarding the material presented.

METHAMPHETAMINE TREATMENT STUDY PRIORITIES

T. Hank Robinson, PhD., University of Nebraska—Omaha (UNO), presented a PowerPoint and discussed the implementation plan, including legislative and funding priorities, based on the Methamphetamine Treatment Study. Best practices and "Phase I" implementation were detailed. Discussion surrounded the need for treatment beds within the Department of Correctional Services in addition to community-based treatment availability.

The Council recessed for lunch at 12:15 and reconvened at 12:45.

2006 PROPOSED COUNCIL LEGISLATION

The Council reviewed the draft 2006 legislation including proposed Constitutional Amendments that would further specify the separation of powers clause of the Nebraska Constitution, appropriations requests, details of creating a reentry court, and changes to the proposed Criminal Justice Partnership Act. The bills will go through the drafting office, be introduced, and continue through the legislative process as the Council continues to meet.

CONCLUDING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is Friday, January 27, 2006, 9:00 a.m., in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie L. Rogers