

**Lincoln, Nebraska
March 16, 2007**

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL
*MEETING MINUTES***

The Community Corrections Council (Council) met Friday, March 16, 2007, 9:00 a.m., at the Embassy Suites, 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
Esther Casmer
Catherine Cook
Jeff Davis
Thomas Dorwart
Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky
Robert Houston
The Honorable John P. Icenogle
Joe Kelly
Jim McKenzie
Senator John Synowiecki
Janice Walker
Kermit A. Brashear, Chair

Others present:

Toni Ahrendt
Bruce Ayers
Scott Carlson
Gene Cotter
Mike Dunkle
John Krejci
Patricia Langer
Ed Lankas
Gale Jungemann-Schulz
Deb Minardi
Connie Nemec
Mike Overton
Christine Salvatore
Larry Wayne
Dave Wegner

Members absent:

The Honorable Karen Flowers
Julie Hippen
Bob Lindemeier
Senator Dwite Pedersen

Council Staff Present:

Linda Krutz, Executive Director
Julie Rogers
Jennifer Doné

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Chairperson Brashear called the Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., announced that the meeting is subject to the Open Meetings act, and gave an overview of the meeting. Attendance is indicated above.

Chairperson Brashear welcomed Thomas Dorwart as a new at large member of the Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 15, 2006, meeting were approved as presented.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FEE REPORT

Bruce Ayers of the Crime Commission reviewed the Community Corrections Fees Report, the Financial Report for FY 05/06 and 06/07 and the Summary of Probation and Parole Funding. A "Comparison of Fees Reports" was added to the Community Corrections Fees Report. This shows a comparison of the fees report from July 1, 2006, to November 30, 2006, with the fees report from July 1, 2006, to February 28, 2007.

TARGET POPULATION REPORT & SSAS UPDATE

Mike Dunkle of the Crime Commission presented the Target Population Report, the Year End 2006 Analysis, and a draft of the Community Corrections Data Report. In 2006, a total of 669 Felony Drug Offenders were sentenced to the Department of Corrections (DCS). Compared to 771 Felony Drug Offenders sentenced to DCS in 2005, that is a decrease of 102 Felony Drug Offenders. The total number of Felony Drug Offenders sentenced to Probation increased from 488 in 2005 to 525 in 2006. The total number of Felony Drug Offenders granted Parole increased from 345 in 2005 to 437 in 2006. It was requested that the Target Population Report include Parole violations. Dunkle will work with DCS staff to include this data in future reports.

The Community Corrections Data Report is a new report being developed which includes statistics for Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS), Fee for Service Voucher Program, Day and Evening Reporting Centers, and Problem-Solving Courts.

TIMELINE

The 2007 Timeline was reviewed and approved as presented.

COUNCIL REORGANIZATION & MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

In accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, a motion was made by Jim McKenzie and seconded by Mike Behm to enter into closed session to prevent needless injury to the reputation of an individual, while the Council discussed membership issues. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Brashear requested that only Council members and staff remain in the room during closed session which began at 9:39 a.m.

Thomas Dorwart *made a motion to return to open session at 10:03 a.m. Catherine Cook seconded the motion and the motion passed.*

Joe Kelly *made a motion for Chairperson Brashear to continue serving on the Council and as Chair. Jim McKenzie seconded the motion and the motion passed.*

Council staff will develop a draft of Council membership organization policies to present at the next Council meeting.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS REPORT

Deb Minardi, Community Corrections Programs Coordinator, presented the Community Corrections Programs Report which depicted how each of the eight evidence-based principles for effective intervention, as developed by the National Institute of Corrections and the National Institute of Justice, is being utilized in community corrections programming.

The Vera Institute of Justice conducted an evaluation of the Intensive Supervision Probation process and impact from September 2006 through January 2007. The evaluation results indicated a favorable impression of the ISP program within the justice system, correct targeting of high-risk offenders, and 75% of ISP offenders remain arrest free.

Probation will be contracting with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center to conduct a Drug Court Risk Study. The study will focus on Drug Court participant's characteristics, program implementation, outcomes, and cost.

Plans for the fourth quarter of the 05/06 fiscal year include: expand SSAS target population to be consistent with the Fee for Service Voucher Treatment program; implement ISP program modifications; complete Fee for Service Voucher Treatment program automation; evaluate incentive and SCRAM pilot studies; train non-probation drug courts on Fee for Service Voucher Treatment program; and integrate Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) and Motivational Interviewing (MI) training statewide.

The spring Probation conference, "The Community Corrections Addiction and Treatment: An Effective Strategy for Crime Control Conference" is scheduled for May 21-23.

SSAS OFFICER PERSPECTIVE

Gene Cotter, a Lancaster County Probation Officer in the SSAS program, spoke about his experience as a probation officer for the last seventeen years. Cotter, who has been working with the SSAS program since December 2005, stated that he is very excited about the new programming and shared success stories of offenders who have gone through the SSAS program.

LETTER OF GRANT SUPPORT – DRUG COURT DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM

Linda Krutz received a request for grant support from Scott Carlson, Statewide Coordinator for Problem-Solving Courts, for the Bureau of Justice Assistance Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program. The Grant Review Support Committee convened to discuss the request, and all members of the committee agreed to support the grant. The letter of support was distributed to Council members.

OFFENDER SELECTION WORKSHEET & PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION

Dave Wegner spoke about the Offender Selection Worksheet (OSW) and PreSentence Investigation (PSI). The OSW was designed as a targeting tool to identify offenders appropriate for Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP) program and the Work Ethic Camp (WEC). The OSW scoring is based on criminal history and offender needs. Probation has contracted with Dr. Patricia Hardyman from the Criminal Justice Institute to validate the OSW. Dr. Hardyman interviewed Probation Officers and observed OSW processes. A steering committee was developed to review the current OSW process and give feedback to Dr. Hardyman. Based on the input received from the steering committee, a reliability study was initiated in December 2006. The reliability study indicated staff is interpreting the data provided by the OSW accurately. Once the OSW validation report is completed, Probation will begin working on a recidivism study.

DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL SURVEY REPORT

The Final Report of the District Court Judicial Survey 2006 was distributed. The Council surveyed the District Court Judges in order to collect their opinions about the availability, accessibility, and affordability of community-based resources to offenders. The Final Report includes numerically scored items, an analysis of answers to open ended questions, and a comparison of numerically scored items by rural/urban and Judicial District. Forty-two out of 55 District Court Judges completed the survey.

SENTENCING GUIDELINES FOR FELONY DRUG OFFENDERS – PETITION THE SUPREME COURT FOR RULE ADOPTION

A petition was filed with the Supreme Court for rule adoption of voluntary sentencing guidelines for felony drug offenders. A public hearing has been scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, 2007, in the Supreme Court Courtroom. Comments will be taken until Monday, April 16, 2007.

2007 LEGISLATION

Bruce Ayers distributed a handout of the Community Corrections Council Budget and Supreme Court/Probation Budget which included 06/07 appropriations and the Governor's recommendations for 07/08 and 08/09. Ellen Brokofsky stated that Probation requested funds for expansion of the SSAS program and Day and Evening Reporting Centers in Columbus, Norfolk, Grand Island, and either North Platte or Scottsbluff. Also requested were several additions to the Intensive Supervision Probation program. Due to the Governor's flatline budget plan for the upcoming biennium, Probation's plans may be postponed.

COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION STRATEGY

The Council will work on creating policies for communicating with the press and the public. The progress will be a regular agenda item.

Jeff Davis asked that Law Enforcement be included in the education and communication of Council activities and progress.

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS & VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE PROJECT

Nebraska was chosen by the Pew Charitable Trusts, with support from the Vera Institute of Justice, to be one of eight states to receive direct assistance in developing policies and programs to protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control corrections costs.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one came forward to give public testimony.

CONCLUDING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is Friday, April 20, 2007, 9:00 a.m., in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer K. Doné