

**Lincoln, Nebraska
March 18, 2011**

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL
*MEETING MINUTES***

The Community Corrections Council (Council) met Friday, Friday, March 18, 2011, at Bryan LGH College of Health Sciences, Room 200, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was open to the public and was preceded by advance publicized notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Members present:

Scot Adams, Chair
Jeff Davis
Eleanor Devlin
Thomas Dorwart
Ellen Fabian Brokofsky
Cathy Gibson-Beltz
Robert Houston
John P. Icenogle, Vice-Chair
Frank Peak

Council Staff present:

Tia Bachman
Jeff Beaty
Mike Dunkle
Linda Krutz

Members absent:

Mike Behm
Esther Casmer
Brenda Council
Darrell Fisher
Karen Flowers
Robert Lindemeier
Dallas Massey
Travis Parker
Pete Pirsch
Janice Walker

Others present:

Jacki Allensworth
Amy Birky
John Krejci
LaMont Rainey
Steve Rowoldt
Marge Schlitt
Dave Sinnott

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, & OVERVIEW

Scot Adams, Director, Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Chair, called the Council meeting to order at 9:11 a.m., announced the meeting is subject to the Open Meetings Act and gave an overview of the meeting. Attendance is indicated above. Due to the lack of a quorum, no votes or official actions could be taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Krejci, Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Social Work, and writer for the Nebraska Criminal Justice Review (NCJR), presented draft articles on Legislative Bill (LB) 390 to be published in the March edition of NCJR.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 18, 2011 meeting minutes were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

INTEGRATED WORK PLAN

Jeff Beaty, Policy Analyst, Council, discussed the *Community Corrections Council Integrated Work Plan*. Parole and Probation have completed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that allows shared supervision of offenders who are predominately located in the larger territories that have fewer officers. The task of developing incentives for parole eligible offenders to complete programming was finalized with the passage of LB 191. The Justice Behavioral Health Committee (JBHC), Data Sub-committee, is currently working to establish an integrated data system through the Nebraska Probation Application for Community Safety (NPACS) and the Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS). Data could also be captured with the Fee for Service Voucher (Voucher) program. However, the Voucher program does not encompass all offenders.

Council staff is also progressing on the task to conduct regular evaluations of community corrections programs. The Community Corrections Council Evaluation and Research Steering Committee has tentatively identified the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) program as ready for an outcome evaluation. Bob Houston, Director of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), said a study could also be conducted on parolees' risk factors, crime categories and programming, and the data could be used to substantiate the need for increased community programs. Frank Peak, Ph.D., M.S., Administrator for Partnership in Health, Creighton University Medical Center, said focus groups could also be used to obtain data.

Beaty then discussed the Platte Institute for economic research policy study "Controlling Costs and Protecting Public Safety in The Cornhusker State". The report focuses on how to control criminal justice costs during difficult economic times. Recommendations from the study parallel many of the items outlined in the Work Plan as needing to be completed.

Members discussed the future role of the Council and how it could become an independent executive branch group that advises the judicial, executive and legislative branches on criminal justice policy decisions. The Council could study the impact of legislation, review treatment needs and treatment gaps, suggest how and what should be paid for, and create their own legislation to support initiatives.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 390

Linda Krutz, Executive Director, Council, discussed LB 390. All sub-committees of the Council would remain to be facilitated by Council staff. The elimination of the Jail Standards Board and the Jail Standards Division, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (NCC), has been removed from LB 390. The bill is still in committee and has been prioritized by Speaker Mike Flood.

Ellen Fabian Brokofsky, Probation Administrator, discussed the need for JBHC, a sub-committee of the Council, to continue. If JBHC ceases to be administered through the Council, an option would be to house it under Probation, the Courts, or DHHS.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Beaty gave an update on the LB's affecting the Council and said the final day for committee hearings was March 14, 2011.

LB 133, introduced by Senator Brad Ashford, will require the Office of Probation Administration to include sentencing costs in presentence investigation reports. The bill is held in committee and has not been prioritized.

LB 191, introduced by Senator Brenda Council, increases the amount of good time earned by inmates within DCS who demonstrate good behavior for 12 consecutive months. The bill has passed and became law on March 16, 2011.

LB 201, introduced by Senator Council, increases the one-time probation enrollment fee from \$30 to \$55. The monthly supervision fee also increases from \$25 to \$50 for individuals placed on traditional probation and from \$35 to \$60 for intensive supervised probation. The bill is held in committee and has not been prioritized.

LB 450, introduced by Senator Ashford, extends the Nebraska Supreme Courts' authority to utilize the Probation Program Cash Fund until 2013 to ensure the functioning of the courts. The bill is held in committee and has not been prioritized.

Beaty also discussed the LB's that increase criminal penalties by creating new offenses or changing the definition of current offenses. Three LB's that affect penalties for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) have been prioritized. Members then discussed the LB's that create the mandatory installation and use of Ignition Interlock for DUI offenders and the fiscal impact it will have on Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (CAM).

A 10 minute break was called by Adams.

The Council reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

EVALUATION FEASIBILITY REPORT

Krutz discussed the feasibility of conducting an evaluation on the SSAS program. Probation, Parole, and Problem Solving Courts were contacted to determine if there is a need for the funds prior to conducting an evaluation. Probation and Council staff identified \$70,000 in data projects and \$30,000 in pre-evaluation data cleaning projects that can be completed prior to June 30, 2011.

Mike Dunkle, Systems Analyst, NCC, said pre-evaluation work on the database would determine if data is available for an evaluation and assist in determining outcomes. The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) Public Policy Center, and University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) were contacted to determine the feasibility of conducting and evaluation prior to June 30, 2011. Council staff will coordinate with Probation to develop scope for an evaluation that will begin on July 1, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:16 a.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting is Friday, May 13, 2011, at Bryan LGH College of Health Sciences, Lincoln, NE. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tia M. Bachman
Administrative Assistant