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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Law & Justice Committee Minutes
March 23, 2015**

The Law and Justice Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Frieders called the meeting to order. Those present were Ms. Marjorie Askins, Mr. Dan Cribben, Ms. Dianne Leifheit, and Ms. Maureen Little, Mr. Paul Stoddard, and Mrs. Ruth Anne Tobias. All seven members were present.

Others present were Margi Gilmour, Representative Robert Pritchard, Steve Reid, Jim Luebke, Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Howard Solomon, Steve Kapitan, Cecilia Meyer, Rev. William Moore, Rev. Jane Ann Moore, and Bonnie Moskita.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Ms. Askins and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from February 23, 2015.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Frieders shared that he would like to move item #7: Resolution Regarding Reform of the Criminal Justice System to the top of the agenda.

It was moved by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Ms. Askins and it was carried unanimously by voice vote to approve the agenda as amended.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING REFORM OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM –
STEVE REID**

Mr. Steve Reid shared with the Committee that he had prepared a sample of a resolution for them to review which he would also like to propose for them to forward to the full County Board recommending approval. Mr. Reid continued to share that his sample indicated that: "U.S. prison populations have increased from 300,000 in 1973 to 2,200,000 today. American has the highest percentage of incarcerated people in the world. The DeKalb County Board recognizes that the Illinois Criminal Code has doubled in 20 years. We recognize that some of our law have become costly unfunded mandates for federal, state, and local governments as our justice system has become a growth industry. Being "tough on crime" is politically popular but politicians need to find that political will to admit past mistakes and to make the necessary changes. Our state and federal legislators need to consider reforming the criminal code and sentencing before adding to it. Illinois should reform its mandatory minimum sentences, as other states have already done. Mandatory sentencing can undermine our judge's authority. We urge our legislators to recognize that our justice system can't solve all of our society's problems. Does anyone believe that this is the best way to deliver the services for the mentally ill? There are also serious social justice

issues regarding our criminal justice system and there is also strong economic reasons for fixing this broken system. To continue the failed policies of the past is an unwise use of resources and poor public policy. The U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. President, and Governor Rauner have urged reform of our criminal justice system. However, Congress and our state legislators make the law and must fix them. It is time for reform and the DeKalb County Board hereby urges our legislators to do so in a timely fashion.”

Mr. Reid also mentioned to the Committee that there were members of the Interfaith Network present and they are all currently very involved in these issues and the negative consequences of a system that is unsustainable and not working for the public. He added that he hopes that people will get involved and see that the time is right for reform and that DeKalb County can get together with other local governments to pressure the legislature.

Chairman Frieders shared that the Committee would be happy to hear any comments from the members of the Interfaith Network that were present regarding this topic.

Rev. Jane Ann Moore expressed her thoughts regarding the need for reform within the criminal justice system and Rev. Bill Moore echoed those thoughts and added an invitation for everyone to join them on March 24th at NIU for a program/presentation “Caring for Incarcerated People & Their Families”. Rev. Moore continued that their goals are to not only find way to lessen the laws help facilitate the reduction of incarcerated people but to also help people who are returning into the community.

Ms. Bonnie Moskita spoke regarding her personal interests with criminal reform and “Black Box” movement. Mr. Howard Solomon shared that with the proposed budget ahead of everyone large deficits are going to have to be addressed and while you can use reserves for the time being, it will never be a sustainable way to go. He continued that we need a source of money and a source of money that is readily at hand is going to be found through humane treatment of our incarcerated persons in a way that gets them out so that we do not have to spend fifteen times as much per person as we put in prisons as we spend on every student. Mr. Solomon noted that right now we have a school to prison pipeline and that needs to be reversed.

Mr. Reid reiterated that what he would like to see from the Committee is an effort to move a resolution forward and to place the issue on the County’s Legislative Agenda and work on this movement with other communities and really put political pressure on our state and federal legislators.

Chairman Frieders introduced Illinois Representative Mr. Robert Pritchard and shared that Rep. Pritchard was invited to the meeting to listen and help share any thoughts he may have on the issue of reforming the criminal justice system.

Representative Pritchard shared that the issue of criminal reform is a very ripe topic for discussion down in Springfield right now. The Governor has come out very clearly early on saying that we need to stop all laws that increase the time of incarceration. There is currently a commitment within the Criminal Justice Committee and the Justice Criminal Law Committee to

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take a strong look at any new Bills that would deal with increased sentence time and they are also looking at some reforms. Rep. Pritchard also shared that a Task Force has also been created this year, which he had attended one of the sessions this past year, which was looking at the issue of recidivism.

Representative Pritchard noted that the solution to these issues are not only going to be looking at the sentence time, but also they need to be looking at what happens to individuals when they are incarcerated. He continued that he thinks that is going to be the hope for the future, that when they can reduce the high recidivism rate, they are going to be able to stop the cycle. If they are able to stop the cycle, then that is where the savings is going to start to come in and be able to use those funds to help the other social needs within our society.

Rep. Pritchard reiterated that he thinks this is the right issue and the Governor is right on board and there are several Task Forces. He also believe that legislators are starting to get it but everyone's voice helps and he encourages whether it be a County Board resolution or not, to at least contact your personal legislators to talk about what the solutions are.

Representative Pritchard also took a few minutes to discuss Governor Rauner's introduced FY 2016 budget. He explained that what he has assured many other groups that he has talked to that this is just a starting point to make a line in the sand that says, "We can no longer spend more money that we have revenue." He again encouraged everyone to put on their creative hats and think about those issues of unfunded mandated and unnecessary regulations that are imposed on Counties and in finding solutions that will get everyone back on a sound fiscal pattern.

Mr. Stoddard asked what would be the best route for them to take in order to try and move people in Springfield. Representative Pritchard noted that resolutions, letters, and more depending on the legislator all work. He continued that certainly groups like the County Board as a whole and possibly teaming with other County Boards would make a movement which make a larger impression. Representative Pritchard also suggested putting real numbers and costs before people in order for legislators to start connecting the dots to find larger cost savings.

The Committee discussed how to obtain information and real numbers in order to compile statistics that would be prudent to DeKalb County. Ms. Little added that a very jarring statistic is how much more money is put into incarcerated individuals as opposed to school children.

Representative Pritchard and the Committee additionally discussed briefly mental health issues within the prison and county jail systems. Many of the audience members also spoke to the need in the community for having a mental health facility.

Chairman Frieders noted that this subject is definitely something that will continue to keep researching and try to move this issue forward to the full County Board. He also announced that he appreciates everyone's input on the topic and gave a big thank you to Representative Pritchard for joining them.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no persons from the public that were present to address the Law & Justice Committee.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S REPORT

The Committee reviewed the monthly Public Defender's Report and noted that the department was still on track with having more cases closed than opened in the month of February.

COURT SERVICES REPORTS – MS. MARGI GILMOUR

Ms. Margi Gilmour, Director of the County's Court Service Department reviewed her monthly reports with the Committee. She noted that most of the reports are still pretty standing for the beginning of the year. Community Service numbers are still as busy as ever, there were 10,600 hours ordered and 4,854 hours completed.

Mr. Gilmour also reviewed her new Pretrial Report to the Committee. The report depicts the statistics per month for the Pretrial Program and Ms. Gilmour shared that the program remains very busy and are continuing to work towards a true Pretrial Program model.

Ms. Little asked if they have changed the time of Bond Call yet to the afternoon. Ms. Gilmour answered not yet and something like that will probably take a little more work.

Pretrial Programs are definitely in the spotlight right now nationwide and Ms. Gilmour noted to the Committee that the Administrative Office is coming to observe DeKalb County's Pretrial Program and Bond Call in April.

The Committee again took some time to discuss individuals who are incarcerated or come into the judicial system who have mental health issues.

The Committee revisited item #7: Resolution Regarding Reform of the Criminal Justice System. Mr. Reid reiterated that he would like the Committee to forward a resolution to the full County Board supporting the reform of the criminal justice system.

The majority of the Committee agreed that they would be in favor of forwarding a resolution to the full County Board supporting criminal justice reform. Mr. Cribben noted that he would like to have some additional time to think about how he feels about the topic. He shared that he understands conceptually where everyone is going with this but safety and security of our community is foremost in his mind and he is not wanting to buy into this concept totally without take some additional time to think it through.

Mr. Stoddard noted that looking at Mr. Reid's sample resolution, he would like to see some additional real specifics and numbers that pertain to DeKalb County. Mr. Stoddard also added that they have a change to make a difference in the way the State approaches the problem, so he would really like to see this geared towards Illinois and to the impact all of this has on them specifically.

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The Committee agreed that they would like get rewrite or add to the resolution for it to have more specifics. Mr. Stoddard volunteered to work towards gathering some of the information to construct a resolution. Ms. Gilmour added that should could obtain some statistics that might be of help to the Committee as well.

The consensus of the Committee was between now and their next meeting, information and statistics would be gathered in order to be able to construct a resolution that the Committee would forward to the full County Board recommending their approval.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Chairman John Frieders


Tasha Stogsdill, Recording Secretary

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TO: LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE
DEKALB COUNTY BOARD
DEKALB COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**REPORT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER
MONTH OF Feb 2015**

The Undersigned Public Defender for DeKalb County, Illinois, pursuant to statute in such cases made and provided, hereby files the report of services performed by him and his assistants for the above stated month listing the number of cases at the start of the month as indicated by category listing, and the number of cases closed at the end of the month, which are as follows:

[illegible]

PROBATION

COMMUNITY RESTITUTION SERVICE

[illegible]

[illegible]

2015 Pretrial YTD Information

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bond Investigations Completed												
Felony	41	28										
Misdemeanor	10	5										
Released on Pre-Trial Supervision												
Felony	13	6										
Misdemeanor	0	0										
Released with no Pre-trial Supervision (Including those who posted)												
Felony	34	24										
Misdemeanor	9	5										
Active Pre-Trial Supervision Cases												
Felony	55	60										
Misdemeanor	4	6										
Violations Reported												
Rules Violation	2	2										
Failure to Appear	0	0										
New Offense	0	0										
Violations Revoked												
Rules Violation	0	0										
Failure to Appear	1	0										
New Offense	0	1										
Successful Terminations	5	1										

Cost Avoidance

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

From 6/9/14 - 3/18/15, 94 individuals were released from custody and placed on pre-trial supervision for a total of 9,481 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. Also, the court can order released individuals to report to the Pre-Trial Officers for supervision while out on bond.

DEKALB COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JAIL POPULATION REPORT

FEBRUARY 2015

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

121

Average Number Housed Out

56

<u>SEX</u>		<u>TYPE OF CRIME</u>		<u>COURT STATUS</u>		<u>PERIODIC IMPRISONMENT</u>	
<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Felony</i>	<i>Misdemeanor</i>	<i>Sentenced</i>	<i>Pre-Sentenced</i>	<i>Week-ends</i>	<i>Work Release</i>
251	57	170	138	56	252	3	3

MONTHLY TRANSPORTS

	Number of Transports	Total Man Hours
<i>General</i>	22	72
<i>Medical – Mental</i>	5 / 0	9
<i>Jail Overcrowding</i>	48	95
<i>Juvenile</i>	3	11
<i>Totals</i>	78	187

DOC

	Male	Female
<i>Sentenced</i>	13	1
<i>Parole</i>	1	0
<i>Totals</i>	14	1

MONTHLY INMATE POPULATION STATISTICS

	NON-SENTENCED		REGULAR SENTENCED		WEEK-ENDERS		WORK RELEASE		EHM (ADULTS)	
	Number of Bookings	Total Days Held	Number of Bookings	Total Days Held	Number of Bookings	Total Days Held	Number of Bookings	Total Days Held	Average For Month	Total Days Held
<i>Male</i>	134	2285	29	649	2	11	1	56	-	-
<i>Female</i>	40	317	7	65	0	0	0	0	-	-
<i>Totals</i>	174	2602	36	714	2	11	1	56	35	989

Average Daily Population: The average number of inmates in the jail for the month. Counts each day a person was in the Jail and includes all people booked into the jail.

Monthly Transports: “Jail Overcrowding” represents transports related to jail overcrowding which would include the transport to and from the other facility, transports for court if they are a pre-sentenced inmate, and any other transport which may be necessary.

DOC: 1) Sentenced: Represents the number of inmates transported to the Department of Corrections because they were sentenced to prison for a period of time.

2) Parole: Represents the number of inmates transported to the Department of Corrections because they were arrested on a new charge, on parole and returned to DOC to face their parole violation.

EHM: The numbers reflect only adults on Electronic Home Monitoring for the month. Juveniles would not be housed in the County Jail.