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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Law & Justice Committee Minutes
April 24, 2017**

The Law and Justice Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East in Sycamore, Illinois. Chairman Leifheit called the meeting to order. Those present were Ms. Askins, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Pietrowski, Mr. Plote, Mr. Whelan, and Chairman Leifheit. A quorum was established with all seven Members present.

Others that were present included Sheriff Roger Scott, Chief Joyce Klein, Greg Millburg, Tom McCulloch, Margi Gilmour, and Michael Venditti.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Pietrowski moved to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2017 Committee Meeting. Mr. Plote seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Luebke, seconded by Mr. Frieders and it was carried unanimously by voice vote to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented to the Committee.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S REPORT

DeKalb County Public Defender Tom McCulloch presented and placed on file his monthly report. Chairman Leifheit additionally inquired about his office's two newest hires. Mr. McCulloch updated the Committee on the progress, case assignment and load of his two newest Asst. Public Defenders that were hired in December and January. He added that without trying to micromanage, he intuitively divides out the caseloads amongst his staff and shared they all have pretty much equal caseloads among them all and one of his Assistants focuses primarily on juvenile delinquency and abuse/neglect cases.

COURT SERVICES REPORT

DeKalb County Court Services Director Margi Gilmour briefly reviewed and placed on file her monthly Adult, Juvenile and Pretrial Reports. Ms. Gilmour additionally shared that the juvenile detention numbers have decreased significantly from where they have previously been the last couple of months and that there are currently no individuals in residential placement.

Mr. Gilmour added that adult probation was plugging along and did not have anything out of the norm to report. The main focus from her department this evening and for this meeting was for the presentation of the first Quarterly Pretrial Report for 2017. Because a quarter is such a short period of time, she shared that the presentation also includes some information from when the program started in order to provide the historical perspective, especially for those who have not

had an opportunity to have received that information yet. Ms. Gilmour introduced Michael Venditti who is the Supervisor of the Pretrial Unit and Juvenile Unit within the Court Services Department to present the Quarterly Pretrial Report.

PRETRIAL REPORT

Mr. Venditti began by providing a general overview of the Pretrial Program and shared that DeKalb County Pretrial Services was established in June 2014. Pretrial Services provides the court with verified criminal and social history about persons who have been arrested and charged with a crime to assist the court in making an informed decision regarding release based on identified risk of failure to appear and safety to the community. If the defendant is eligible, they are released and may be ordered to 'pretrial supervision'. The defendant is then supervised to assure that they show up for all court dates, do not commit any new offenses, and comply with conditions of their release.

The process of Pretrial includes: Arrest/incarceration, Pretrial interview, Verification/Criminal Background Check/Risk Assessment, Bond report with recommendations submitted prior to Bond Call, Determination by court to release or detain, Release with/without Supervision or Detention.

Mr. Venditti posed the question of why would we want to release people from jail prior to trial. He explained that compared to defendants released at some point prior to trial, defendants held for the entire pretrial period had: 4 times greater likelihood of being sentenced to jail, 3 times longer jail sentences, 3 times greater likelihood of being sentenced to prison, and 2 times longer prison sentence.

Even short term pretrial incarceration has a toxic effect on the impact of Pretrial incarceration on Community Safety, Mr. Venditti explained. Defendants lose jobs, homes, pro-social relationships, and put their families in hardship. Most of which are immediately released back into the community as soon as their case is resolved, but find themselves in more desperate circumstances than prior to their arrest. In as little as a matter of days, there is a drastic impact. Compared to an individual who is released within 24 hours, and individual who is held for 2-3 days is 17% more likely to commit a criminal offense within two year of resolution of their case. Individuals that are held for 4-7 days are 35% more likely and 8-14 days are 51% more likely.

For DeKalb County, data was collected on 548 defendants after their disposition who were interviewed by Pretrial Services. Most defendants are immediately released into the community with or without some form of supervision upon disposition of their case. Defendants who are released at first appearance are less likely to be incarcerated as part of sentencing.

Mr. Venditti reviewed the benefits of the Pretrial Supervision and noted that national research and data in DeKalb County shows that Pretrial Supervision saves additional costs by providing a mechanism for moderate to higher risk defendants to be safely released from custody pending trial. 60% of defendants fall into this category, without supervision current rates of release will decrease. Reducing failure to appear rates by more than 36% fewer resources needed to be expended on serving warrants less additional detention costs on defendants for missing court.

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Reducing the number of new arrests by defendants pending trial by 19%, reducing the number of post disposition jail sentences by 32%, and reducing the length of post disposition jail sentences by 66%.

Additionally Mr. Venditti reviewed that in 2016, 987 bond reports were completed.

- 72% of defendants were released at first appearance.
- 74% of released defendants are released on recognizance.
- 426 new defendants were placed on Pretrial Supervision
- 351 pretrial defendants reached disposition on their case

From January to March 2017, 284 bond reports have been completed so far.

- 72% of defendants were released at first appearance.
- 85% of released defendants are released on recognizance.
- 126 new defendants were placed on Pretrial Supervision
- 182 pretrial defendants reached disposition on their case

In March of 2017 Pretrial Services began using a new Pretrial Risk Assessment and a revised Release Matrix, a decision making tool to determine appropriate release recommendations based on a defendants risk of violence if released from custody. Since implementation, the number of defendants released at first appearance increased from 72% to 82%.

The Committee and Mr. Venditti discussed the educational backgrounds and trainings of the Pretrial Officers and Mr. Plote inquired about if the Officers have any liability suggesting the release of defendants. Mr. Venditti answered that they don't have any liability because they are covered through the Pretrial Services Act and that they fall under the umbrella of the Judge. The Judges do not agree with the Pretrial Officers 100% nor do they advocate that they do, he explained. Mr. Venditti added that they know through research that the best outcomes come from an evidence based Pretrial Program with a Judge that is willing to give weight to what they are providing to them but ultimately utilizes their own discretion.

In regards to the evaluation of current program impact, Mr. Venditti reported that Pretrial Services was introduced in mid-June of 2014 and within 2 years the average jail population dropped by 21%. An average jail population reduction of 21% translates to 29 fewer prisoners per day. At an average cost of \$60/day per prisoner, it is estimated that this will result in an annual cost avoidance of \$635,100 per year. Additionally Pretrial Services completes an average of 164 domestic violence risk assessments annually. These are required to be considered by the court in domestic violence cases prior to the setting of bond. If completed by a private agency this would cost \$150.00 per assessment. This yields an additional cost avoidance of \$24,600 per year.

In 2016, nearly 1,000 bond reports were completed, compared to the 531 completed in the 1st year of operation. The increase in number of bond reports has also resulted in more cases on supervision. Pretrial Services currently supervises 384 defendants, and within 6 months it will exceed 400 defendants.

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A total of 711 pretrial defendants were released from custody between June of 2014 and March of 2017 and have reached disposition on their cases. In that time, 92% appeared for all of their court dates and only 3% were re-arrested for a violent offense.

Mr. Venditti fielded a few questions from Committee Members and discussed the increased number of recent incarcerations and lastly added that the Pretrial Services Program and their department's number one concern and focus will always be community safety.

Sheriff Scott shared that he thinks it is important to recognize they current have 70+ individuals on electronic home monitors (EHM) to date and that is the highest they've ever had. Also the people who happen to show up all at the same time are a result of a significant investigation by the City of DeKalb, the Sheriff's Office, and Sycamore Police.

The Committee thank Mr. Venditti and Ms. Gilmour for the presentation of the first Quarterly Pretrial Report.

JAIL EXPANSION UPDATE

Chief Joyce Klein provided the Committee with a progress and building update of the Jail Expansion Project. She reviewed the jail's current services and programs and provided a slide show with many images of the construction progress of the jail expansion and renderings of what the finished product will look like.

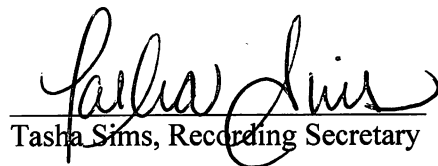
Additionally, six of the eight new staff are currently hired and substantial completion of the expansion is expected to be in January of 2018 and somewhere around May-June there will be training and public tours. The Committee expressed their gratitude to Chief Klein and Sherriff Scott for the updates and visuals of the Jail Expansion Project.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Chairman Dianne Leifheit


Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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**DEKALB COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JAIL POPULATION REPORT
MARCH 2017**

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

136

Average Number Housed Out

57

<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>
290	68	225	133	41	317	10	2

MONTHLY TRANSPORTS

	Number of Transports	Total Man Hours
<i>General</i>	23	68
<i>Medical - Mental</i>	8 / 0	9 / 0
<i>Jail Overcrowding</i>	73	146
<i>Juvenile</i>	10	36
<i>Totals</i>	114	259

DOC

	Male	Female
<i>Sentenced</i>	3	0
<i>Parole</i>	0	0
<i>Totals</i>	3	0

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>	159	3402	10	351	8	55	2	61	-	-
<i>Female</i>	56	307	2	41	2	10	0	0	-	-
<i>Totals</i>	215	3709	12	392	10	65	2	61	60.1	2024

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.