

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Friday, August 3, 2018

PRESENT: M. Walters, L. Dalton, C. Dutton, P. Chapman

ABSENT: M. Parkinson, J. Goggin, G. Glasper

OTHERS: Judge Hylla, Judge Tognarelli, T. Gibbons, J. Rekowski, C. Cooper, E. Decker, C. Eales
M. VonNida, D. Burch, R. Schmidt, S. Cousins

Ms. Dutton moved, seconded by Mr. Chapman, to approve the July meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIED.

DETENTION HOME/PROBATION:

C. Cooper represented Probation and the Detention Home. He passed out the monthly population report. Committee members had no questions.

CIRCUIT CLERK:

M. VonNida was present but did not give a monthly report. The committee members had no questions.

CIRCUIT COURT:

Judge Hylla reported that St. Clair County has the same size jail population and double the size of jail as Madison County. He also said that the population of the jail is about justice and safety. Judge Hylla revisited a question that was asked prior on what leadership has done about the jail population. Judge's response was that Madison County has been a leader in many areas such as an auto redeploy program (28 people), drug court (76 people), veteran's court (45 people) and a mental health court. If these programs did not exist, these individuals would also be in the jail. Judge Hylla says that our goal is not catch and release and their release should not be based on how much money they have. He thinks a release should be based on whether they are a danger and a flight risk. Another way law enforcement has worked to keep the population down is electronic monitoring which is paid for by the inmate. Judge Hylla notes there will be an Expungement Day in Will County for low level felons to help clean up their records. He anticipates 300-400 people.

Judge Tognarelli speaks to the committee about the Domestic Violence Accountability Court (400 people) that started in June of 2016. He said the program used to take 2-3 years to complete. Now, with streamlining the process, it can be completed in 6-8 months. The process includes an assessment which is \$20-\$25 and treatment costing \$50-\$75 per treatment. He said there is 26 weeks involved in treatment but has had low turnout. C. Dutton asked who provided treatments and Judge responded Alternatives Counseling, Group Counseling and Provident. Judge Tognarelli estimates 70% of people have gotten assessments before appearing in court.

Judge Tognarelli briefly talks about the jail population and how he has a sworn duty to protect citizens. He said that he nor any of his fellow judges will allow an individual back on the streets if there is a risk somebody may be hurt by them. He said the numbers that were provided on population are not static numbers. The numbers are revolving with an average stay of 12 days or less. Judge says that all branches of law enforcement will agree that a major reason for such a large crime rate is the serious drug problem. Please refer to the audio for Judge Hylla's and Judge Tognarelli's statements.

SHERIFF:

Captain Decker begins his report by stating the numbers provided for offenses in 2017 compared to 2008 have been cut in half. He says reasons for this is more officers are releasing people with a notice to appear rather than bringing them to the jail and video arraignments. Captain Decker says that their policies have become more efficient but at the same time there has been an increase in felonies (1200). Mr. Chapman refers to his jail population discussion as a “frame” to lay out the differences in jail population from the “olden days”. Captain Decker explains they typically process low level nonviolent felonies like misdemeanors and the days of having 10-12 people in the jail are over. He also said that the people in jail right now, are the people that need to be in jail. Captain Decker said that the jail population is what it is and it is not a result from lack of effort by the judiciary and other staff. Mr. Chapman brings up the budget topic concerning overtime and safety. Captain Decker agrees they will be adding an additional budget for the jail renovation and there will be an isolated request for funds on additional housing and care. The monthly average population is 330. Captain Decker finishes up his report by speaking of issues relating to I.T. and 911. They are currently in the design stages of becoming a separate more private network and will be treating the county I.T. department as a third party entity for security reasons. Mr. Chapman would like a more in depth report on this issue in the future. Please refer to the audio for the full discussion.

STATES ATTORNEY:

T. Gibbons thanked Judge Hylla for bringing in the federal agency of National Institute of Corrections to Madison County. He said that having this agency available has been very helpful. In Chicago, this agency brought their jail population from 10,000 in 2014 to 6,000 today. Aside from that, he thanked the County Board for allowing an additional staff member just for this program. Mr. Gibbons reported that in the last 3 weeks he has lost 10% of his staff and within the last year, he has lost 5 states attorneys. Mr. Gibbons also touched base on the jail population. He said that as of 7:55am today, there were 19 new inmates. Mr. Gibbons concluded his report by confirming a life sentence for a child predator.

PUBLIC DEFENDER:

J. Rekowski reports they are once again at full staff and they are moving furniture from the warehouse to the 2 new rooms at the CJC. Mr. Rekowski also wanted to speak on the jail population with what is and isn't being done. He says that Jennifer Mudge, a handful of assistants and himself met and moved 10 of 12 cases from the jail in one afternoon. Mr. Rekowski said they focus on issues such as mentally ill inmates that will be moved to DHS and video police, which is a new technology implemented earlier this year. He says that the technology saves a tremendous amount of time and money. Mr. Rekowski says that everybody from the judges, prosecutors and assistants have been showing great initiative to work faster, smarter and more efficiently to move people out of the jail. He described this issue as a “bathtub”, the cases pour in and they work as quickly as they humanly can to get the cases moving. He said what isn't happening is that they are not doing anything to delay cases.

Mr. Chapman started a discussion on how some people still expect the jail population and stay time to be the same as the “old days”. Mr. Rekowski tells a story on how Judge Gitchoff would deal with the jail population years ago. He says the difference today is that the procedures done back then would not be tolerated today and the people in jail for varying reasons, are the people you don't let out. Mr. Rekowski says a lot of the people in the jail today are in there not because of low level crimes which also differs from past years. He said for PR reasons, legal reasons and overall safety reasons, people can't just be turned loose.

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Ms. Dutton, to approve the bills for the month. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: M. Walters, L. Dalton, C. Dutton, P. Chapman NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED**

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Ms. Dutton, to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

/mds