

1 **COMMUNITY JUSTICE TASK FORCE MINUTES**

2 **Monday, March 28, 2013**

3 **Putman Meeting Room**

4 **Brookens Administrative Center**

5 **1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

6
7 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carol Ammons, Scott Bennett, Astrid Berkson (Chair), Lynn
8 Branham, James Kilgore, Darlene Kloeppe, Julian Rappaport,
9 Michael Richards, Bruce Suardini

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11 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** William Sullivan

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13 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Patti Petrie (County Board Member); Deb Busey (County
14 Administrator), Gerri Kirchner (League of Women Voters), Kay
15 Rhodes (Administrative Assistant)

16
17 **Call to Order**

18
19 Ammons called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Ammons said she had met with Berkson about
20 chairing the meeting and coordinating outcome and that Berkson had agreed. She asked the
21 committee for any objections. There were none.

22
23 **Approval of Agenda**

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25 Ammons stated she was removing item V.B. from the agenda because she and Richards aren't
26 meeting until Sunday so they won't be presenting. She said that in speaking to Kilgore nothing
27 has changed and would like to strike that from the agenda. Kilgore said he would like to give a
28 brief update. Rappaport said Mental Health and Substance Abuse should be separated.
29 Berkson agreed. Ammons said Substance Abuse will be C1. Ammons asked for objections of
30 approval agenda. There were none. She said move to approve agenda stands, as corrected
31 stands.

32
33 **Public Participation**

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35 None

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37 **Approval of Minutes – March 4, 2013**

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39 Ammons asked for any corrections to the March 4, 2013 minutes. There were none.
40 **Motion** by Kilgore to approve minutes; **seconded** by Suardini. **Approved unanimously.**

41
42 **Committee Reports – Specific Program Recommendations**

43
44 Ammons noted that the process of compiling all the information had been brought up at
45 a previous meeting. She also mentioned Kloeppe's format that had been submitted. Ammons
46 opened the floor for discussion. Kilgore thought the format of Branham's and Bennett's report
47 was useful. Kilgore felt four pages should be the max. Kloeppe felt it should be two. Most
48 agreed that it should be two. Ammons acknowledged two pages for summary with appendix
49 following. Kilgore felt the appendix should have limits also. Branham suggested calling the
50 appendix the full report instead and limiting it to 6-10 pages per recommendation. Ammons
51 acknowledged the full report will be no more than 10 pages. Rappaport felt the report should be
52 shortened because he did not feel anyone read the last one because it was too long. Berkson
53 suggested they have a one page introduction followed by the two-page summary reports with
54 the full reports at the end. She stated that a problem with the preliminary report was that it was
55 mostly principals and didn't include the what, where and how much that Board members wanted

56 to see. Discussion continued regarding the structure of the reports to present to the County
57 Board and whether to include or not the preliminary report. Busey said the reports could be
58 posted separately.

59 Kloeppel said they could use their visioning statement first, then bullet-point the
60 recommendations under which item they fall. She stated this could be their summary. She
61 suggested a second part with the details to support the recommendations. Branham felt they
62 got off course during a previous meeting. She noted the draft progress report did not refer to her
63 core principles that would guide the coordinating council that she felt are foundational. Branham
64 felt you needed two pages, the full report, and confirmation of research in endnotes rather than
65 the appendix. She did not feel the progress report should be submitted again. Kilgore still feels
66 they should present one short document that captures the concrete proposals and the
67 background information. Berkson said it will be presented at a study session and they will have
68 time to take them through it. Ammons agreed it helped her when she was on the board to get a
69 summary. She felt they should provide both long and short to accommodate Board members
70 who want a short report and those that want more details. Kloeppel suggested adding a visual
71 aid. She also pointed out that some of the reports would be shorter than others. Branham stated
72 there are four pieces that are more detailed. Ammons stated that for those a full report is
73 definitely needed and asked for a volunteer to put everything together. Branham asked to place
74 this on hold until after pre-trial services.
75

76 **Pre-Trial Services (Branham and Bennett)**

77 Branham said she tried to look thru the lens of skeptics. She made revisions based on the
78 feedback she received from the task force so the recommendation is right up front. She said
79 they gave a feel for the reality that most of the people in jail haven't been convicted of anything.
80 She said they also gave people credit for the work that has been done so the report is not
81 perceived as an attack. Branham said next is a list of deficiencies in the current process. She
82 stated the next section covers standards regarding pre-trial release and said those standards
83 will be helpful in addressing many areas of the pre-trial decision process. Branham said the next
84 area shows the national organizations in support of pre-trial services programs and the diversity
85 of those organizations. She noted that she decided to keep the organizations in the text
86 because it shows we are behind the times and need to catch up. She stated two primary
87 functions, screening and supervision, are listed next with brief explanations. She said the
88 recommendation that the County should adopt this follows. She noted one other change made
89 was to list outcome measures and mentioned a resource developed by the national institute of
90 corrections that she would like included in the footnotes. She acknowledged that people will
91 want costs, but said that is hard to say because they don't have information from ILPP. She said
92 she used McLean County and Springfield to come up with her range of estimates.

93 Bennett stated that salaries for added positions in probation of \$250,000 would be
94 appropriate. He said that it may not be new positions; that they could possibly use existing
95 employees for some of the secretarial work. Branham suggested Bennett get something in
96 writing to her, they would talk, and if this section is approved then they will send out the final
97 draft. She did not believe that McLean County is the model for Champaign County. Bennett
98 agreed and said perhaps Sangamon would be better.

99 Branham noted that on page seven of the March 28th draft she added a paragraph to give
100 additional examples of how pretrial services affect the jail population. Kilgore felt that
101 information concerning jail space and money need to be included in the summary to show the
102 Board the impact. Berkson did not want to inflate expectations of the cost savings because this
103 justice system is much better than others and would probably not save as much as other

104 counties. Discussion continued.

105 Ammons said showing the savings is important to the County Board. She also noted that
106 this is a national trend and they shouldn't be 10 years behind the trend. She said they have to
107 implement services because they will never be able to build a jail that lasts forever. Berkson
108 said the Board gives the Sheriff money and he does what he wants with it, so this has to be sold
109 to him, but not by telling him he's like these other counties. Branham said they did not receive
110 the data from ILPP for the impact here and she feels this information is needed to decide what
111 to do with the jail. Branham noted she was unsure if ILPP would come through with the data
112 needed. Ammons said they would hold a public meeting and asked them to.

113 Ammons stated she would like to figure out how to move forward on what's been presented
114 so far. Branham said she would like the committee to approve this with any other additions or
115 changes they would like with the understanding that there can be a motion to append. Kilgore
116 proposed leaving the changes to Branham's discretion. Berkson reiterated that they have to sell
117 this to the State's Attorney, the courts and the Sheriff because it is their money.

118 **Kloeppe** recommended using the following format to present the information: first state
119 where they are currently, then state what improvement they would like to make, then state the
120 specific recommendation, then have the cost summary or impact. **Recommendation seconded**
121 by Berkson. Rappaport voiced concern that the report will look like its committee written.
122 Kloeppe stated that she had volunteered to do the editing once everyone puts their report in the
123 recommended format. Ammons said this was already approved at the March meeting. **The**
124 **committee approved the format as presented.**

125 **Substance Abuse (Suardini)**

126 Suardini noted that detox keeps coming up as a priority of funding. He stated that the
127 detox program has been presented to the State in terms of its funding capacity. He said the
128 State is looking at a system-wide approach to have regional detox in place for all people to
129 access. Suardini said a task force has met for the last year studying the issue. He said they
130 have submitted a proposal for \$875,000 to the State to reopen the medical detox. He stated
131 Provena has volunteered to dedicate an entire floor to this and they will also provide a resource
132 community center on the first floor where people could come in and get a screen and an
133 assessment. He noted that patients could transfer right away out of the emergency room to the
134 floor needed. Suardini is asking the County to assist with the total expected cost, which is
135 around \$1.1 million.

136 He said the drug court federal grant is done as of October. He noted there are two
137 critical pieces that the judge wants: coordinators position for evaluation and data that needs to
138 be generated; and the .25 sheriff deputy position that goes to the home. He commented that
139 everyone can have ideas, but that they don't fit into a master plan with the Board, meaning
140 where is the real funding going to come from after the grant is gone. He said there has to be a
141 philosophical shift in thinking on the county board from incarcerating to rehabilitating, which will
142 take time. He thinks they also need to shift to supporting community resource programs.

143 Suardini stated that Peter Tracy is looking at reprioritizing some of the mental health
144 board funding. He said they have met with the mayor about services with Urbana, and Mayor
145 Prussing is talking about taking the funding directed at social services and influencing the city of
146 Champaign about when they reprioritize their shift in services from funding agencies to specific
147 kinds of blocks or communities. Suardini said that right now there is a fragmentation of
148 independent things going on without an overall plan of where it fits. Ammons said she was in
149

150 support of the County Board shifting their priorities and supporting the detox center and drug
151 court on a larger scale. She asked if they could get information from Judge Ford on how they
152 could expand the drug court and what they want from the County. Branham commented that
153 they have a more general recommendation right now. She noted that many times these things
154 overlap and wondered if it's possible to keep this as a recommendation and then prioritize what
155 has to go under that. She likes the idea of keeping them together because they do overlap.

156 Rappaport stated that there are a number of people with mental health issues that don't
157 have substance abuse problems; a detox center won't help them. He said the reason he's
158 suggesting separating them is because they are asking for different things. Rappaport stated
159 that there is no disagreement from law enforcement that there is a problem. He said he
160 understood that there is \$.5 million dollars spent on services at the jail. He said there is a
161 serious problem of coordination with what goes on in terms of services in the jail. Rappaport
162 said that mental health services in this community are delivered by independent agencies who
163 do some combination of what they want to do, what they can do, and what they can get support
164 to do. He said that if the County Board wants to deal with the problem of coordinating services,
165 then they need to think about how to use their money in a more coordinated fashion and
166 add other entities in the community to help with this problem.

167 Ammons confirmed that Rappaport asking that the recommendation be presented in two
168 separate documents. Rappaport said yes, they need to be defined as separate problems.
169 Ammons said she did not believe that when Kloeppel receives the reports she will just blend
170 them together. Kilgore noted that there has been quite a bit of movement in terms of what the
171 Mental Health Board is looking at and they should acknowledge that in the report because that
172 is something positive that they want to encourage. Berkson said they have to realize they are
173 selling their story and they should be separate. **Motion** by Branham to divide up number 4 and
174 preserve both recommendations with detox and mental health services; **seconded** by Bennett.
175 **Motion carried.** Kloeppel volunteered to re-draft these and put them into separate
176 recommendations.

177 Suardini commented that what is looked at in regards to the grant is how it is
178 systematically addressed countywide. He said that the sheriff told him the patrolmen don't know
179 where to go with people so they take them to the ER, which is the most expensive choice. He
180 said there should be trained mental health and substance abuse counselors at the ER to
181 evaluate the immediate need, which is part of the grant. Berkson said one of the problems is
182 that many hospitals bar people because they say it is not mental but behavioral, then the police
183 have no choice but to take them to jail. Suardini said Medicaid expansion will take care of this.
184 Ammons confirmed that Suardini was prepared to submit his report to Kloeppel. He said he
185 was.

186 Branham reiterated they have separate recommendations for substance abuse and
187 mental health. She noted the need to list the three most important changes to profile while
188 keeping the focus on keeping people out of the criminal justice system by focusing the money
189 on that. Kloeppel asked for clarification on whether the group is going to endorse specific
190 programs for funding by the county or the concept. Ammons said the concept of detox center,
191 mental health. Berkson said they need to say here is what we have (by naming the providers)
192 and here is what it will cost to get the facilities to do what is needed. Ammons suggested putting
193 it on the agenda for next meeting to discuss the pros and cons of approve specific programming
194 or not. Rappaport did not believe members of the task force should be representing specific
195 programs or agencies and didn't feel the report should be structured to recommend them.

196 Ammons said they will review all reports again before final drafting and felt they can determine
197 whether to make specific recommendations now or not, but they won't get to the remainder of
198 the agenda. Branham felt they should craft each report in general terms to avoid conflict of
199 interest issues. Berkson said there are dollar amounts being gathered and being paid to specific
200 entities such as Prairie Center, Provena, etc. the Board will want to know. She stated they will
201 also want to know if the people who are doing it now will be able to do the job in the future.
202 Rappaport said that they should pay attention to the conflict of interest issue. Ammons asked if
203 the committee should recommend specific programs or not. Rappaport said to recommend
204 specific types of programming but not specific agencies. Consensus was to write your own
205 proposal and then they will review them before a final draft.

206 Ammons asked Rappaport if he was prepared to submit specific recommendations. He
207 said he was. He mentioned a fund that local agencies can apply for to deal with these priorities.
208

209 **Re-Entry (Kilgore)**

210 Kilgore mentioned he has had meetings and has meeting scheduled with some others
211 about re-entry programs. He said he needs to collect more information about what had been
212 done in the past and get statistical information around the issues that pertain to Champaign
213 County so they can have a more rounded proposal.
214

215 **Other Business**

216
217 Berkson said that traffic violations take up 20% of the jail and takes productive members
218 out of society. She stated that the National County of Sheriffs wants to make first offenders
219 have a breathalyzer/ignition system rather than serving mandatory sentences. Ammons
220 suggested they put this under recommendation 6.
221

222 Richards entered at 7:45 pm
223

224 **Next Meeting**

225
226 Ammons stated the next meeting will be April 15, 2013 at 6:00 pm in the Putman Room.
227 She stated she will coordinate with Busey to get the agenda to follow the task force and they will
228 be back on track for the time line they approved.
229

230 **Adjournment**

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232 The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.
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234

235 Respectfully Submitted,
236

237 Linda Lane
238 Administrative Assistant