

COUNTY BOARD STUDY SESSION
Thursday, January 19, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.

Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

AGENDA

Page No.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Report of the Courts Jail Issues Study Committee 1-13
4. Report by the Sheriff regarding Jail Issues
5. Public Participation
6. METCAD Informational Presentation 14-16
7. Adjourn

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*Barbara Wysocki
County Board Chair
Deb Busey & Denny Inman
County Administrators*

REPORT TO THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
FROM THE JAIL ISSUES COMMITTEE
REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
A CONTINUOUS JURY SYSTEM

JANUARY 19, 2006

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Historical Background
- III. Court Operations – Current and Proposed
- IV. Goals / Objectives to be Achieved through Implementation
- V. Additional Personnel Required
- VI. Estimated Costs of Implementation
- VII. Conclusion
- VIII. Appendices

Appendix A - Notes from Court Administrator regarding trip to
Will County

Appendix B - Caseload Statistical Analyses, Graphs and Data

Appendix C - Continuous Jury System Costs Spreadsheet

I. Executive Summary

The Jail Issues Committee has been charged by Presiding Judge Thomas J. Difanis with the task of analyzing the current issues and concerns regarding the Champaign County Correctional Center / Satellite Jail Facility and making recommendations to the Champaign County Board. One concept explored by this group is the expansion of the current twenty-four weeks (12 two-week terms) of jury service to a forty-eight week, continuous jury system. In order to gather information on this topic, several of the members of the Committee visited the Will County Circuit Court in October 2005 and met with their counterparts in Will County to discuss the continuous jury system implemented there. (Please see Appendix A - notes from Court Administrator). Discussions following that visit resulted in the conclusions and recommendations presented herein:

1. The Jail Issues Committee recommends that the Champaign County Circuit Court adopt a forty-eight week continuous jury system.
2. This recommendation is supported by the caseload statistics / projections and by the current backlog of felony cases pending in Champaign County.
3. The implementation of a continuous jury system would address many concerns with the current system including, but not limited to:
 - a. reducing the current backlog of pending felony cases in Champaign County;
 - b. establishing a system capable of handling the projected number of future felony, misdemeanor and traffic cases;
 - c. continuing efforts to reduce the number of and length of stay of inmates housed in the Champaign County Correctional Center / Satellite Jail Facility;
 - d. increasing the attendance of summoned jurors, reducing the burdens of summoned jurors and their employers;
 - e. increasing the jury service opportunities for minorities and other protected classes;
 - f. increasing the efficiency of the criminal justice system by creating teams of attorneys assigned to courtrooms; and
 - g. increasing client contact with their appointed Public Defender.
4. Implementing the continuous jury system in Champaign County would require the hiring of additional personnel, including a part-time jury coordinator and part-time jury assistant (hourly as needed). The jury commission would also need to meet more frequently.
5. Implementation would also include a greater emphasis on increasing the percentage of those honoring their summonses including, but not limited to, the use of pre-screening questionnaires, the use of the National Change of Address database as a filtering mechanism, and the sending of Notices to Appear in Court for those failing to answer their summons.
6. Included in this recommendation is a request for renewed efforts to facilitate greater contact between clients and their appointed counsel. It is recommended that an assistant public defender position be established with primary duties to include making contact with clients within 24 hours of appointment and ensuring that pre-trial discovery is provided to the client within the parameters set forth by Illinois Supreme Court.
7. The approximate cost of implementing a continuous jury system in Champaign County \$97,420 per year.

II. Historical Background

The backlog of felony cases, the need for anticipation of increasing felony charges, and concern about the increasing population in the Champaign County Correctional Center / Satellite Jail Facility have prompted the Jail Issues Committee to look at current justice system operations.

With regard to the number of felony cases, those cases set for trial in November 2005 in Champaign County numbered 776. The average number of cases set for trial during 2005 (January through November) is 769. During 2005, the highest number of pending felony cases was in January when 856 cases were in pre-trial status.

In order to facilitate further discussion, the Court Administrator assigned an able and hardworking law student, David Wilson, the task of gathering, analyzing and projecting caseload data compiled by the Champaign County Circuit Clerk as submitted to the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (Please see Appendix B – Charts and Caseload data). Although his analysis, and the projections therefrom, are far from scientific (the projections use averages from 1996 through 2004), the trends clearly show a dramatic increase in felony cases. For example, in 1996, the number of pending felony cases in Champaign County was 895. In 2004, there were 2,088 such cases. In 1996, the number of felony cases disposed of was 1,505. In 2004, this number was 2,390. Projecting these numbers in future years, we see that the number of felony cases pending in 2010 could reach nearly 3,000 cases. In addition, a review of the data shows a strong disparity between the number of felonies filed, disposed of, and pending in Champaign County and these same statistics in counties of similar size.

The reasons for the dramatic increase are difficult to determine with any certainty. The increase is probably due to several factors including, but not limited to, a lack of sufficient jury trial dates, the General Assembly's decisions increasing statutory penalties in criminal cases (making some charges previously categorized as misdemeanors into felonies), an increase in the number of law enforcement personnel enforcing the statutes enacted, and the charging decisions made by the Champaign County State's Attorney. Despite the uncertainty regarding the causes of the increase, one thing is certain: the current jury system is not efficiently or effectively handling the felony caseload.

Over the past several months, the members of the Jail Issues Committee have made strides in lowering the population of the Champaign County Correctional Center / Satellite Jail Facility. The number of inmates housed in the Champaign County Correctional Center / Satellite Jail Facility has been reduced from over 300 to an average of 222 in October 2005 and 238 in November 2005. Judge Difanis' Administrative Order 05-07 requires that felony cases filed on or after September 1, 2005 be disposed of within 60 days of arraignment. The State's Attorney and Public Defender have increased communication about cases they believe can be resolved. The Public Defender has presented numerous requests for bail reductions. The Court Administrator has required that the completion of all paperwork for sentencing / committing an inmate to the Illinois Department of Corrections be a Court Clerk's highest priority. The Judiciary, the Public Defender and the Director of Court Services have agreed to work together to facilitate pre-trial release of defendants via electronic monitoring. The Sheriff's Office has worked diligently to communicate any inmate concerns to the Court and inform the Court of potential opportunities to lower population.

III. Court Operations

A. Current Operations

In order to understand the need for a continuous jury system, a brief review of the current system is necessary. Currently, the jury term in Champaign County is a two-week term each month. 500 jurors are summoned. Approximately one-quarter of those summoned actually honor their summons. (In 2004, the number of jurors honoring their summons averaged 134. In 2005, the average dropped to 127). The jurors are randomly selected by either being a registered voter or a licensed driver. Champaign County receives data (names of registered voters and licensed drivers) from the Secretary of State in a digital format. This data is placed in the Jury 2000 computer software system. Each month 500 names are selected at random and summonses are mailed. Each juror is assigned an identification number that is used to identify them throughout their service. All jurors summoned appear on the first day of the term for jury orientation. For each of the remaining days, jurors are instructed to call a special telephone number or check the Circuit Court website to see if they are needed for the following day. Jurors are paid ten dollars per day plus mileage to and from the courthouse.

The disparity between the number of those summoned for jury duty and those actually serving cannot be attributed to any one factor. Some of the factors for this shortfall include the transient nature of the Champaign County population (i.e. the student population), the nature of the student population (many are not United States citizens), apathy among those called for service, medical conditions and other hardships, and the burden of being called for a two-week jury term. Currently, those failing to appear are not subsequently contacted by the Court unless the Court fails to have available a sufficient number of jurors. This is a rare occurrence in petit juries, but does occur occasionally in grand jury settings.

There are five people currently assigned to exclusively juror issues. Shirley Marshall is the jury coordinator. Shirley is a part-time employee, working only during the jury term. Her duties include registering jurors when they arrive for service, making sure that juror questionnaires are available for jury trials, ensuring that a sufficient number of jurors are called in each day (based on the number of trials anticipated for the following day), handling unexpected absences/excuses, and maintaining the jury assembly room. Shirley is one of the hardest working and dedicated individuals in the Circuit Court. Her positive attitude and many abilities make her indispensable. To assist Shirley in her tasks, Carla Simmering, an hourly jury assistant, is brought in when needed. The remaining three individuals comprise the jury commission: Annis Skinner, Gene Suggs and Wanda Adams. These three commissioners meet once per month to hear requests from summoned individuals for excusal from or delay of their jury service. The jury commissioners are very tough. It takes extraordinary circumstances in order to receive dispensation from the jury commissioners. The commissioners are outstanding people and an essential part of the jury system.

Felony cases are first heard in arraignment court. At arraignment, a plea is entered and counsel make arguments regarding bond, the need for appointed counsel and/or other pre-trial conditions. The case is then scheduled for the second felony pre-trial following the arraignment. Felony pre-trial occurs once per month, usually on the third or fourth Wednesday of the month. At felony pre-trial, all pending felony cases are called for status and the State's Attorney and Public Defender (or private defense counsel) handling the case announce whether the case is ready for trial, needs to be continued, set for a plea or dismissed. If the case is announced ready for trial, the case is set for the first Monday of the next two-week trial term. On that Monday, the Court asks the attorneys if the cases remain ready for trial. If so, the Court schedules the cases to a specific courtroom on a specific date. If they are no longer ready, the case is then either set for plea or continued until the next felony pre-trial. Multiple cases are

scheduled for each courtroom so that if one case should suddenly fail to go trial, others are ready. The scheduling for post-trial motions, sentencing hearings, and hearings on petitions to revoke probation are heard during the two non-jury term weeks.

At present, the Champaign County Public Defender's Office represents approximately 75% (Mr. Rosenbaum's estimate) of all criminal defendants arrested in Champaign County. One of the key components to the success of the Will County system is that the Will County Public Defender's Office has sufficient personnel to keep their attorney caseloads within the guidelines set forth by the American Bar Association. In 1968, the American Bar Association established that an appropriate standard for public defender caseloads would be 150 felony cases per year or 400 misdemeanor cases per year. In 2004, the Champaign County Public Defender's Office's attorneys' average 450 felony cases and/or 742 misdemeanor cases. In 2005 (based on January through November actual cases and an estimate for December) the Champaign County Public Defender's Office's attorneys' average 472 felony cases and/or 839 misdemeanor cases.

B. Operations under a Continuous Jury System

Implementing a continuous jury system would bring about drastic changes in all departments associated with the Champaign County Circuit Court. The changes begin in arraignment court. In arraignment court, each felony case would be assigned to one of the three felony courtrooms. All pre-trial motions, discovery hearings, trials, pleas, post-trial motions, sentencing hearings and petitions to revoke would all be heard in that courtroom. Obviously, an attorney could move for a substitution of judge should the requirements of his/her representation so dictate. Each of these courtrooms would have attorneys assigned to them from both the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office and the Champaign County Public Defender's Office. Each of the courtrooms would comprise a team made up of assigned prosecutors, assigned public defenders and a judge. Each courtroom would establish its own felony pre-trial status hearings in accordance with the needs of the Court and counsel assigned to that courtroom. Multiple cases would still be scheduled during jury weeks in order to ensure that trials are being held and cases are being resolved. During the month, an individual courtroom would have two weeks of trials and the others would be handling the pre- and post-trial hearings and other types of hearings that would need to be conducted. One hundred jurors would be needed each of the forty-eight weeks of jury trials. This increase would be from 300 / month (the approximately 150 jurors for each of the two-week term) to 400 / month (approximately 100 jurors each week for four weeks).

In order to facilitate a higher percentage of jurors honoring their summonses, the proposal includes implementation of a pre-screening process where jurors from the jury pool would be sent a questionnaire eliciting basic juror criteria data (e.g. Are you a resident of Champaign County?, Are you a convicted felon?, etc.). Those not responding or indicating that they are no longer eligible for service will be removed from the overall pool prior to the sending of summonses. As such, a much higher percentage of those actually summoned will be likely to honor their summons. This pre-screening process is used in Will County and is very successful. In a given week, it has been reported that Will County experiences two or three individuals failing to honor their summons. In contrast, each month in Champaign County of the 500 individuals summoned, only approximately 130 serve. The current jury software used by the Court is capable of implementing this process without additional hardware or software costs. There will naturally be a cost associated with the postage incurred in sending the questionnaire and providing return postage. This cost has been included in the package and is estimated at \$8,400. In addition, to the foregoing, the names in the overall jury pool will be compared to the National Change of Address database in order to determine which members of the pool may have relocated outside of Champaign County. The cost for this procedure is approximately \$200 to \$300.

The jury commission would have to meet at least two days per month in order to facilitate the additional number of jurors called. If jurors failed to appear as summoned, a notice to appear would be sent to their last known address. When they appear in Court, they will be required to explain their failure to appear as called. Depending upon the basis for their failure, the Court could find them in contempt.

In order to increase client contact, an assistant public defender would make contact with their clients within 24 hours of appointment. This attorney would then represent the client during their arraignment court proceedings. During their representation, this attorney would also ensure that the client receive access to pre-trial discovery should the client desire to have such access.

IV. Goals / Objectives to be Achieved through Implementation

A. Reducing the Current Backlog of Pending Felony Cases in Champaign County

As was previously noted, the average number of cases on the felony docket over the last 11 months is 769 cases. One contributing factor to that backlog is a lack of jury trial opportunities. Moving from a two-week jury term to a continuous jury system would double the number of opportunities attorneys have to try cases. In addition, the current backlog will be eased by decreasing delays inherent in continuing cases from month to month (instead of continuing a case from one month to the next, it would be continued from one week to the next).

B. Establishing a System Capable of Handling the Projected Number of Future Felony, Misdemeanor and Traffic Cases

Future projections regarding criminal cases in Champaign County show that the current system cannot sustain future increases in criminal caseload. Currently, it takes a full day to have a felony pre-trial determining the status of the 700+ pending cases. If the projections are accurate, approximately 3000 felony cases would be pending in 2010. Even if the pending cases fail to reach number projected, the current level of pending cases has been very difficult for the Court to sustain. The backlog puts a strain on all departments and individuals involved in the system. It is difficult for the State's Attorneys assigned to cases to gather and analyze evidence, prepare witnesses and determine trial strategy on all of these cases. It is difficult for the Public Defenders to be ready to defend multiple cases on any given day. It is difficult for criminal defendants to deal with the uncertainty about when their case will be tried. It is difficult for the judiciary to balance scheduling trials with the other duties requiring Court time. As such, increasing the number of jury opportunities is necessary for future Court operations.

C. Continuing Efforts to Reduce the Number of and Length of Stay of Inmates Housed in the Champaign County Correctional Center / Satellite Jail Facility

As was previously stated, the current decision makers in the criminal justice system have made strides in lowering the population of the Champaign County Correctional Center / Satellite Jail Facility. However, these measures, without further efforts, will not be able to keep the population numbers under maximum capacity for any length of time. One remaining, perhaps the only remaining, option not previously explored is expanding the number of jury trial opportunities. By increasing the frequency of trials, the inmates housed in the Champaign County Correctional Center / Satellite Jail Facility will have their dispositions determined more quickly. As such, their detention in the Champaign County Correctional Center / Satellite Jail Facility will be shorter.

D. Reducing the Burdens of Summoned Jurors and their Employers

By reducing a summoned juror's service obligation from two weeks to one week will ease the burden to the jurors and to their employers. The society in which we live has become increasingly more hectic with professional, family and other commitments. Requiring that an individual put their schedule in the hands of the courts for two weeks is overwhelming for some individuals (no matter how seriously they take their civic duty). Reducing the period of service to one week would relieve some of the pressures and conflicts caused by jury duty and may increase the number of individuals willing and able to serve. Employers also carry the burden of a two-week term. Requiring employers to be without key personnel for two weeks places a burden on their operations and can reduce their willingness to cooperate with an employee fulfilling their civic responsibilities. A one-week term helps reduce the inconvenience inherent in having an employee on jury duty.

E. Increasing the Jury Service Opportunities for Minorities and Other Protected Classes

One of the foundational underpinnings of the American criminal justice system is that a criminal defendant will be tried by a jury of her/his peers. This concept is vital to maintaining the public's confidence in the legitimacy of the decisions rendered in justice system. In doubling the number of jury opportunities, twice as many individuals of all ethnicities and backgrounds will be called. As such, more minority individuals and members of other protected classes will be called to serve.

F. Increasing the Efficiency of the Criminal Justice System by Creating Teams of Attorneys Assigned to Courtrooms

One of the biggest advantages to the continuous jury system is the establishment of courtroom teams. Each courtroom will have members of the State's Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office assigned to felony courtrooms. Because these teams will be working closely with each other they will establish strong working relationships and be able to anticipate the reactions of counsel and the judge.

A difficulty experienced by the judiciary in scheduling trials is the struggle to find cases where both attorneys are available at the same time. This juggling of cases in order to schedule a case where both counsel are available has been described as similar to trying to solve a "Rubik's Cube". This problem is not encountered in a continuous jury system because attorneys are assigned to courtrooms. The cases will be assigned to those attorneys from case initiation until final disposition.

G. Increasing Prompt Client Contact with Their Appointed Public Defender

In order for the Public Defender to adequately represent their clients' interests, they must have the time necessary to communicate effectively with them. As was stated earlier, the Champaign County Public Defender's Office has a caseload averaging 3 times the standards set by the American Bar Association. The current staff does not have the time to have the contact with their clients in a way conducive to effective representation. As such, part of this recommendation is the establishment of an assistant public defender position. Lowering the delay between appointment and first contact, gathering data to be used during arraignment and granting defendants access to their discovery in a timely manner will facilitate quicker disposition of their cases and, as such, lower the case backlog and assist in lowering the population of Champaign County Correctional Center / Satellite Jail Facility.

V. Additional Personnel Needed to Implement a Continuous Jury System

In order to implement a continuous jury system in Champaign County, only one full-time and two part-time positions would need to be added. An additional assistant public defender would be need for pre-trial activities previously discussed. The Court would also require an additional part-time jury coordinator and a part-time jury assistant. The jury commissioners would also have to meet twice per month instead of once per month.

VI. Costs Associated with Implementation of a Continuous Jury System

It is important to note at the outset that the costs described below are only estimates calculated on an annual basis. Every effort will be made by all of the individuals involved in the justice system to reduce costs wherever and whenever possible. Unfortunately, there is no way to predict any cost savings until we have some experience with the system. Please see Appendix C – Continuous Jury System Expenditures Spreadsheet for a breakdown of the costs discussed below.

The most obvious cost associated with a continuous jury system is the increase in payments to jurors for their service. Jurors receive \$10.00 per day for their service plus a payment for mileage traveled to the Courthouse. In Fiscal Year 2006, the amount budgeted for those costs is \$130,000. In order to implement a continuous jury system, these costs would need to be increased by \$35,727.04. In addition to the juror fees, there is also increasing the funding for juror meals by one-third or \$2,000.00. The jury commissioners would have to meet two times per month which would increase their collective salaries from \$4,340 to \$8,680 per year.

The costs for the additional personnel break down as follows: the cost for two jury coordinators would increase the costs to approximately \$16,263.84 (actual costs of personnel used in FY '05 multiplied by 2); the cost for two part-time jury assistants is \$3,204 (actual costs of personnel used in FY '05 multiplied by 2); and the cost of the additional assistant public defender (including benefits) would be \$46,951.50.

One additional increase would be postage for the prescreening questionnaires and summonses would total \$8,400.

The total increase costs associated with the implementation of a continuous jury system is approximately \$97,420 per year.

VII. Conclusion

From the foregoing discussion, it is clear that there are significant costs associated with the implementation of a continuous jury system in Champaign County. However, when the benefits are weighed against the costs and the opportunity exists for the County to better the justice system while simultaneously postponing an inevitable multi-million dollar expenditure in construction / renovation of current jail facilities, this proposal becomes the most viable option. As such, the members of the committee recommend that the Champaign County Board take any and all measures necessary for the implementation of a continuous jury system in Champaign County.

TO: The Honorable Thomas J. Difanis, Presiding Judge
FROM: Roger W. Holland
RE: Will County observations
DATE: October 26, 2005

The following represents my notes/observations from the trip taken to Will County on Monday, October 24, 2005.

The meeting was held in the conference room in the Chief Judge's office. Present from Will County were: The Honorable Stephen White, Chief Judge of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County State's Attorney James W. Glasgow, Will County Public Defender John Prehn, Will County Sheriff Paul Kaupas, Will County Court Administrator Kurt Sangmeister, as well as a member of the staff of the jury commission. Present from Champaign County were: The Honorable Thomas J. Difanis, Presiding Judge, Champaign County Administrator Deb Busey, Champaign County State's Attorney Julia Rietz, Champaign County Public Defender Randy Rosenbaum, Champaign County Sheriff Dan Walsh and Champaign County Court Administrator Roger Holland.

Initially the participants discussed the similarities and differences between Champaign County and Will County. Will County has a population of approximately 610,000 and has grown greatly over the last few years. The continuous jury system was initiated approximately ten years ago in Will County. Kurt Sangmeister indicated that he would send us budget information showing the fiscal impact of the development of their jury system. He did not know exactly what impact, if any, the change made. The Will County Circuit Court has 24 or 25 courtrooms in multiple locations, seven of which are dedicated to felony trials.

The current population in the Will County Correctional Center is 550. The current population far exceeds the facility's capacity of 320. Will County officials are contemplating an initiative for a referendum on a public safety quarter-cent sales tax in order to fund renovations to double the size of their correctional facility. These renovations will include construction of two additional courtrooms in their correctional facility. For now, they are housing prisoners on the floor of gymnasium facilities within the Correctional Center and in their booking area. The growing jail population will soon require Will County to house prisoners in other counties. They estimate that the cost for such accommodations may reach \$1,000,000 per year. In order to lower the number of visitors coming in and out of their facility, the Sheriff has begun to create an area in a separate building that will allow for video visitation for prisoners and their visitors. The Public Defender has made arrangements to have face-to-face meetings with the clients his office represents.

The caseload for the Public Defender's office has increased by 84% in the last 18 months to 23,000 cases. Unlike Champaign County, the Public Defender's office in Will County is adequately staffed to allow for the individual attorneys' caseloads to remain within American Bar Association standards.

The jury system in Will County is not that drastic from our own in a few respects. They use the same computer system to generate summons and payment for jurors as we do. They have multiple cases set for trial in each courtroom in case some of the cases set for trial are disposed of in some other fashion (i.e. plea, continuance, etc.) as we do. However, that seems to be where the similarities end.

The felony cases in Will County generally follow the same pattern. Every felony case is charged by indictment, not information. A formal arraignment is held within 15 days from the date of incarceration. No preliminary hearings are held. At the arraignment, the case is sent to one of the felony courtrooms for disposition. This distribution is performed by taking each case and assigning it to a judge on a list with the next case going to the next judge on the list, etc. Approximately two weeks later, a pretrial is held where discovery is exchanged and a trial date is set. Discovery is liberally supplemented during the intervening period. In Will County, arrangements have been made with the various law enforcement agencies to not have police officers subpoenaed to testify.

The State's Attorney and Public Defender indicate that approximately 2-3 trials per week are actually held. Attorneys from each office are assigned to specific courtrooms where all stages of the criminal prosecution will occur. One of the things stressed at the meeting was the necessity for excellent communication and cooperation between the State's Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office. This positive interaction flows from the tops of the two organizations as the State's Attorney and Public Defender have had a long history of working together at various stages of their careers.

The advantages of this system outweigh the disadvantages. Increased efficiency occurs when attorneys can become familiar with their opponents and the judge. The participants learn the best way to communicate with each other and can better address each others' needs when they are more familiar with each other. Another advantage is that when a mistrial occurs, the judge can retry the case the very next day as opposed to waiting for the next pretrial. When a motion for substitution of judge is filed, cases can be tried by another judge either the same day or, at the worst, within a matter of days as opposed to weeks. Jurors would only have to serve for one week. This change would lower the stresses placed on the jurors and their employers.

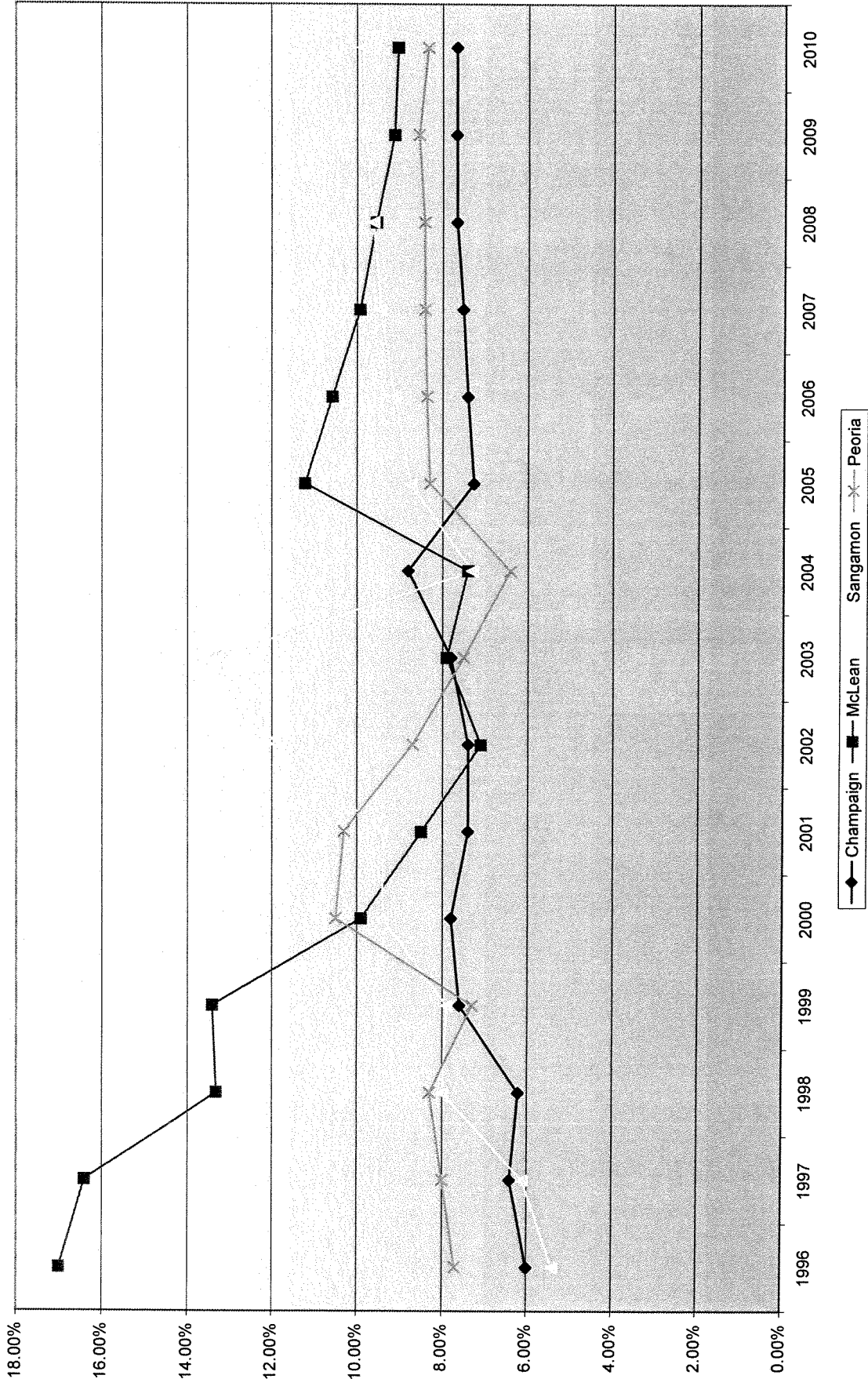
The question is whether this system could work in Champaign County. The answer is a qualified "yes". The system would have to be tweaked in order for it to be implemented here. The system would undoubtedly cost more. We would have to call in more jurors than we do now. If there is an increase in trials, there would be an increase in the costs for food and drink for deliberating jurors. We would also have to revamp the way that the jury clerk position is staffed. The change would require us to hire additional part time jury clerks. We would also have to probably increase the number of times the jury commission meets per month. Juror orientation would

have to be performed via videotape as opposed to live. More individuals would be coming into and out of the courthouse on a daily basis. The Sheriff may see a need for more personnel due to the increase in foot traffic and for additional staff to handle deliberating juries. We would be unable to use the jury assembly room for functions other than for juror seating. As far as trials are concerned, we would probably need to have two courtrooms in trial and one available for motions, PTRs and sentencings.

That all having been said, I believe that this system is the direction in which we should move. Increasing the number trial opportunities should drastically lower the backlog in felony cases and lower the current stress on jail facilities.

APPENDIX B

Pending Criminal % Comparison by County

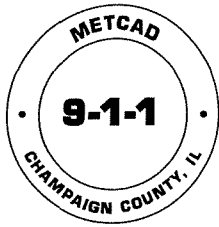


APPENDIX C

Costs Associated with Jury Term	FY '04 Budget	FY '04 Actual	FY' 05 Budget	FY '05 Actual	FY '06 Budget	Anticipated Costs
Juror Fees	\$ 123,541.00	\$ 123,292.00	\$ 130,365.00	\$ 111,186.40	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 165,727.04
Juror Meals	\$ 5,675.00	\$ 5,547.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,903.83	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Jury Commissioners	\$ 4,340.00	\$ 4,340.00	\$ 4,340.00	\$ 4,340.00	\$ 4,340.00	\$ 8,680.00
Jury Clerk	\$ 12,769.00	\$ 8,622.00	\$ 14,428.00	\$ 7,895.07	\$ 15,524.00	\$ 16,263.84
Part-time Jury Assistant	\$ 1,714.00	\$ 1,249.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 1,602.00	\$ 1,602.00	\$ 3,204.00
Postage	\$ 2,340.00	\$ 2,340.00	\$ 2,340.00	\$ 2,340.00	\$ 2,340.00	\$ 8,400.00
Parking	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 15,870.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
Public Defender Personnel Salary	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 42,139.50
PubDef Personnel GenCorp Fringe						\$4,812.00
TOTAL	\$ 163,379.00	\$ 162,390.00	\$ 172,223.00	\$ 148,137.30	\$ 177,806.00	\$ 275,226.38
Annual Cost of Implementation of a Continuous Jury System						\$ 97,420.38

ASSUMPTIONS:

- 1 Since 1998, the average annual expenditure for Jury Fees is \$117,727, and the highest expense (in 1998) was \$124,573.12. The anticipated cost assumes a 33% increase in jurors - going from 150 jurors for 2 weeks, to 100 jurors for 4 weeks (effectively 300/month increases to 400/month).
- 2 Since 1998, the average annual expenditure for Juror Meals is \$5,315, and the highest expense (in 2002) was \$5,799.47. The anticipated cost again assumes a 33% increase in juror meals - from \$6,000 to \$8,000.
- 3 The increases in staff costs for jury commissioners, clerk and assistant are as projected by the Court Administrator.
- 4 Postage is assessed based on sending out 400 notices/week for juror notification at the county's pre-sort rate.
- 5 It is anticipated we can work with the City of Urbana to obtain 100 parking spaces for 4 weeks of the month at the same rate as 150 spaces for 2 weeks every month.
- 6 Adding one Assistant Public Defender - included is the salary cost and any General Corporate Fund fringe benefit costs.



METCAD

Public Safety Through Quality Service

REPORT TO CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD

FROM: Rick Kallmayer, METCAD Director

DATE: January 19, 2006

RE: Informational Report on METCAD Radio Project

A. Introduction: The purpose of this report is to inform the Champaign County Board about the METCAD radio project and to respond to questions regarding the project.

B. Recommended Action: None. This report is informational only.

C. Background:

1. History of Radio System. Prior to 1979, all area public safety agencies operated independent radio systems. Each agency staffed its own dispatch function, taking calls from the public on a unique phone number and using a single radio frequency for its field operations. METCAD was created in 1979 to allow interoperability between the three metro area police departments and to consolidate the dispatch function in a single location. In 1983 the Champaign County Sheriff's Office joined METCAD, and in 1988 metro fire department dispatch was added. In 1990, 9-1-1 became the single number to call for police, fire, or ambulance responses in Champaign County. Today, METCAD performs call-taking and dispatch functions for thirty- three police and fire departments. The radio system remains a patchwork of the original conventional VHF and UHF radio systems and infrastructure equipment used in the 1970's. Some infrastructure components are no longer manufactured, and the used parts supply will run out during the next few years. The communications load on the radio system is dramatically higher today than when METCAD was founded, with approximately double the number of dispatched calls and double the number of police and fire units serving the public on a typical shift. Modern police and fire operations require the use of additional radio talk groups. Conventional UHF and VHF radio systems require additional frequencies to add talk groups, however, additional frequencies are very hard to obtain in those bands.

2. Radio System Project. In 1996, the METCAD Policy Board (MPB) developed a list of capital improvement projects for METCAD. Champaign County voters approved a referendum to increase the wired line telephone surcharge rate in order to provide funding for these projects and increased operational costs. In 2002, after the other capital improvement projects were

completed, work started on the radio project with the formation of the METCAD Radio Advisory Committee (MRAC).

3. Radio System Study. MRAC was composed of representatives from all of the member agencies. MRAC began by studying the strengths and weaknesses of the legacy systems. Subcommittees then analyzed the current communications needs of the police and fire services and projected those needs into the future. MRAC next explored available radio communications technologies before making recommendations to the MPB. The MPB evaluated three conceptual radio systems in conjunction with the recommendations of MRAC.

1. A conventional VHF and UHF system using additional frequencies.
2. The StarCom21 state-wide, digital trunked 800 MHz system.
3. A private, digital trunked 800 MHz system for police paired with a conventional VHF system for fire.

Only the third concept met all of the desired performance characteristics and was capable of scalability and the ability to keep pace with technological evolution at a low cost.

4. Radio System Engineering. In August 2005, the MPB directed staff to proceed to develop final engineering and contract development for the new radio system infrastructure, to be purchased under the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program at a cost not to exceed the funds on hand for the project. The cost of the project was estimated to be \$4.5 to \$5.5 million.

5. Digital Trunked Radio System. In December, 2005, the METCAD Policy Board authorized the execution of a contract with Motorola to construct a five site, digital ASTRO 800 MHz trunked radio system for METCAD. The project includes eight simulcast 800 MHz channels for public safety and public service agency use and a four site, conventional VHF system to provide a county-wide fire dispatch & paging channel. The infrastructure cost for this system is \$5.7185 million which will be paid from funds which have been generated from telephone surcharge revenue over the past nine years.

When the system is completed in the summer of 2007 it will provide a modern, robust, flexible, and expandable network which can support interoperable voice communications between police, fire, emergency medical, emergency management, and government public service agencies throughout the county. The METCAD system will also allow seamless integration with state and federal communications networks during large scale emergencies. The initial user groups on the system will be the police departments currently served by METCAD and the Champaign and Urbana fire departments. The Champaign and Urbana public works departments have expressed interest in using the system, and we anticipate that other agencies will eventually also want to use the system.

6. VHF Fire System. This system is still under design at this time. The Champaign County Fire Chiefs Association is assisting the MRAC Fire Subcommittee in a review of available solutions. The Champaign and Urbana fire departments have decided to use the digital trunked radio system because the available VHF system solutions will not provide an adequate number of operational channels for their requirements. METCAD will provide either an improved VHF infrastructure or capacity on the digital trunked system for rural fire use.

7. Budget Impacts for User Agencies. The MPB had originally hoped to be able to generate enough funds from surcharge revenue to pay for the infrastructure and the initial new field equipment for the departments. However, surcharge revenue has fallen short of projections due to the widespread popularity of cell telephones and internet telephony options. This is continuing as new communication technologies arise to replace hard-wired telephone. The result of this short fall is that METCAD will only have enough funding to replace the infrastructure and jurisdictions will have to follow our historical model and purchase field equipment for their departments.

- a. Your police agency will need to buy new portable radios and possibly some new mobile radios for vehicles in order to use the new trunking system.
- b. If other departments in your jurisdiction wish to use the digital trunked infrastructure, they will also need to purchase new portable and/or mobile radios.
- c. The METCAD Policy Board is investigating alternative funding strategies for METCAD in the future. The goals are to eliminate user agency fees if possible, achieve a more equitable burden across jurisdictions, and to secure a stable, adequate funding source.
- d. If a successful alternative funding strategy is identified, the METCAD Policy Board will need your political support for the necessary changes.
- e. Examples of the 2005 State Bid price for mid-tier digital trunking radio system equipment are \$2,114 for a portable radio without accessories, and \$2,875 for a mobile radio without accessories. Lower tier and higher tier equipment is also available. Your police agency will develop an equipment order specific to their operational needs which will detail the number and type of portable and mobile radios they will need to purchase. Equipment purchased concurrently with the availability of the new radio system will be invoiced in mid 2007.

METCAD has become a highly successful model of a consolidated dispatch center. It provides state of the art service to the citizens of Champaign County when they need help from a public safety agency. The new digital trunked radio system has been designed to provide improved communications support for your emergency responders. It has the capacity to be expanded to serve all of the public safety agencies and public service departments in the county in the future, providing seamless communications interoperability across disciplines and jurisdictions.