

MEETING AGENDA

Criminal Justice Council Jail Population Management Subcommittee

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

2:30 to 3:30pm

City Hall, 9th Floor

I. Welcoming and Opening Remarks	Deputy Mayor Kopplin
II. Plan Development and Timeline	Sarah Schirmer
III. Overview of Jail Population and Length of Stay	Sarah Schirmer
IV. Identified Determinants of Jail Population Size	Sarah Schirmer
V. Initial Findings from Data Analysis and System Mapping	Sarah Schirmer
VI. Next Steps to Plan Development	Sarah Schirmer

Criminal Justice Council Jail Population Management Subcommittee

Minutes

April 21, 2015

On April 21st, the Jail Population Management Subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Council convened at 2:30 pm in the 8th floor Homeland Security Conference Room in City Hall. The following persons were present/absent:

Jail Population Management Subcommittee Members

Present:

Andy Kopplin – Subcommittee Chair
Honorable Susan Guidry
Derwyn Bunton
Leon Cannizzaro
Frank Palestina
Judge Camille Buras
Judge Harry Cantrell
Judge Laurie White
Sharonda Williams
Blake Arcuri (attending on behalf of Sheriff
Marlin Gusman)
Superintendent Michael Harrison

Absent:

Arthur Morrell
Judge Bobby Jones
Judge Desiree Charbonnet
Chief Judge Benedict Willard
Jeffrey Rouse
Judge Candace Bates-Anderson

Office of Criminal Justice Coordination Staff

Present:

Charles West
Sarah Schirmer
Melody Chang
DuBois Winford

I. Welcoming and Opening Remarks

The meeting began at 11:39am when Andy Kopplin welcomed everyone and reiterated that jail population management is a priority for himself and the Mayor. Deputy Mayor Kopplin also discussed the significant costs to the city and system if the Subcommittee fails to act.

- Deputy Mayor Kopplin clarified that New Orleans takes 150 more days to process cases from arrest to disposition than the 111 day average among the 75 largest urban counties.

II. Plan Development and Timeline

Since the last meeting in February, OCJC staff has used data analysis and system mapping to identify processes and decision points that could be more effective and/or efficient.

Sarah Schirmer of the Office of Criminal Justice Coordination provided the Subcommittee with a presentation on the initial findings from the research.

III. Overview of Jail Population and Length of Stay

The OCJC team analyzed data from a November 2014 snapshot of the OPP jail population to understand better who is in the jail and therefore where to direct the team's efforts.

IV. Identified Determinants of Jail Population Size

Sarah Schirmer discussed the two drivers of jail population at the high level: number of admissions and length of stay.

The OCJC team researched various contributing factors to number of admissions and length of stay for their relevancy to jail size in Orleans Parish. For those factors that did contribute to jail size, the OCJC team used data analysis to evaluate the scope of the contribution.

V. Initial Findings from Data Analysis and System Mapping

Sarah Schirmer discussed issues identified from research. Some Subcommittee members made comments or asked questions:

- Frank Palestina spoke in support of administrative sanctions and described the culture change and eventual success enjoyed by the Parole Board after it authorized the use of administrative sanctions. He suggested that ten of the twelve CDC judges are willing to consider authorization of administrative sanctions on a case by case basis but that in practice, they are not used. He suggested that their use should be authorized by default and in exceptional cases, judges could re-evaluate authorization.
- Judge Laurie White requested the raw data behind the Use of ROR analysis so that she could look into individual cases to understand why the defendant was not issued an ROR. She also requested statistics for how many defendants assessed as low-risk were not issued an ROR.

- Councilwoman Susan Guidry voiced her support for use of pretrial assessment tools and increased use of RORs.
- Sarah Schirmer asked the Subcommittee for ideas as to why individuals may experience a lag of over seven days between the day they are issued a release to the community and the day they are actually released out of custody. The Subcommittee did not have ideas.

VI. Next Steps to Plan Development

After the Subcommittee meeting, the OCJC team will finalize its analysis and research. The team will begin convening smaller working groups with agency representatives to explore solutions to identified issues. These working group sessions will culminate in a Strategic Plan to Reduce the Jail Population by the end of June. The Subcommittee will convene again in late June.

- Blake Arcuri brought up the issue of DOC-sentenced inmates awaiting transport and expressed support for collaboration with DOC headquarters to expedite that process. There was concern about faxing orders because some material cannot be faxed, such as fingerprints.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30.