



Lake County Criminal Justice Citizen's Council



Wednesday, December 18, 2019
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Park Place
414 S Lewis Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60085

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Gilbert Rivera	Round Lake Beach Police
Donna Jo Maki	County Administration Office
Holly Kerr	Coalition to Reduce Recidivism
Evonnda Fulton	Waukegan Public Schools
Chris Covelli	Lake County Sheriff's Office
Bruce Johnson	NICASA
Fred Day	Lake County State's Attorney Office
Todd Shroeder	Lake County 19 th Judicial Circuit Court
Mark Pfister	Lake County Health Department
George Moore	Legacy Reentry Foundation
Arthur Noparstak	Lake County United
Keith Goins	Building Families Together
Kevin Kuehmeier	Justice System Partners
Sara Balmes	Lake County Sheriff's Office
Jan Cummings	Trinity AME Church
Sherry Green	Building Families Together
Jim Hawkins	Lake County Administrator's Office
Rebecca Skork	Citizen
Margaret Fontana	Lake County Adult Probation
Jamie Oliphant	Lake County Adult Probation – PTBS
Clyde McLemore	Transition Program
Johnnie Jenkins	Waukegan Township
Christina Sansone	Justice System Partners
Celeste Flores	Faith in Place
Dulce Ortiz	Mano-a-Mano
Julio Guzman	Lake County Sheriff's Office
David Olson	Loyola University, Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy and Practice

Welcome & Introductions

Note: This meeting was scheduled to take place at a reserved room in Park Place, which shares a building with the Waukegan Park District. By happenstance, most attendees were admitted through the park district's entrance, where the park district staff directed them to their conference room. Due to this, the meeting took place at the park district.

Sergeant Christopher Covelli started the meeting at 6:05 p.m. by introducing himself and expressing Sheriff John D. Idleburg's and Chief of Staff Anthony Vega's regrets for having to miss the meeting due to a business meeting in Washington, D.C.

Attendees introduced themselves by name and organization.

Lake County Sheriff's Office Jail Dashboard: Presentation by David Olson & Don Stemen

Report enclosed. Synopsis:

Dave Olson gave a presentation on Understanding Admissions to the Lake County, Illinois Jail

In this presentation, he distinguished jails from prisons, county-run versus state-run, respectively.

Olson highlighted the focal points for reducing a jail population: admission + length of stay

Admissions to the jail are primarily driven by decisions on pre-trial detention. The length of stay is usually determined by how quickly bond can be posted or the criminal case is resolved.

Once people exit jails or prisons, there's potential of returning to jail on a new charge or failing to appear or violation of supervision.

Lake County Jail's maximum occupancy is 740. Ideally jails would operate at 80% capacity (582), allowing wiggle room for isolated detainees and movement in case of maintenance or relocation necessities.

Characteristics of those admitted and released are not the same as the population in the jail.

Important note: admission to the jail is not controlled by the Sheriff.

There is seasonality to jail admissions: in the summer months there is more criminal activity, leading to more arrests.

The average daily population at the Lake County Jail is up 5 percent.

Lake County crime is down, arrests are down, felony and criminal misdemeanor case filings are down.

The Lake County Jail admissions are down 4 percent. This means length of stay is increasing.

In 2007, the average length of stay was 25, in 2018 it was 30.

Increase of an average of 4.75 days between 2015 and 2018 adds 85 detainees to the average daily population.

Someone sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections is in the Lake County Jail approximately 133 days.

One of the things that drives length of stay:

Bond, Release on recognizance, Time or sentence served, Court ordered, IDOC

Sentencing drives a lot of the consumption of jail resources (e.g. those that end up going to prison).

A member of the council expressed interest in specifically looking at how individuals who fail to appear exacerbate the jail population.

A member of the council asked about the process of getting sent to prison from the county jail. Olson explained that process, noting that the local jail transports individuals to prison, and that the prison will consider time served from the jail as a credit towards their sentence.

A member asked if Olson's research showed which inmates are sentenced to prison based on violent crimes.

Olson clarified that that information is in the data. Olson is working on a report that looks exclusively at data on admissions to prison.

Olson noted that there is a shift in sentencing: less people convicted of felonies are going to prison. They are sending fewer people to prison, but the people they are sending were convicted of violent crimes.

Olson noted that the importance of sharing this data is to then get the insights of the members of the council to address and understand the causes of the data.

Olson noted there is never one cause of the data results.

Olson noted the need to next compare the data population of those released from the jail, including those released on cash bond or released on their own recognizance.

Olson explained jail data dissemination in phases.

Phase 1 is looking at admissions to the jail and providing a dashboard with this information.

The next phase is to add tabs to provide similar types of data for the jail population and data on exits from the jail.

A member asked if the data showed the recidivism rate in Lake County. Olson mentioned that he could come up with a proxy for that, such as how many were re-admitted to the jail.

The purpose of the dashboard is to better understand the population writ large.

Olson spoke to the complexity of what is counted as recidivism.

A member asked about a way to capture people who are in the jail and participating in pretrial services. Olson answered that he is not sure.

It was clarified that anyone who bonds out is not on pretrial status. They must be ordered.

It was clarified that admissions do not include the work release facility.

Don Stemen gave a demonstration on the Lake County Sheriff's Office Jail Dashboard, which is meant to visualize the data at the jail.

Stemen noted three sections: number of people admitted each year through November 14th of each year. Next to that is the change from 2018 to 2019 of people admitted, and next to that is data from 2013 to 2019.

The right-hand side bar chart shows people who were admitted to the jail and stayed three days or more.

Stemen noted that length of stay is increasing.

A member asked why 3 days was selected as a criterion. Olson advised that research supports that when a person is incarcerated for 3 days there is substantial disruption in the person's life.

Across the bottom of the dashboard is information about the people admitted to the jail, including demographics and offenses.

The jail dashboard is fully interactive and meant to be dynamic. For example, hovering over the displays will show you more information, allowing for hovering and clicking for more details.

The dashboard will show you the top charges of each year when you hover over the bar graphs.

A member asked if we could look at data specifically looking at offenses that involved firearms.

Olson specified that the data they get is all the people admitted and all the charges associated with that individual. Then, Olson mentioned that they tag the most legally serious crime.

A member also asked about specifying the data to look specifically at illegal possession of a firearm.

A member wanted to look at the breakdown of race when it comes to admissions due to charges of illegal possession of firearms.

It is possible to later develop more specific data to show on the jail dashboard.

A member asked if there is a setting to build your own chart. The way it is shown on the Sheriff's website does not allow for that.

A member asked if the dashboard could show the population of mental health illness by offense. Olson reported that including mental health data could violate confidentiality laws and even identify a person. The dashboard is designed to include only permissible public data.

It was clarified that mental health evaluations are conducted at the Lake County, IL Jail.

A member suggested that a questionnaire could be given to incarcerated persons to assess prior trauma. This would help identify individuals in need of reducing future risk of trauma.

A discussion was started about the importance of offering mental health help to individuals incarcerated for mental health situations.

It was asked to have more information about how offenses qualify as violent.

It was also asked if there was data on which communities individuals return to post-sentence. Olson said that the report they produced shows what communities individuals return to coming out of prison, not the Lake County Jail.

Bylaws Discussion

A discussion about the bylaws was facilitated by Bruce Johnson, a member of the bylaws committee.

In the discussion of the bylaws, clarification was sought around the term Lake County Chief of Probation Officer and whether that should be reclassified as Director of Juvenile Probation and Director of Adult Probation.

A question was raised if the Chief Judge of Adult as well as the presiding judge of juvenile should both have votes and if there should simply be a representative of the juvenile justice coordinating council.

Clarification was sought about the name of the CJCC: Is it the Criminal Justice Citizen's Council or the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council?

Any organization wishing to become a voting member of the CJCC could speak with Sgt. Covelli after the meeting to be added.

After this meeting, any organization that wished to be a voting member must follow the established procedure set forth in the bylaws.

It was asked if the Waukegan Park District should be included as a voting member in the CJCC.

A question was asked about voting on issues if the primary representative is not present at the meeting. The question was answered with clarification that the bylaws would outline a procedure for designating a proxy to vote in place of the primary member.

It was noted that an approval process and revision of minutes would be developed as well as posting the minutes on the Lake County Sheriff's Office website.

It was clarified that these meetings are open to the public, and the bylaws committee was encouraged to include this explicitly in the bylaws.

The members discussed bail bond reform and the community –focused approach.

A representative from the health department offered to host the next meeting at 3010 Grand Avenue in Waukegan or at their animal control building in Libertyville.

Julio Guzman provided a presentation on the MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R.E.D.) team as a working group of this CJCC.

Adjournment

Bruce Johnson made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. and Mark Pfister seconded the motion.