

MEETING MINUTES



SJC LEADERSHIP MEETING

Date: December 7th, 2023

Time: 3:00pm

Meeting called to order by: Donna Jo Maki

IN ATTENDANCE

Sgt. James Yanecek, Donna Jo Maki, D/C Nick Kalfas, Gene Marceron, Holly Kerr, Todd Schroeder, Keith Kuehmeier, Sandy Hart, Eric Rinehart, David Asma

DISCUSSION

1. Presentation on Case Processing (Kane County IL) by Kevin Kuehmeier, Justice Systems Partners

A discussion ensued with an understanding that many SJC sites have struggled with improving case processing time and reducing racial, ethnic disparities. An edited video was presented highlighting Kane County Chief Judge Hull's leadership to identify and reduce the number of pending cases over 1 year, 2 year, and 3+ years. Over six months the program showed significant reductions (30%) in all three categories. They reduced 107 cases to 48. Kane County had 12-13 pending murders.

This effort commenced after a Tribune article. During the pandemic Kane County judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and Sheriff cooperated and agreed that the delay in case processing was an issue and collectively met to work on the problem. They created an updateable spreadsheet to track all their custody cases pending trial. Successful policy changes included judges setting a hard line on trial dates, recognizing 95% would turn into a plea agreement, and working through justice partners push back. The process included reviewing "The List" weekly. The spreadsheet could sort by case offense, specific judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, and total custody dates.

Chief Judge Hull reported in the video that reducing the custodial case processing times benefited the defendants, criminal justice system, and taxpayers. It was reported in their annual report the taxpayer savings and importance to victims.

The discussion included that communication was key and must be a priority to judges. Lake County had a similar discussion about six weeks ago on the Tribune article about the jail population and average daily population.

There was a discussion on obtaining judicial buy-in and the ability to create a Lake County custody list. Since E-Court launched the Courts and State's Attorney's Office cannot run data reports. They are still fixing bugs in the new software.

There was a discussion on the jail population review committee and the historical success of Early Disposition Court (EDC) reviewing and resolving cases. However, EDC stopped and since the PFA started, cases are moving quickly from Courtroom 020 to "upstairs" their assigned courtrooms. After the PFA, the jail population recently dropped to 495. "The people in jail need to be jail." There was a suggestion that the jail population review committee look at custodial Petitions to Revoke and while Judge Collins in C-120 ask him to consider cases.

The Sheriff's Office 365 report was discussed. However, it is a pdf not an updateable, shareable, spreadsheet.

Working on reducing case processing could be a J-Team effort since it consists of all the justice leaders. The question was raised on how to get judicial buy-in and if a Lake County List would have any impact. There was a question if E-Court included a "in-custody flag."

E. Rinehart advised that Dave Olson published a study on the number of persons incarcerated in IDOC. Historically, Lake County was not one of the highest contributors of IDOC. A question was raised whether Kane County is resolving cases with an increase to IDOC admissions. Also, it was questioned if CBCC closing had an impact of the jail population. It was opined that no one can do 36 months periodic imprisonment. Most sentences convert to IDOC.

It was acknowledged that Lake County has 80 pending murders and 8-9 are minors charged with murder. Each year, Lake County usually has 15 new murder charges.

K. Kuehmeier advised that Chief Judge Hull offered to present on this effort to Lake County.

2. All received in advance of the meeting, the Jail Population data slides and were reminded they cannot be shared.

Next meeting will be held on January 4, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Lake County Sheriff's Training Center

Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.