

Minutes
Trempealeau County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
January 26, 2010

Members present: Dick Miller, Sheree Nelson, Doug Winters, Barb Semb, Judge Damon, Jill Clark, Chief Deputy Brian Puent, Lt. Tonya Niederkorn, Pat Malone, Jeff McIntyre, Deb Garson and Rick Schaumberg.

Also present: Sgt. Joan Koval and Ernie Vold.

The meeting was called to order by Miller at 2:03 p.m. stating proper posting and notification has met open meeting requirements. Motion by Semb and seconded by Puent to accept the agenda as posted. Motion carried 11-0.

Miller questioned if there were any changes to the previous meeting minutes. Hearing none the minutes were approved. Motion carried 11-0.

National Institute of Corrections Local Jail and Justice System Assessment Report

Committee members were given a DVD copy of the National Institute of Corrections Local Jail and Justice System Assessment Report for review.

The report indicates that a great need in this community is to develop a comprehensive automated data collection instrument with the corresponding report writing ability to convert the entered data into meaningful information.

The report also states that despite the jail facility being relatively well kept, it contains older technology, design flaws and space issues that make the current facility less than optimal in efficiency. In regards to meeting the jail population demand, the current jail facility is not adequate for the current needs of Trempealeau County

The consultant's are of the opinion the current justice system situation needs immediate attention by way of justice system master planning, with serious consideration given to a number of areas that will have other associated costs, but those costs in the long term will be less expensive than building and staffing an over-expanded jail facility. The master plan and system changes should be the guide to any construction or addition of any more jail beds. The justice system, as a unified whole, must begin management of all their resources in such a way that will best meet the needs of the inmates, of the justice system and of the community. This is not to say that more jail beds are not needed. The opposite is in fact true.

In answering the following questions, the local correctional philosophy will become much more clear, and the use of the jail and other offender response mechanisms will become defined and allow the most effective and cost efficient jail and program designs.

1. Why do we incarcerate?
2. What purpose does the jail now serve?
3. What purpose would you like to see the jail serve in the future?

There was much discussion by the council on how to move forward with the recommendations from the National Institute of Corrections. The council determined that they would review the DVD copy of the report and further discuss the recommendations of NIC at the next meeting. There was also discussion of developing a sub-group to address some of the recommendations made by the consultants, including improving data collection.

Workender Program – Presentation by Sgt. Joan Koval and Lt. Tonya Niederkorn

Sgt. Joan Koval and Lt. Tonya Niederkorn presented the council with information regarding the Rock County Workender Program and potential feasibility within Trempealeau County.

The Workender Program is an alternative to incarceration for low-risk offenders. The program allows inmates to serve their sentence on the weekends and/or midweek, without disrupting their jobs, childcare or school. It is a program designed to help relieve overcrowding in the jail while holding inmates accountable. Inmates conduct community service work at designated non-profit, charitable and government agencies.

District Attorney Misdemeanor Diversion Program Grant – Presentation by Victim Witness Coordinator Deb Garson

The District Attorney's Office has applied for and received a grant for a diversion program. Non-violent misdemeanor offenders will be eligible for this program. The grant award is \$225,000, divided over a three year period. The grant funds will cover the wages of an individual to oversee the participants of this program.

The committee requests that the District Attorney appear at the next meeting to provide further information.

Establishing Mission, Vision, and Values

Malone advised the committee that she wanted to provide some definitions. Values are the beliefs that drive us, the reason why we do things. A mission is what we do, and for her whom we do it. A vision is more future oriented and is not as specific. If we live up to our values and complete our mission the vision is the result. Malone further advised that she will likely prepare worksheets to facilitate further discussion on this topic at the next meeting.

Set Next Meeting Date/Time

The next Trempealeau County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in the Tremple Room.

Miller adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

Rebecca Suchla
Trempealeau County Sheriff's Department
Office/Fiscal Manager