

HANDOUTS

- Meeting Agenda
- Justice Reinvestment FAQ
- CJ Quarter Report (Jan–Mar 2011)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 8:50 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Tom Eberly (County Manager’s Office) opened the meeting and welcomed members.

Approval of Minutes

Members approved by consensus the April 19 meeting minutes.

Updates

Bail Task Force

The Honorable Judge Lisa Bell updated members regarding the recent policy review conducted by the Bail Task Force. With the assistance of Luminosity consultant Maria Van Nostram, the task force reconvened in May to review post-implementation progress. In part the review focused on the prevalence of failures to appear among traffic-related cases and whether they should carry the same weight on the risk assessment as those occurring in other charge groups. It was determined no change would be made. In addition, the task force revised the bail policy summary guide (“cheat sheet”) located at each bench to ensure consistency with policy and statute language. The task force spent “a lot” of time discussing assertions of non-compliance with the bail policy. Bail bondsmen were invited to the discussion. In response, the Court is assigning an intern to track conditions of release with the goal of assessing the degree of consistency between judicial decisions and policy. Anecdotal reports suggest improvements in these areas.

Judge Bell also informed members that additional stakeholder training was scheduled during the upcoming week for the purpose of increasing understanding of the reasoning behind pretrial release decisions among police officers. Invitations to attend have also been extended to the District Attorney’s Office, Public Defenders, private bar, and new judges.

State and County Budget

Tom Eberly informed members the State did not cut the Trial Court Administrator’s position, but did end funding to the Drug Treatment Court. The County, recognizing the value of the program, has chosen to allocate funds in order for it to continue. The State also eliminated Mecklenburg Sentencing Services. The Justice Reinvestment group will be asked to identify ways the County may be able to continue the assessment capabilities provided by MSS. The County also approved funding for Phase II of the Arrest Processing Interface project, which will connect the new arrest processing data system to patrol cars. Finally, county-funded positions in the Offices of the District Attorney, Public Defender, or Trial Court Administrator remained intact for the upcoming budget year.

IT Governance Committee/Project Updates

Tom Eberly informed members the

Justice Reinvestment

Tom Eberly introduced Richard Stroker (Justice Reinvestment Initiative) who then discussed the “opportunity” presented by the JRI: to look at how criminal the local criminal justice system works and to consider the impact local policies and practices have on how money is spent. The premise of the initiative is that there are better ways to spend money to enhance public safety and improve

the circumstances of the citizens while simultaneously better utilizing the available resources. Phase I will include strategic planning, cost/benefit analysis, and development of alternative strategies. Phase II, should Mecklenburg be selected, will be the funding and implementation of the alternative strategies by the federal government. The initial phase is expected to take 9 – 12 months to complete. Experts from around the country will be brought in to help analyze systemic issues identified by members and then explore and develop appropriate solutions.

Mr. Stroker opened the floor to questions. A general discussion of perceived issues followed; topics included: deploying appropriate technology, utilizing best practices, revolving door/rehabilitation, access to data systems, identifying common priorities, reducing failures to appear.

Open Discussion

None.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:00 AM

ACTION ITEMS:

None