

**Public Safety Committee
November 8, 2001
Noon
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: G, Totman, T. Joseph, T. Todd, Blanchard, N. Schuler
Staff/Agencies: S. Whicher, K. Smithers, B. Grinnell-Crosby, D. Squires, R. Haus, L. Withiam, K.
Leinthall, P. Meskill, S. Robinson, L. Shurtleff, J. Miller, D. Johnson, B. Richmond, O.
Mack, J. Hughes, J. Beach, M. Pottorff
Guests: Judge Marjorie Olds

Mr. Totman called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2001

It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Mr. Todd, and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2001 meeting as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Report on Court Day Care

Judge Olds stated Tompkins County is a leader in drug court which is a top priority of the Chief Judge for New York State, noting there are more drug courts here than in any other county in Upstate New York State.

Judge Olds said people who are using the drug courts spend hours each day going to the various services on their service plan. The first thing she observed at the drug court were many people attending with their children. While they are expected to take in a lot of information they are having to take care of their children at the same time. She said she approached some key people - the Drop In Children's Center, local judges, County staff and Representatives, DSS, Cooperative Extension, and others, to see if her interest in court day care was shared by others. She said there are several potential funding sources, including the court system. She said the Judicial Commission on Justice for Children have 33 centers and have advised her that if she were able to pull groups together they would come up with a 60/40 match. They would provide 60 percent and the County could do its 40 percent share in-kind. Ms. Olds suggested the County consider allowing space in the Community Justice Center to be used for this purpose. She said the court system has said she would prepare a request for proposals. She said seven of these programs have been running and each year they have continued to receive funding. She also stated the Children's Center would not need licensing as other day care centers do. Judge Olds stated Alene Wyatt of the Day Care and Child Development Council said she would be willing to assist with this also. It was stated that there are several funding sources that may be available including applying for a community development block grant.

Ms. Olds said at this point she does not have a lot of time to dedicate to this project and would be looking for assistance to help prepare grant requests and do related work. It was suggested that she contact the Cornell Tradition Program to explore the possibility of an intern.

Mr. Joseph said he was approached by Judge Olds about the concept of placing day care for the drug court at the Community Justice Center. At that time he was asked if he thought the County would let the courts have the space if she could obtain grants to renovate the space and run the day care. Mr. Joseph said he told her that if the County was only being asked for the space, it was possible that the Board would consider it. He recommended that she present the idea to other members of the Board. Mr. Joseph said the vision for the Justice Center is to have the various drug courts and the Justice Center relocate to the same location.

Sheriff Meskill expressed concern over the concept; he said it would not be wise to co-mingle individuals who have been convicted of crimes with women and children in the same location.

Mr. Totman said there needs to be more discussion and information provided to the Board. Judge Olds was asked to provide a presentation to both the Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board and the Health and Human Services Committee.

Probation Department

Ms. Leinthall reported caseloads are higher than they have ever been. She spoke of a situation where a client has been stalking one of the probation officers and said they are taking several measures to see this does not continue. At this time there are 709 supervision cases. She said staff is working very hard to accomplish the Department's workload.

Ms. Robinson reported part two of the Racism and Domestic Violence Workshop was held last week. She stated it was very successful with over 34 people in attendance representing several County and not-for-profit agencies. Ms. Robinson will be meeting with the work group that organized the workshop to discuss where to go from here.

Ms. Robinson also reported she attended a grant-writing workshop in Binghamton. Staff has already been looking on the Internet for grants that would apply to criminal justice and domestic violence. She reported the Violence Against Women Act has put out a request for proposals for legal assistance for victims and will be looking for grant possibilities in that area.

Mrs. Schuler requested that the Committee receive quarterly updates from the Domestic Violence Task Force.

Assigned Counsel

Ms. Hughes reported the Dryden court has been busy with nine felonies cases this week. She also reported two defense attorneys will be traveling to Pensacola, Florida to observe a family treatment court there.

Community Justice Center

Ms. Richmond distributed Day Reporting statistics for 2001. The total number of referrals for October was 16, bringing the total for the months of June to date to 46. The statistics show the totals for each month continually going up with a total of 636 program days completed as of October, 2001. Ms. Richmond noted the number of unsuccessfully terminated individuals is going down.

OAR

Mr. Mack provided the Committee with the following report:

OAR is still grappling with the new temporary service delivery model. The population has remained high. The direct phone line, while not the best or preferred method, has allowed some inmates to request OAR services via phone. Additional morning hours have been requested, but have not yet become an available option for delivering OAR services.

The Immediate Assistance Program continues to be the program most affected by the service delivery change. There was a drop in clients served as other OAR direct service staff manned their respective programs. OAR continues to strive to service the maximum numbers of clients. OAR is also trying to educate new clients to the TCJ as to OAR; its services, and how to access OAR.

OAR's Bail program is adjusting to the additional time requirements of the new service delivery model. OAR's Bail program is on target to meet its required goals.

OAR's Volunteer program was still non-functional during the month of October, as the Sheriff conducted an investigation. The investigation has ended and the program should resume within the next couple of weeks as certain caveats are met. The Volunteer program also has yet to start its new volunteers. Although most are now approved to enter the facility, the Volunteer Coordinator is the one who makes the client volunteer matches and schedules the visits. Medicaid applications are happening on a case-by-case basis, until the Volunteer Coordinator is back at the facility.

There has not been a monthly scheduled meeting between OAR and Jail Administration since the July meeting. The September meeting was cancelled due to a conflict, and a new meeting has yet to be scheduled. The Sheriff has stated his skepticism with holding these meetings. OAR continues to attempt to communicate with the Sheriff in reference to several issues including, the Volunteer Coordinator and the investigation, the service delivery model, regularly scheduled meetings and general communication.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Meskill distributed October Jail statistics and a Traffic Profile Report by time that was generated by a radar sign. He also distributed copies of a news article entitled "Chemung lawmakers criticize jail response." He reported the population at the jail is high. Although he has not yet boarded any prisoners out, the possibility exists if the number of inmates continues to grow.

Sheriff Meskill referred to a letter he received from the Commission of Correction in regard to the number of variances at the Jail. The Commission has requested a meeting with the Sheriff and representatives from the County. Mr. Meskill said he attended a meeting in Albany on October 16th at which time they voiced concern over the variances and said they would like to know what actions the County is taking to address the inmate population at the Jail.

Ms. Blanchard suggested the Jail Study Committee reconvene and discuss this matter. Mr. Joseph said part of the agreement that was made when the Commission of Correction granted those temporary variances was for the County to develop a plan to resolve the issue. He said the Jail Study Committee came up with a proposed solution which is in the process of being implemented. Mr. Joseph said the Committee needs to obtain the final report from Labella Associates which was due several months ago.

Ms. Blanchard said there needs to be a discussion at the Board level of what the County's position is. She said although the Board has decided to move forward with alternatives to incarceration initiatives, there are still members of the Board who feel space improvements still need to be made at the Jail.

Mr. Whicher in addition to Board policies, there are operational issues that need to be addressed by the Sheriff. Sheriff Meskill suggested that a communication be sent to the Commission asking them specifically what information they are expecting from Tompkins County. *Mr. Whicher will follow-up on this.*

It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Board:

**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO MOVE MONEY FROM ACCOUNT
T20830000 (DRUG FORFEITURE) TO THE OPERATING
BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office has a special account consisting of monies received from drug law enforcement, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Sheriff is allowed to use the monies to enhance drug law enforcement in the county, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Sheriff is currently in the process of issuing a contract for a drug education program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee that the Director of Finance make the following adjustments to his books for 2001:

RESOLVED, further, That monies not expended will be returned to the special account.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Revenue T20830000 \$5,000
Appropriation A3113.54442 5,000

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

It was MOVED BY Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Todd, and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Board:

RESOLUTION NO. _____ AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT THREE GRANTS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR THE "BUCKLE UP NEW YORK", "STEP ENFORCEMENT GRANT TO REDUCE UNSAFE DRIVING" AND CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office applied for grant monies from the New York State Governor's Traffic for participation in the "BUCKLE UP NEW YORK", "STEP ENFORCEMENT GRANT TO REDUCE UNSAFE DRIVING" AND "CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PROGRAM" campaigns for 10/1/01-9/30/02, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office has been awarded the grants from the New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee in following amounts: "BUCKLE UP NEW YORK" - \$9,720, "STEP ENFORCEMENT GRANT TO REDUCE UNSAFE DRIVING" - \$24,500 AND "CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PROGRAM" - \$10,200, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, that the County accept the grants for the "BUCKLE UP NEW YORK", "STEP ENFORCEMENT GRANT TO REDUCE UNSAFE DRIVING" AND "CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PROGRAM" to be used for the purpose of the aforementioned traffic safety programs,

RESOLVED, further that the monies be added to the following account in 2002:

TO: A3113.44389 \$ 9,720
24,500
10,200

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Budget Transfer

It was MOVED by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Todd, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following budget adjustment and submit to the full Board:

FROM: 3150.54340 Clothing \$4,088
TO: 3150.52220 Department Equipment \$,088

Explanation: Monies to purchase bullet proof vest.

It was MOVED by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Todd, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Board:

**RESOLUTION NO. _____ APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND FOR
TERMINAL PAY AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

WHEREAS, during 2001 the Sheriff's Office had the following five employees retire: Deputy Scott Ferris - \$6,736.48, Deputy Gerald Pallace - \$2,503.54, Deputy Gary Shippos - \$7,747.04 and Deputy Janet Hulbert - \$6,104.68 and Corrections Officer Marjorie Griffen - 4,187.06, and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Jeffrey Norman (\$5,434) and Corrections Officer Matthew Haney (\$1,077) retired and or resigned in 2001 and the Sheriff's Office asked only for the regular pay, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County allows for terminal pay, which includes regular pay and fringe benefits, and

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee and the Budget and Capital Committee, that the Director of Finance appropriate a total of \$35,727 to the Sheriff's budget for terminal pay, and

RESOLVED, further, that the money be distributed to the following accounts:

FROM:	A1990.54440	\$35,727
TO:	A3113.51000	16,987
	A3113.58800	5,606
	A3150.51000	10,292
	A3150.58800	2,842

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Drug Court

Ms. Johnson presented year-to-date statistics to the Committee.

The following is a comparison between 2001 and 2000:

	2001	2000
Referrals	35	15
Intakes	21	13
Awaiting Intake	7	0
Failures - Referrals	7	2
Failures - Intakes	2	2
Transfers	0	0
Remain Active	19	9
Graduated	0	2

Executive Session

It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to enter into executive session at 1:27 p.m. to discuss a safety and security matter. The meeting returned to open session at 2:05 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.