

Public Safety Committee
June 6, 2002

**Public Safety Committee
June 6, 2002
12:30
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: N. Schuler, G. Totman, L. McBean, K. Herrera
Excused: B. Blanchard
Staff: B. Richmond, K. Leinthal, P. Meskill, J. Beach, S. Whicher
Guests: O. Mack, OAR; P. Penniman, Board of Representatives; M. Agnew, Alcoholism and Drug Council

Call to Order

Mrs. Schuler called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of May 2 and 7, 2002

It was MOVED by Ms. McBean, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of May 2 and 7, 2002 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Chair's Report

Mrs. Schuler reported on copies of letters she received that complimented the Sheriff's Department on their good work.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Meskill distributed copies of Jail statistics. He introduced Mary Agnew, Executive Director of the Alcoholism and Drug Council. He said he invited her to attend the meeting because of the rollover request that was considered at the last meeting that asked for money to be set aside for contracts with the Alcoholism and Drug Council or Cornerstone for a transition program in the Jail.

Ms. Agnew said the Council currently provides evaluations at the Jail only. There is some case management services provided, but not enough to address the intensive case management needs of those individuals in the Jail. She said they would like to provide some screening, treatment, and transition services to appropriate inmates at the Jail to increase the number of inmates accepting and following through with referrals to treatment. She said very often when inmates are released they may intend to but often do not get treatment, thus, ending back up in the system. She said they would also like to work with the Jail on development of a segregated and therapeutic unit that is specific for this type of offender. Ms. Agnew spoke of alternatives to incarceration and said there are a wide array of services but the Jail piece is missing. If this one crucial element is not addressed it could very well have a negative impact on the work that many others are doing in this area. She said she would like to see a larger, more comprehensive program which would begin with a group meeting three times a week and provide case management services in collaboration with Cornerstone and the other agencies. Mr. Meskill said the proposal is to take a particular cellblock and turn it into an area where these people would be located together in order to support one another. Ms. Agnew distributed two articles: "Offender Substance Abuse Report" and "Substance Abuse Treatment in U.S. Jails".

Ms. Agnew said the outcome measures they would be looking at would be to have a measurable increase in the number of offenders pursuing treatment after release from the Jail and increase the number of offenders linked to other supportive programs and services prior to release. She also sees the development of continuing care plans or community reintegration plans part of the process as well. The outcome they would hope to see would be a decrease in recidivism as measured by the re-arrest rate. Sheriff Meskill noted that at this point the program would be voluntary.

The Committee was asked to be kept informed as this moves forward.

Budget Adjustment

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Mr. Totman, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following budget transfer and submit to the full Board:

FROM:	3113.54425	Service Contracts	\$7,000
TO:	3113.54346	Navigation	\$7,000

Explanation: Monies needed to cover the cost of repairing the boat.

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR ELIGIBLE FEDERAL FUNDING RECOVERY SERVICES - SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Mr. Totman. Ms. Herrera referred to the words "prospectively and retroactively", and Asaid she is concerned about the money being paid after the contract has been terminated. Mr. Meskill said the language contained in the resolution was prepared by the County Attorney after period of negotiation. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - 4, Noes - 0, Excused - 1 (Representative Blanchard). MOTION CARRIED.

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Department's current programs may be eligible for Federal funding, and WHEREAS, Justice Benefits, Inc. (JBI) is a nationally known company that has expertise in seeking out additional federal entitlement funds, and has claimed over a total of over \$1.5 million in new revenues for thirty-one New York State counties. JBI specializes in federal revenue maximization for state and local political entities, and has the technology and manpower to research and access federal funding opportunities. They can review the policies and procedures used by the Sheriff's Office to identify additional federal and other revenue sources, if any, that may be available to the County through participation in new programs or expansion of the existing Federal Financial Participation, now therefore be it

RESOLLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That Tompkins County be authorized to enter into a multi-year contract with Justice Benefits of Dallas, Texas, commencing June 15, 2002 through June 14, 2004 with the option to terminate the contract for any reason,

RESOLVED, further, that annual administrative expenses associated with this contract shall be paid in the amount of 22 percent of all revenue paid to the County (prospectively and retroactively). No additional funds are needed for this service.

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee be authorized to sign documents related to this contract.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Probation Department

There was a brief discussion about the D.O.O.R.S. program. Ms. McBean said while she appreciates that this is the only program that delivers this type of service in the community, there is desire by some Board members that some type of mechanism is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the

program. Ms. Leinthall said the only measure that would have any relevance would be to track someone who completed the program whether or not they were rearrested or not.

Ms. Leinthall reported on construction at the Human Services building and said progress is being made.

Budget Adjustment

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Mr. Totman, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following budget adjustments and submit to the full Board:

REVENUE: 3140.42680 Insurance Recoveries \$650

APPROPRIATION: 3140.52210 Office Equipment \$650

Explanation: To replace stolen alchosensor form risk management funds.

REVENUE: 3140.42680 Insurance Recoveries \$4,031

APPROPRIATION 3140.52206 Computer Equipment \$4,031

Explanation: To replace stolen laptop computer from risk management funds.

REVENUE: 3141.44389 Other Public Safety Aid \$1,000

APPROPRIATION 3141.52206 Computer Equipment \$1,000

Explanation: To restore funds from the DCJS Byrne Grant to cover the cost of three computer upgrades which was approved in 2001. These expenditures had to await NYS contract approval which was delayed until 2002.

REVENUE: 3141.44389 Other Public Safety Aid \$4,000

APPROPRIATION 3141.52206 Computer Equipment \$4,000

Explanation: To restore funds from DCJS Byrne Grant to cover the cost of three computer upgrades which was approved in 2001. These expenditures had to await NYS contract approval which was delayed until 2002.

Community Justice Center

Ms. Richmond distributed Day Reporting Monthly Statistics dated May, 2002. She said the program is full and staff is busy. She invited Board members to visit the Center and ask questions.

Drug Court

Desiree Johnson reported they have purchased sobrieters from the STOP-DWI program. She announced a Drug Court Graduation ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. on June 19 and invited members to attend. She also reported on the Milestone grant that was received from the Rotary Club which will allow the drug courts to be more incentive-based rather than sanction-based.

Fire, Disaster, and EMS

Lee Shurtleff was unable to attend the meeting; however, he submitted the following report:

- The RFP for the Communications System went out the week of May 15 with responses due on August 19. This office worked intensively with Administration and the County Attorney's Office in April and May to incorporate suggested changes and to better define cost components. A Bidder's Conference will be held on June 17 to clarify any questions the potential vendors may have.

- Work continued on the Communications Center specifications. Egner Associates presented schematics to the Building Committee last week. In the next few weeks, we will refine space needs. Various County employees are working on FAA related siting issues. This office is analyzing a number of operational issues (telephone cutovers, integration with the current microwave system, paging considerations, equipment needs).
- Details on the proposed paging system are emerging. We are attempting to isolate individual site development and operating costs prior to recommending any action.
- Mobile Data upgrades to transmitting sites and all patrol vehicles have been completed. We have reprogrammed all equipment (final units completed 6/4/02 with the arrival of new software for a half dozen "odd" units), and can report that the system is functioning properly. There have been NO crashes related to the software, frequency or messaging system since early April. We are looking into options to increase system speed, and have one piece of the program left to test-sending of automatic vehicle location information back to the cars. Dispatch, however, is able to track all signed-on units and use the information for closest-car arrangements. This has been a long and difficult process, but I'm increasingly confident that these enhancements have been successfully implemented.
- Recommendations for Departmental organization have been submitted to the Charter Review Committee through Steve Whicher. A plan for reorganization of the E911 Operations Committee will be submitted to that group for consideration this month. There is a need for the communications system users to continue their participation as an advisory body and in a broader capacity than just 911 related issues. Many of their objectives have been accomplished through the centralization of services, addition of the Dispatch Director, and planning for the Communications Center. Advice and assistance with the overall communications system will be necessary as the RFP, building plans and other enhancements continue.
- Several training courses (fire, EMS and emergency management) have been held or are in progress. The County Fire and EMS Chief's Association has stepped forward and helped me tremendously during this period of transition.
- The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is nearing completion. I expect to submit the Basic Plan and County Functional Annexes to the Public Safety Committee in July. An updated Fire and EMS Mutual Aid Plan awaits confirmation by the Fire, Disaster, and EMS Advisory Board at the end of this month, and the LEPC will be meeting in late June to make final recommendations to the County Hazardous Materials Plan. All of these items will require some form of full Board affirmation, and I expect that we will want to review them over the next two months and take action in August/September. The Health Department has completed a draft of the Public Health Response to Biological Emergencies. We will assist in the review prior to submission to DOH in late June.
- Budgetary issues are an ongoing concern, and like all other Departments, we will be concentrating on these issues over the next month.
- Operationally, systems and personnel are working well considering the many changes we have recently experienced.

Sheriff Meskill stated that there continues to be unoperational equipment which is contradiction from what is stated in Mr. Shurtleff's report. He said he will be sending a detailed letter to the County Administrator about this. Mr. Whicher said he will ask Mr. Shurtleff to report on the reorganization of the E911 Operations Committee at an upcoming meeting. He stated that Committee has not met for the last few months and is in the process of reorganizing.

OAR

Mr. Mack distributed the following report:

"OAR continues to strive to provide the best possible services to its client populations. May was a busy month of providing services to clients with the Tompkins County Jail. The Bail program was able to provide interest free bail loans to six individuals. The Volunteer program was very active providing

transition-type services including assisting with Medicaid, housing applications, and researching and securing birth certificates. Client services have been very active servicing the clients of the Tompkins County Jail as well as an increased number of office assistance/drop-in center clients.

"The recent technology upgrade and installation of the answering machine on the direct jail line has assisted OAR in servicing its clients.

"OAR continues to work with the Sheriff and the Tompkins County Jail Administration to maximize service to the clients within the current service delivery model. Communication between the two agencies has been consistent. In light of the current population numbers and other pending events, OAR is currently seeking a meeting with the Sheriff to discuss returning the service delivery model to its original form. OAR is optimistic that the Sheriff will enter into a positive and constructive dialogue with OAR concerning returning the service delivery model to its original form."

Mr. Mack also reported that the agency obtained a grant from the United Way that has allowed them to purchase new computers. These new computers have enabled them to access online services much faster than before.

Appointments

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Ms. McBean, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the appointment of Kelly A. Damm to the Advisory Board on Indigent Representation for a three year term to expire December 31, 2004.

It was MOVED by Ms. McBean, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the appointment of Ann Carter to the Family Court Advisory Council as an at-large representative for a term expiring December 31, 2002.

Assigned Counsel

Ms. Hughes reported the Administrative Assistant in her office has been placed on an emergency medical leave. She stated although the office is very busy the Commissioner of Personnel has been very helpful in providing her staff support to get through this period.

RESOLUTION NO. - BUDGETING UNIT RECONFIGURATION AND FISCAL TARGET ADJUSTMENT – CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES

It was MOVED by Ms. McBean, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following resolution and submit to the Budget and Capital Committee.

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice agencies have been previously reviewed within the Department of Administration, and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice component of Administration has been eliminated, and

WHEREAS, the Human Services Coalition will include the Offender Aid and Restoration and Community Dispute Resolution Center agencies in their regular annual review process for not-for-profit agencies, and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Department will include Alcohol & Drug Council in their regular annual budget process, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety, Health and Human Services, and Budget and Capital Program Committees, That effective with the 2003 budget, the following Budgeting Units will be re-assigned to the Mental Health Department and to the Basic Subsistence Program with a

commensurate re-distribution of fiscal targets (subject to the 20% Target Reduction pursuant to Resolution 105 of June 4, 2002), as follows:

FROM:

Public Safety:

Offender Aid & Restoration (OAR) – BU#6315 - \$76,578

Offender Aid & Restoration (OAR) – Bail Fund – BU#6316 - \$62,232

Community Dispute Resolution Center (CDRC) – BU#6313 - \$46,166

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Cost Savers

Mr. Penniman raised a question relative to saving incarceration costs and the number that is used to identify those savings. He said alternatives to incarceration programs directly save money when inmates do not have to be boarded out. He asked the Committee to try to calculate an estimate of savings being produced by the alternatives to incarceration programs. Ms. Leinthall said all ATI programs claim to save money and this is partly true. She said in looking at all the alternatives that are designed to get people out of jail or get them out sooner, when they are all working together the County is succeeding at keeping a number of people out of the Jail. If those programs were not working together the County would probably be spending what it was approximately five years ago in boardout costs. She said it is very difficult to define which program is saving the money.

Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) Bail Program

It was MOVED by Ms. McBean, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve by members present, the Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) Bail Program as a cost saver program.

Probation - Alternatives to Incarceration - SWAP, Pre-Trial Release, RICS

It was MOVED by Ms. McBean, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the Probation - Alternatives to Incarceration as a cost saver program.

Probation - Electronic Monitoring Program

Ms. Leinthall said it was originally anticipated that the electronic monitoring program would have approximately 25 to 30 participants per month. She said they need to have 2.5 individuals in the program in order for it to pay for itself and that has always happened. However, they have never reached that level that was expected and the average number of individuals involved in the program is approximately four. It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera to approve the Electronic Monitoring Program as a cost saver. MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.

Probation - Alternatives to Incarceration Initiatives - Felony Drug Court, Day Reporting

Ms. Leinthall sated although these programs may qualify in the future, she doesn't feel they do at this time because they haven't had enough time to show what they have saved. There was no motion made to approve this as a cost saver.

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Appointment(s)

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Ms. McBean, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the appointment of Kelly A. Damm to the Advisory Board on Indigent Representation for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2004.

It was MOVED by Ms. McBean, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the appointment of Ann Carter to the Family Court Advisory Council as an at-large representative for a term expiring December 31, 2001. (This appointment was withdrawn at the June 18 Board meeting due to Ms. Carter not meeting residency requirement for membership on advisory boards).

July Meeting

It was decided that because the next meeting fell during a holiday week that the Committee would schedule a July meeting only if necessary.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, Deputy Clerk, Board of Representatives Office