

MEETING AGENDA

Criminal Justice Council Jail Population Management Subcommittee

Monday, February 2, 2015

11:30 to 12:30pm

City Hall, 8th Floor

I. Welcome

II. Purpose of Jail Population Management Subcommittee

III. Information Gathering

IV. Next Steps

V. Public Comment

Criminal Justice Council Jail Population Management Subcommittee

Minutes

February 2, 2015

On February 2, the Jail Population Management Subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Council convened at 11:39 am in the 8th floor Homeland Security Conference Room in City Hall. The following persons were present/absent:

Criminal Justice Coordinating Councilmembers

Present:

Andy Kopplin – Subcommittee Chair
Honorable Susan Guidry
Derwyn Bunton
Leon Cannizzaro
Frank Palestina
Jeffrey Rouse
Judge Camille Buras
Judge Candace Bates-Anderson
Judge Harry Cantrell
Judge Laurie White
Sharonda Williams
Colonel Michael Laughlin (attending on behalf of Sheriff Marlin Gusman)
Superintendent Michael Harrison

Absent:

Arthur Morrell
David Kent
Judge Bobby Jones
Judge Desiree Charbonnet
Chief Judge Benedict Willard

Office of Criminal Justice Coordination Staff

Present:

Charles West
Sarah Schirmer

I. Welcome

The meeting began at 11:39am when Andy Kopplin welcomed everyone and stated the reason for the subcommittee. Mayor Landrieu entered and thanked everyone for coming, again noting the reason for the subcommittee. The Mayor asked that everyone commit to the process.

II. Purpose of Jail Population Management Subcommittee

The purpose of the Jail Population Management Subcommittee is to look at what can be done to accommodate the prison population in New Orleans, without building a new facility.

III. Information Gathering

OPSO:

The Sheriff's office does not transport defenders to court in a timely fashion. Judge Buras sent a letter to OPSO in 2004 about this.

Release orders are done by hand and, while they used to be able to fax them, the Department of Corrections changed the rule. OPSO now needs to hand deliver release orders to Baton Rouge and do so once every week.

Criminal Court:

Criminal Court has one person on staff who functions as the IT department. While the identified data elements can be gathered from the Police and Justice Foundation with permission from Criminal Court, the request still needs to go through their IT person.

The minute clerk's data system does not necessarily have the right fields to capture the data that is being requested. Any changes to the system need to go through OPSO.

Some Criminal Court Judges track manually who is transported and who isn't. Sometimes people are held in the docks for a long time, waiting to go to court.

Criminal Court also handles cases that aren't tracked. For example, there is little to no data on civil commitments.

Probation and Parole:

P&P does not readily have the requested data available. Information needed from Probation and Patrol can be gathered through the City.

Coroner's Office:

The coroner's office only has data on people in civil custody. Jeffrey Rouse will help identify people who can get the other data at the Sanity Commission.

Clerk of Court:

Communication issues are causing delays in the courts. Capias warrants should be put on the Judges' docket within 48 hours but it usually takes much longer. The same communication issue takes place

when a warrant is recalled. Andy Kopplin asked Colonel Laughlin to look into what happens on OPSO's end.

IV. Next Steps

- With the goal of identifying “low-hanging fruit” by the end of March, the subcommittee was asked to think about what their respective offices can do in the short-term with little or no cost/time/controversy and to be in contact with Charles West and Sarah Schirmer.
- Charles and Sarah are following up with everyone after today's meeting.
- CM. Guidry reiterated that everyone should sit down with their colleagues and make a list of things that can be changes fairly simply and to write them down.
- Will add “rule to show cause” to the courts and P&P data

V. Public comment

- An attendee from the public asked for citizen representation in the subcommittee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52