

COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: LAW ENFORCEMENT/ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: November 19, 2009

Meeting called to order by Paul Babcock at 8:31 a.m. Members of the committee present were: Paul Babcock, Glen Borland, Pam Rogers, George Jaeckel

Others present were: Sheriff Milbrath, Captain Brown

Absent: Rick Kuhlman

Compliance with open meetings law:

Approve agenda:

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Pam Rogers and seconded by Glen Borland to approve the September 25, 2009 minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

None

Jefferson County Literacy Council – Reducing Recidivism Coalition:

Jill Ottow of the Literacy Council began by saying they receive some funding from the county and wanted the committee to know what they have been working on. She talked about the Reducing Recidivism Coalition which was formed through the Literacy Council partly as an effort to provide some extra tutoring and to help with the English language learners. Jill introduced Jeanette Petts from the Community Action Coalition who also is a member of the Reducing Recidivism Coalition.

In the process of forming the coalition, they pulled together a variety of individuals and the schools to put together a re-entry program for jail inmates. Jill passed out some information explaining the coalition and its members for reference. She also said they did a lot of research about re-entry programs for jail inmates and what is successful. She said the inmates that have an addiction of some sort when in jail typically are let out without having any treatment or they do not have transportation to continue treatment that was begun in the jail. They may not have a job either and will turn back to their addiction. The Department of Corrections did sponsor some AA and other drug addiction treatment groups earlier in the spring. For Jefferson County they determined they would like to see the basic education and GED (which is in place), they would like to see the mental health support and counseling increased (was recently cut), AODA, and the key part that is missing in the county right now, transitional planning/case management/mentoring. These were found in every successful program they found. Jill added that restorative justice is also a strong piece in most other programs but the county is not ready for it yet (funding). They are putting together a pilot program for the re-entry program (Get Out and Stay Out, GOSO) here in the county in which the Community Action Coalition is providing most of the funding. Jeanette said they received notice last year that they were receiving funding through the Community Services Block Grant and were able to direct funding toward the pilot program (\$52,000.00). It will start in the jail, transitioning inmates out of that setting and providing support afterwards. She said they will be using a Circles of Support model as well as the Madison Urban Ministries training. The Circles of

Support model is the mentoring portion of the program. They will be setting up the building blocks for the program and it should not take long to get it going. They will be starting out with five individuals. The pilot program is slated to end about 14 months from the start. Pam Rogers wondered where the Community Action Coalition received their funding. Jeanette answered that the majority of their funding comes from the Community Services Block Grant. They receive support through HUD as well as about 45 other areas (FEMA, State Department of Commerce, etc.). Pam also asked how they would be picking the five individuals to pilot the program. Jill said they are using the staff in the jail, the mental health counselor, teachers, the Probation and Parole office, etc.). She said they want to pick people that have some motivation; however, she also said they are hoping to have one failure in the group because there is much to learn from those cases. It is a one-year pilot program and the results likely will generate additional grant funding. Both Jeanette and Jill said the program should be successful and they are looking forward to a long future for the GOSO program. In addition, the program should save the county money. In response to questions about the Community Action Coalition, Jeanette said they are basically a Community Action Program and work with individuals in the lowest income levels. Jill also added that the Literacy Council has worked with the Community Action Coalition for many years.

Sheriff Milbrath commented that there are currently some measures in place to help inmates transition out of jail. The model is more of an umbrella than targeting one individual but they are keeping families involved and are not seeing some of the same people over and over, or at least not as regularly. People with mental health issues and cognitive disabilities are getting help and many are receiving support after release as well. It is helping, and the new program should raise this to another level.

Jill talked a little about the programs that the Literacy Council has in place. They are continuing the educational services and have served 140 inmates since June. There has been a 57% increase in literacy skills and six individuals have obtained their GED. They also have the storybook project going on. An inmate can pick a book for his/her child and then voice records the book. The book and the voice recording are then delivered to the family.

Report from the Sheriff:

Sheriff Milbrath reported that the uniform committee is still meeting and looking at new types of uniforms. He also talked about a new program called Nixle which will allow an individual to sign up to get messages from the Sheriff's Office, fire department, etc. when there are issues in their area. Nixle is intended to keep communities updated. These messages can come via cell phone or e-mail and the service is free. The service should start in January 2010. Sheriff Milbrath mentioned some railroad accident training that will be offered in December. It will be an 8-hour training session involving an actual locomotive so that law enforcement will know what to look for after a railroad crossing accident. Last year the Sheriff's Office applied for a grant and just received a pair of gyroscopic binoculars. These binoculars work very well when in a moving vehicle or airplane. They keep things steady so that the operator doesn't get motion sickness while looking through them. The Sheriff's Office also received another PBT through the "Click It or Ticket" grant and one at a Wisconsin DOT conference in Appleton recently.

Captain Brown said that the Youth Alcohol Card Grant is going well and 2010 grant funding has been received in the amount of \$71,000. The Sheriff's Office is working in conjunction with Lake Mills. This past grant cycle, they used the funds for party patrols, the fair, business checks, other

city functions (such as Rhythm on the River), as well as educational materials for businesses and schools.

Sheriff Milbrath talked a little about the proposed amendment to the budget regarding cancelling 2010 non-represented pay increases (COLA). He also mentioned the medical marijuana legislation that currently is out there (12 plants would be allowed). He said it is very poorly written and one fact that legislators are not taking into account is the fact that the THC content of marijuana is 10 times higher than it used to be.

Review monthly bills and financial items: – The committee approved the monthly recap report for September bills in the amount of \$78,932.95 and October bills in the amount of \$139,435.93. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

Review monthly jail and patrol activity reports: Jail and patrol activity reports were reviewed.

Jail assessment fund items: General fund items for the month.

Next meeting date is December 17, 2009

A motion made by Pam Rogers to adjourn at 9:44 a.m., was seconded by Glen Borland. Motion carried.

Motions Carried: 2 Lost: 0 .

Signed _____