

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE



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MEMBERS

Terry Collins, John Lapham, Karol "KZ" Bolton

MEETING LOCATION

Committee Room, 2nd Floor
Old Courthouse, 301 N. Main Street, Adrian, MI

Minutes: Thursday, November 7, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.

Present: Commissioners Collins, Bolton, Lapham, and Stimpson

Also Present: Commissioner Tillotson, Burke Castleberry, Sheriff Bevier, Craig Tanis, Rebecca Borton, Dawn VanDusen, Kim Murphy, Dr. Bader Cassin, and Hiedi Cannon, Ashley Bobzean, and Martin Marshall

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Lapham, seconded by Bolton, to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

II. Finance Reports

Administrator Marshall reviewed the finance report. There was discussion regarding the bullet proof vests.

III. Sheriff's report

The Sheriff's report was available. Sheriff Bevier briefed the committee on staffing levels, motor carrier enforcement, beards for bread, the Christmas tree program, and upcoming Shop with a Cop project.

The jail population reports for October were available; there have been no early releases in 2019.

IV. Prosecuting Attorney's report

The Prosecuting Attorney's report for October was available; Prosecuting Attorney Castleberry noted that there were 400 warrant requests this past month, which is near double the typical month.

V. Public Defender's report

The Public Defender's report was distributed and Dawn VanDusen was available to answer any questions.

VI. Emergency Management report

The Emergency Management Report was available. Craig Tanis talked about the 2020 training and exercises.

There was discussion regarding the 800 Mhz radio training and coverage testing.

VII. Medical Examiner report

The Medical Examiner's report was available. Dr. Cassin noted that both investigations and autopsies in 2019 will likely to reach the same number, if not higher than, the previous year.

Morgue Status: Dr. Cassin is expecting a financial proposal from Jackson County on shared use of the Jackson County morgue. The morgue at Bixby Hospital will be closing August 1, 2020. Dr. Cassin's intent is to have an alternate morgue and autopsy site by May or June of 2020.

VIII. Courts

Ashley Bobzean and Heidi Cannon (probation) provided highlights from Sobriety and ET Court.

This is the eighth year for Sobriety Court, they currently have 47 participants, the next graduation is set for November 12th and the Committee was invited to attend.

The State Court Administration Office recently visited the offices and they received best practices certification.

The federal BJA grant was awarded and this will provide additional funding.

The Mental Health Court (ET Court) seems to be exceeding expectations and has recently started working with Circuit Court on felony cases.

Recent reports show that 82% of clients are working at time of discharge from Sobriety Court; while 50% show improved employment at the time of discharge from Mental Health Court. The participants in either court face very different challenges.

The biggest challenge has been access to services for both mental health and sobriety court. Although community programs are willing to work with the courts, there has been a shortage of therapy staffing which makes it very difficult to consistent, timely therapy.

This is a concern throughout the county, not only the courts, while mental health issues are on the rise.

Both Ashley and Heidi agree that the success of the program has been through good communication with the courts, prosecution, law enforcement, and local mental health services.

Dawn VanDusen added that Probate Court has also been facing issues with mental health. She would like to seek additional funding grant opportunities and suggested that it might be beneficial to collaborate efforts of the departments.

IX. Other Business

There was no other business.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Lapham, seconded by Bolton, to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 a.m. Motion carried.