

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Friday, April 3, 2020

PRESENT: M. Walters, G. Glasper, C. Dutton, J. Goggin, P. Chapman, L. Dalton
ABSENT: M. Parkinson
OTHERS: R. Henke, T. Gibbons, C. Hankins, J. Rekowski, M. Chasm, B. Bechel, J. Wiesehan, V. Jones, T. Picchioldi, J. Volkmar, Chief Judge Mudge, Sheriff Lakin, C. Cohan, D. Burch, Major Connor

The minutes from the March meeting were approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

DETENTION HOME:

J. Volkmar reported the monthly Detention Home numbers; he noted they currently have 18 in the building and have 1 that is on temporary leave in a local hospital.

In County Average	17
Out of County Average	7
Average Female	9
Average Daily Population	24
Highest Daily Population	30

PROBATION:

J. Wiesehan reported there are 3800 individuals on probation with 212 of those being juveniles. She also said laptops have been ordered for some personnel who are working from home remotely and are operating on site with a skeleton crew.

C. Cooper noted that Probation received 20 additional GPS ankle monitors and have ordered 10 more. He said they will continue to order and have inventory to keep pace with the demand.

PUBLIC DEFENDER:

J. Rekowski reported they have 1-2 attorneys working on site during the week days while the remaining attorneys and support staff work remotely. He said the support staff is keeping data bases current and answering the phones through a combination of monitoring voicemails and emailing them to the respected attorneys that are working remotely. Mr. Rekowski said that juvenile cases are being attended to on a daily basis by 1 attorney who goes to court regarding abused children or detention hearings. Mr. Rekowski reported that during the evenings and/or weekends, the support staff comes in, no more than 1 at a time, to physically open files and to drop off pleadings to be filed as well to process bills and payroll. Mr. Rekowski praised Captain Marconi and the Jail on the patience and cooperation they have shown and explained they have set up a secure network that allows clients and attorneys to consult face to face via video conferencing. Mr. Rekowski voiced that the Probation, Public Defender's and States Attorney's Offices along with the Courts have worked together to put nonviolent offenders on GPS ankle monitors to lower the jail population. He said they have met with Chairman Prenzler and the County has agreed to reimburse the \$5/day/inmate fee for the monitors.

Discussion was held regarding the importance of ankle monitors during this pandemic. Mr. Rekowski noted that jails can become repositories during epidemics and pandemics and they run the risk of inmates re-infecting the community upon being released. The inmates will continue to use the monitors until the case is disposed of; Mr. Rekowski briefly explained how the ankle monitors work. Mr. Rekowski mentioned the use of GPS ankle monitors will more than likely continue at some level after the pandemic is over.

CIRCUIT CLERK:

D. Burch reported the Circuit Clerk's Office is operating with a skeleton crew of 15 people; 4 of those people are responsible for solely answering phones due to the large call volume. She also said the notice of continuances has been posted on their website along with the county's site. Ms. Burch said that attorneys are contacted via email each time a case is continued. She mentioned they have some employees and managers working from home but are limited on what they can do remotely. It was mentioned that they plan to bring back their full staff a month prior to the courts reopening to allow them to get their work caught up and notices out to defendants and attorneys. Ms. Burch said they have Judges available in the case an emergency order of protection needs signed.

CIRCUIT COURT:

Chief Judge Mudge reported that he has entered 6 Administrative Orders over the last couple of weeks which have all been posted and distributed to the committee. He said they continue to serve essential matters (Criminal Cases, Juvenile Shelter Care and Detention Home Cases, Orders of Protection and Statutory Summary of Suspension Hearings). Chief Judge said that all of the judges, with exception to the ones serving the cases voiced as essential matters, are working remotely. Chief Judge mentioned that he personally handled all of the suspension summary cases yesterday so they are not losing suspensions due to untimely hearings.

Chief Judge Mudge commended several departments and judges and said they are following Toni Corona's guidelines.

SHERIFF/JAIL POPULATION:

Major Connor applauded Mr. Rekowski's recognition of the Jail and reported that Captain Marconi has established and issued protocols that are being used throughout the County. Major Connor said they continue to have their bi-weekly meetings with the Chiefs of Police regarding jail and inmate concerns. Major Connor acknowledged a question that Ms. Dutton had prior to the meeting about the lower jail numbers; he said that local Law Enforcement has taken a reactive approach instead of proactive. Major Connor also said they expect the numbers to increase once the restrictions have been lifted. Captain Marconi has isolated a cell block for if/when a COVID-19 case happens in the jail; a cell block holds 32 inmates. Major Connor also reported that the Facilities Department designed a cart that will allow Jailers to be around inmates safely if a case does arise. He said the intake numbers prior to the Stay at Home Order was 18-19 inmates per day; after the Stay at Home Order, the average dropped to just over 3 inmates per day. He said with the inmates they currently have, they continue to do 30 minute checks on every one and voiced they are just trying to protect them along with the jail staff. It was noted that Officers in the field have been supplied with masks and a dispatch plan is being created for when Officers are called to a location where an individual has tested positive for COVID-19. He also said the 911 Dispatchers are doing a prescreening of each call before an Officer is even called out. He explained the process for inmates has not changed except for the way court dates are being handled.

Sheriff Lakin voiced his concern how some individuals have lost the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic and expressed that the Sheriff's Office is doing their best to protect themselves and the community from the virus.

STATE'S ATTORNEY:

T. Gibbons reported the Roger Carroll trial resulted in a guilty verdict in which he was convicted on all counts and will be spending the rest of his life in prison. Mr. Gibbons said the States Attorney's Office is working remotely as much as possible with rotating schedules for the individuals who cannot work off site. Mr. Gibbons thanked Toni Corona and the Health Department for working closely with their Civil Division on legal questions and isolations.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

C. Cohan reported April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and said typically they would have their childrens display up showing the 523 interviews that took place last year. She voiced concern that some kids are facing danger by being forced to stay home due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions but said the Center remains open and they continue to do interviews.

Ms. Glasper moved, seconded by Ms. Dalton to approve the bills for the month. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: G. Glasper, C. Dutton, J. Goggin, P. Chapman, L. Dalton NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUCHASE REQUESTS:

The following purchase request was presented:

1. Resolution to Purchase for Professional Services: Medical Care at the Madison County Detention Home. The cost is \$40,540.92.

Mr. Chapman moved, seconded by Ms. Glasper to approve the purchase request as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: G. Glasper, C. Dutton, J. Goggin, P. Chapman, L. Dalton NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Mr. Goggin to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

/mds