

## **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

Friday, September 4, 2020

**PRESENT:** M. Walters, G. Glasper, M. Parkinson, P. Chapman, J. Goggin, L. Dalton, C. Dutton-Wiley

**ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS:** Chief Judge Mudge, M. Holliday, D. Burch, J. Volkmar, J. Connor, E. Decker, K. Tharp, C. Uhe, B. Cooper, C. Cooper, L. McReynolds, C. Cohan, M. Davis, J. Rekowski

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The following public comment was submitted:

To the Judiciary Committee:

I am retired from full-time work and very interested in the Stepping-Up Initiative that I have been told has been discussed by the Committee. I was referred to you by Deborah Humphrey, of the County Mental Health Board, and by Ms. Kris Gamm-Smith, of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Southwestern Illinois.

I am writing this to offer my assistance with your pursuit of the Stepping-Up Initiative for Madison County. I have worked on multiple projects with both Ms. Humphrey and Ms. Kris Gamm-Smith. I also worked for 12 years in Madison County, for the Probation Department, State's Attorney's Office, and Madison County clearly has an excellent opportunity to reduce the number of people with mental illness who cycle in and out of the Jail, and by doing so can reduce County expenses without compromising public safety. As you know, the Stepping-Up Initiative is supported by the National Association of Counties, and the Council of State Governments, and the American Psychiatric Association. There are jurisdictions who have succeeded at this task, and we can certainly learn from them.

The resolution that the County is considering would commit it to working on improving the 4 Stepping Up outcomes:

1. Reduce the number of people who have mental illnesses who are booked into jail.
2. Decrease the average length of stay of people with mental illness in jail.
3. Increase the percentage of people who have mental illnesses who are connected to treatment and services after involvement with the criminal justice system.
4. Reduce the recidivism rates for people with mental illness released from the jail.

I understand the importance of cost-savings, and the concern you may have to minimize new expenditures. As a grant writer, I have brought in a good deal of money for Madison County in the areas of supportive housing, services to probationers, and Drug and Veterans Courts.

I would be interested in exploring the most practical steps the County could take to address these outcomes.

Thank you,

John Harvey

**DETENTION HOME:**

In County Average	28
Out of County Average	3
Average Female	3
Average Daily Population	30
Highest Daily Population	37

Mr. Volkmar noted that 90% of the kids that are in the detention home are there on gun charges.

Mr. Chapman asked for Mr. Volkmar to touch on the topic of mental health issues with the inmates within the Detention Center. Mr. Volkmar will gather statistics for October's meeting.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER:**

J. Rekowski reported they have received new guidelines from the court on how they might start trials. He also spoke in support of the Stepping-Up Initiative and the need for mental health resources.

**PROBATION:**

C. Cooper reported there are 3,209 adults on probation and 186 juveniles; 12 home confined juveniles are also being supervised. He goes on to present a purchase request for the Probation Department and explained they will be receiving nearly \$700k which was appropriated for FY 2020 through the Administrative Office of Illinois Court; \$750k will be allocated for FY 2021. Mr. Cooper also reported that part of the staff is working remotely due to their high risk contacts as well as for a virtual project looking at the effectiveness of virtual contact with officers and their clientele; the project starts in October.

**CIRCUIT CLERK:**

D. Burch reported they are back up to full speed and are seeing more foot traffic in the courthouse and offices. Ms. Burch said they are still not accepting pro se motions/self-representing litigant e-filings. She also said they are working on juvenile electronic filings as requested by Judge Mengarelli to be finished by the end of September. Ms. Burch mentioned a change in small claims summonses per a Supreme Court order which will no longer allow for small claims first appearances. Ms. Burch said they will be turning over money to the state for unclaimed property that is due in October and noted they accomplished a goal from March to get all of their locations on the e-citation program. Ms. Burch presented the Circuit Clerk's purchase resolution.

**CIRCUIT COURT:**

Chief Judge Mudge reported they continue to explore ways to keep the traffic down in their buildings and that they issued a protocol September 1<sup>st</sup> regarding jury trials. Chief Judge noted the covid-19 positivity rate was under 10% for the first time in a long time.

**SHERIFF/JAIL POPULATION:**

Major Connor introduced Captain Kris Tharp, the new Jail Administrator. Major Connor presented the jail numbers; 278 inmates with 35 of those inmates waiting to go to the DoC. Major Connor said the jail project continues to go according to schedule with an anticipated finish date of March, 2021.

E. Decker presented the purchase resolution for the Sheriff's Department. He also briefly stated that the law regarding oversight of the inmate commissary accounts was changed to require a mandatory third party audit of those records which was completed and received feedback of no non-compliance issues for FY 2018 and FY 2019.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY:**

C. Uhe reported the dockets are in full swing again. They are utilizing virtual platforms such as email, zoom and remote programs to help keep people from having to come in. Their first felony docket call is Tuesday and a grand jury was selected on Wednesday. Ms. Uhe listed several upcoming trials and stated they have worked closely with law enforcement and the Circuit Clerk's office to get caught up on chargings with no overflow of cases.

**CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:**

C. Cohan reported the Kettler Center at Gateway Regional Hospital for inpatient mental health services for juveniles has closed. The next closest location is in Springfield. Ms. Cohan mentioned that kids would likely be sent to Chicago possibly to be placed in a residential setting.

**PURCHASE REQUESTS:**

The following purchase requests were presented and discussed:

1. **Probation:** Eight (8) ThinkCentre M720S Desktop Computers. The cost is \$5,056.00.
2. **Circuit Clerk:** Resolution to Purchase Net Archive Appliance for the Madison County Circuit Clerk. The cost is \$54,623.60.
3. **Sheriff:** Resolution to Purchase Maintenance Renewal for the Madison County STARCOM 21 Radio System and Dispatch center for the Madison County Sheriff's Office. The cost is \$68,232.00.

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

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

County Board member Michael Holliday presented the Stepping Up Initiative, a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail. He also listed a number of individuals and groups that are in support of the initiative. Members of the committee along with Captain Kris Tharp held lengthy discussion regarding Stepping Up. Please refer to the audio for discussion details.

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

/mds