



CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

1006 New Hampshire
Lawrence, KS 66044
(785) 330-2891

MEMO TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Mike Brouwer, Criminal Justice Coordinator

SUBJECT: Opportunities to manage jail population update

DATE: June 24, 2020

The Commissioners' issued a challenge to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council on June 9, 2020. Specifically the challenge to reduce the jail population. Criminal justice leaders have been meeting to address this challenge. The leadership includes;

The Honorable James McCabria, Kansas 7th Judicial District, the Honorable Scott Miller, City of Lawrence Municipal Court, Sheriff Ken McGovern, District Attorney Charles Branson, Captain Trent McKinley, Lawrence Police Department, County Manager Sarah Plinsky, Undersheriff Gary Bunting, Captain Wes Houk, Sheriff's Office, Captain Stacy Simmons, Sheriff's Office, Dr. Matt Cravens, Data Analyst and Mike Brouwer, Criminal Justice Coordinator.

Update of the leaders' progress is provided to the County Commission on June 24, 2020 by Criminal Justice Coordinator Mike Brouwer on behalf of the leadership group:

Overall Justice System

Explore the creation of a Criminal Justice Data Collaborative.

Lawrence Police Department, Emergency Communications, Sheriff, District Court, Municipal Court, Criminal Justice Services, and the District Attorney's Office staff will make up the collaborative along with Data Analyst Matt Cravens.

The group asks to gather information for further consideration to create a Public Defender's Office.

District Attorney

The DA's Office is working to increase efficiency and work with defense to solve simple, low level cases quickly.

The DA's Office will begin reviewing pretrial cases that are incarcerated at least monthly. Sheriff's Reentry is assisting the DA's Office to provide updated case information on 10 cases weekly.

Court

Both Lawrence Municipal and the Kansas 7th District are seeking opportunities to reduce barriers to appearance:

- Municipal Court has provided phone call reminders for over a year and just added text option;
- District Court has provided phone call reminders for a year and a half. Text reminders are available at the person's request.
- Many citations with notice to appear are issued. The District Court would like to provide reminders to appear for these NTA's first appearance. This will require additional linkage between data bases and adding consent to the citation form.

The District Court has assigned Division 1 as an exclusive criminal docket. In considering this recommendation from previous assessment the judiciary has decided to pilot with one division. If efficiency improves consider four criminal divisions.

District Court is implementing broader use of video appearance. This has been shown to improve attendance and efficiency.

Municipal Court also has a video appearance option for arraignments, status hearings, review hearings, and pleas for non-jailable offenses.

Criminal Justice Services

CJS will partner with the District Court to create automated court date reminders for citation or summons.

CJS would like the County to resume the conversation to provide transportation for justice involved individuals to; court, probation/monitoring officer, Bert Nash, and/or DCCCA.

Sheriff – Reentry

Formalize data sharing with Pretrial Release, Intensive Supervision Probation and Court Services.

- Bert Nash screening, recommendations
- DCCCA screening, recommendations
- Facilitated by Reentry

Sheriff's Reentry is assisting the DA's Office to provide updated case information on 10 cases weekly.

CJCC Data

Weekly report to each court;

- Whom they are incarcerating,
- Bond amount,
- Length of stay.

The leadership group is scheduled to meet on July 7, 2020. The group looks forward to continued dialogue with the Board of County Commissioners and Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.