

HANDOUTS

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes 09/17/13
- FY 2014 1Q Jail Population Report
- Citizen Initiated Complaint Summons Policy Draft
- Law Enforcement Workgroup Summons Policy Draft

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:40am

Welcome

Michelle Lancaster opened the meeting.

Magistrate Video Phone Project

Tom Eberly advised members the AOC has introduced an additional option to allow video communication between magistrates and law enforcement. The new option (a Jabber client) differs from the video phone in that it allows the video communication via laptops in the field. Members discussed potential effects of the technology on business processes including arrest processing times and general queuing of persons seeking warrants. Eberly emphasized the program is being adopted for just warrants and suggested it may be useful to start with an interested municipal police department. Judge Miller suggested we adopt the telephone, assess its impact, and then consider expanding to the Jabber client. There was no objection.

Magistrate Summons Policy (Citizen-Initiated Complaints)

Tom Eberly presented draft language for guidelines addressing the use of summons for citizen-initiated complaints. Two examples were discussed; the first, detailing the conditions which a summons should be issued; the second, the conditions which summons were the preferred method. Judge Miller stated that he wished to discuss the implications of the policy proposals with the Chief Magistrate before commenting to the group at the next meeting. Martha Curran indicated more information is needed to understand the potential impact of increasing the number of summons issued, citing, as an example, the impact on calendaring. She suggested a stakeholder group be formed to explore the process and identify the potential effects the policy change might present. Michelle Lancaster asked the appropriate parties meet before the next CJAG meeting to discuss the issue. County staff will coordinate the effort.

Arrest Processing Web Solution

Tom Eberly reminded members the web-based application will interface with the jail's arrest processing system and will allow law enforcement officers to enter their arrest worksheet information electronically, reducing duplication of data entry and decreasing the time required to process arrests. The first demo version of the application is under development and will soon be ready for review and feedback from the user agencies. Law enforcement agencies will be asked to identify representatives to assist with testing. A series of meetings (approximately 3-4) will be scheduled through the testing.

Prisoner Reentry Council

Hope Marshall provided a brief update on the developing reentry effort. Two case management staff members have been hired for the county's reentry program. MORN, the reentry council charged with coordinating the community services directed towards returning offenders is crafting memorandums of understanding and performance indicators to guide strategic efforts. In addition, Marshall noted that the first cohort of offenders participating in the Pathways program will reenter the community in January 2014. Pathways allows offenders to begin earning an Associates in Applied Science degree while incarcerated and to complete that effort upon release. The reentry program will be responsible for facilitating completion of the degree after release and to help the offenders obtain employment.

Law Enforcement Workgroup Summons Policy

Richard Stroker presented members citation policies drafted by the law enforcement workgroup. The workgroup has concluded that, with certain limitations, citations for certain offenses would be

appropriate and consistent with current best practices in the county. Stroker noted the workgroup sees opportunity to expand the citation policy beyond the four high frequency charges found in the JRI analysis and asked members to weigh in on the possibility of a more expansive policy. A general discussion followed.

Sheriff Bailey raised concern about identification of offenders, noting that offenders were often arrested to ensure proper identification. Tom Eberly noted that it was important to formalize a process to facilitate the prompt release of persons under the appropriate conditions arrested and brought to the jail simply for positive identification.

Stroker suggested that the citation question could be approached more broadly; the goal being, in part, to ensure we strive to make more effective decisions– whether it be about risk, identification, or some other aspect of the arrest decision. Importantly, we want our decision-making process to be more consistent county-wide.

Stroker confirmed there is general consensus within CJAG to move forward with a citation policy that addresses a broader range of offenses than originally examined; that the workgroup will clarify offenses that might be inappropriate for citations and attention will be given to the language used (referring to some member’s concerns with calling the document a “policy”). A formal proposal will be presented at the next CJAG meeting. A formal funding proposal will be presented in December.

Charge Bundling under Single Case Number

Tom Eberly summarized the challenges associated with the anticipated change in how offenses are assigned case numbers in NCAWARE. The county is preparing to align itself with the remainder of jurisdictions which attach up to three charges to a single case number. Current practice in Mecklenburg is one case number per charge. Eberly advised that a group of stakeholders is examining the arrest process and working to developing guidelines for entering offense information in NCAWARE. In the course of their effort, the group is identifying and addressing the technological and business process challenges presented by the change.

Open Discussion

Members did not raise any topics for open discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:43am.

Action Items:

- 1) Tom Eberly to coordinate the summons policy stakeholder meeting.

