

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Vice Chairman Rackauskas; Members Wendt, Hoselton, McIntyre and Rankin

Members Absent: Chairman Renner

Other County Board
Members Present: Member Nuckolls

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Bill Wasson, Director, Administrative Services; and Ms. Judith LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Sheriff Mike Emery; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender; Circuit Judge Elizabeth Robb, Chief Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Ms. Cathy Waltz, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center; Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center

Others Present: None

Vice Chairman Rackauskas called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas presented the minutes from the February 3, 2009 Committee meeting and the January 20, 2009 Stand-up meeting to the Committee for approval.

Motion by McIntyre/Wendt to approve the Minutes of the February 3, 2009 Committee meeting and the January 20, 2009 Stand-up Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

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Vice Chairman Rackauskas presented the January 2009 Statistical Report as submitted by Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk. Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Sheriff Mike Emery presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2009 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001, Sheriff's Department 0029. He explained that this request is to cover the expense of services provided by Masters Electrical. The Sheriff's Department received grant funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). Sheriff Emery noted the grant funds were received in 2008, but the project was completed in 2009.

Sheriff Emery stated that the expenditure of funds is regulated by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and must be utilized towards Correctional programs and expenses. He indicated that the project was to run data wiring from the Public Defender's Office to the Jail to install a video system so that the Public Defender's Office can consult with their clients without having to go into the Jail.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked is the system up and running. Sheriff Emery replied that the wiring has been installed and testing is scheduled to check the system. Once the testing is completed, an appointment schedule will be established through the Jail so that the Public Defender's Office can schedule appointments with their clients. The Correctional staff will move the inmates into the Visiting Center.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if this is a special room. Sheriff Emery responded that it is a private room for confidential meetings between the attorney and client.

Sheriff Emery advised that additional wiring was run from Court Services to the Jail for the same system in an effort to speed up the process for Court Service staff to conduct pre-sentence investigation interviews.

Motion by Hoselton/Rankin to Recommend Approval of
an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the
McLean County Fiscal Year 2009 Combined Annual
Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund
0001, Sheriff's Department 0029.
Motion carried.

Sheriff Emery presented the February 2009 Detention Facility Report. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Wendt asked what is the percentage of inmates that can be released through the electronic monitoring system should it be instituted. Sheriff Emery replied that he did not know. He indicated that this is a decision that is made by the Circuit Court, the State's Attorneys Office and the Public Defender's Office. Sheriff Emery suggested that Mr. Wendt refer his question to Court Services.

Sheriff Emery reviewed the National Institute of Corrections Technical Assistance Report on the McLean County Adult Detention Facility Population. He noted that the Agenda packet included a summarized report and the full report is available in the Administrator's Office.

Sheriff Emery stated that the over-population of the McLean County Adult Detention Facility has been viewed for many years as a problem. In conducting research, it was discovered that the problem may be a systems issue.

Sheriff Emery reviewed the process taken to study the over-population issue. He indicated that in August of 2008, the Adult Detention Facility Population Management Team was formed in order to discuss the over-population of the Adult Detention Facility. The Management Team consisted of Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb, McLean County State's Attorney William Yoder, McLean County Board Chairman Matt Sorensen, Justice Committee Chairman Tari Renner, Court Services Director Lori McCormick, McLean County Public Defender Amy Davis, Trial Court Administrator William Scanlon, Adult Detention Facility Superintendent Greg Allen, Judge Kevin Fitzgerald, Judge Robert Freitag, McLean County Administrator John Zeunik, Assistant Administrator Terry Lindberg, Deputy Directors of Court Services Chris Bailey and Mike Donovan, and Sheriff Mike Emery.

Sheriff Emery advised that at the October, 2008 meeting, information was distributed indicating that the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) would provide grant funded technical assistance/assessment to McLean County at no cost. The Management Team unanimously approved this opportunity and contact was made with the NIC.

Sheriff Emery stated that on January 6, 2009, the Technical Assistance Team, Mr. Mark Cunniff and Mr. Bob Cushman, arrived to begin the assessment. He noted that many interviews were conducted with the criminal justice leadership, leadership from municipal departments, and community organizations. Sheriff Emery indicated that on January 8, 2009, a Public Forum was conducted in the County Board Room of the Government Center. Sheriff Emery noted that, upon conclusion of the Public Forum, the Assessment Team prepared and submitted their final report.

Sheriff Emery indicated that he has submitted the final report for the Justice Committee to review. He noted that, at this time, the report is submitted as an item for information.

Sheriff Emery advised that the highlight of the final report is that we recognize that the problem is a systems issue. He noted that page 25 of the report outlines what the County is doing right. On page 26, the Technical Assistance Team presents their findings, observations and noted problem areas. Sheriff Emery stated that page 30 provides the team's recommendations. He pointed out that the recommendations are important to the County so that the issue of overpopulation of the McLean County Jail can be addressed. Sheriff Emery indicated that the County needs to look at the entire Justice system to determine a solution to the problem. He noted that one way to look at the system is by forming a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to do the following:

- Establish policies;
- Define the purpose of the Jail;
- Look at alternatives to incarceration.

Sheriff Emery indicated that the Management Team will meet on March 10th to establish a set of by-laws to present to the County Board. The by-laws would accomplish the following:

- Establish the membership of the Coordinating Council;
- Determine the direction, goals and mission of the CJCC in relation to managing the jail.

Sheriff Emery stated that the Adult Detention Facility Population Management Team is motivated and optimistic that adjustments can be made to the system to control the population in the Jail.

Sheriff Emery noted that the consultants looked at the following information when determining their report:

- Who is in custody;
- Why are they in custody;
- The average length of stay;
- The number of beds available on an annual basis, which is about 75,000 bed days (last year exceeded that amount by 13,000).

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if the Mental Health Court study facts and findings will be incorporated into the overcrowding issue. Sheriff Emery replied that Mental Health Court and Drug Court will be discussed at the next meeting. Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if these groups will be represented on the CJCC. Sheriff Emery replied that the CJCC will include representatives from the McLean Criminal Justice System, municipalities, social service agencies, PATH, and the League of Women Voter's "Citizens for Justice Options Committee. Sheriff Emery stressed that this process requires broad community involvement.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, she thanked Sheriff Emery.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas presented the Monthly Report for January 2009 as submitted by Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner. There were no questions on the report.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, reviewed his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report. He noted that there was nothing out of the ordinary in the statistical reports. Mr. Yoder added that felony charges are low so far this year.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Yoder.

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, presented a request for approval to apply for a \$50,000.00 Grant through the US Department of Justice for a Mental Health Court Planning Grant (20% match). She noted that this request is the result of a collaborative effort of the judiciary community to address the potential of instituting a Mental Health Court. Ms. McCormick indicated that Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb is present to answer any questions.

Ms. McCormick advised that the application for the grant is due March 12th. She reminded the Committee that the County applied for a Planning Grant a couple of years ago but did not receive the grant. Ms. McCormick added that the justice community has come quite a ways in their collaborative effort since that time.

Ms. McCormick stated that for the past two years community and agency leaders have been meeting regularly to discuss and develop a more comprehensive and cohesive system to address the needs of criminal justice involved persons with mental illness and co-occurring disorders. From a group of fewer than 10 persons to a community collaboration of more than 30 organizations, the McLean County Mental Health Court Initiative has been working diligently to improve the current delivery system of mental health services in McLean County to persons involved in the criminal justice system. Ms. McCormick indicated that members of the McLean County Mental Health Court Initiative are also participating in Illinois' Mental Health and Criminal Justice Statewide Transformation Initiative. She advised that the goal is to develop and adopt the Sequential Intercept Model in order to divert persons from the criminal justice system whenever appropriate. This model envisions a series of points of interception at which an intervention can be made to prevent individuals from entering or penetrating deeper into the criminal justice system. Ms. McCormick noted that, ideally, most people will be intercepted at early points, such as law enforcement, emergency services and/or initial detention and court hearings.

Ms. McCormick indicated that a planning grant will enable this collaboration to expand and become more formalized. Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for police officers could be funded as well as training for attorneys working in the State's Attorneys Office, Public Defender's Office, and Probation Officers to better identify persons with mental illness or co-occurring disorders and divert them to appropriate service providers in our community. Ms. McCormick noted that the Normal Police Department, Bloomington Police Department, the Sheriff's Department and the mental health agencies are all involved in the collaborative effort.

Ms. McCormick advised that the Planning Grant funds would be used to collect data from the mental health agencies, jails, police departments and other agencies within the community.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if the Sequential Intercept Model is a universally used term. Ms. McCormick replied that it is a term that is used universally.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if the CIT training is done locally. Ms. McCormick replied that the training is done by the Mobile Team Unit at Heartland Community College, which is managed by Mr. Walt Clark. State trainers will be brought in to conduct the crisis intervention training.

Mr. Wendt expressed concern that the grant application is due March 12th and the Board does not meet to vote on the issue until March 17th. Mr. Zeunik explained that, depending on the action taken this afternoon, since this is Intergovernmental, it will go to the Executive Committee for action next week. He advised that a favorable recommendation from the Justice Committee and the Executive Committee will constitute a majority of the County Board. Ms. McCormick added that it is not unusual for the federal government to require a short turn-around time for grants. Mr. Zeunik noted that this is an application; there is no guarantee that the County will receive the grant.

Mr. Wendt asked how will the money be spent and will the program continue at a cost to the County when the \$50,000.00 plus the 20% match has been spent. Ms. McCormick replied that the funds will help to implement a Mental Health Court. The funds will be used to collect data. Mr. Wendt asked who will collect the data. Ms. McCormick replied that Illinois State University or Illinois Wesleyan University will collect the data.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the City of Bloomington or the Town of Normal are participating in the 20% match, or \$10,000.00. Ms. McCormick replied that she has a question into the US Department of Justice to find out if Bloomington and Normal can be included in that match. She stated that the hours that will be spent on the grant in the State's Attorneys Office and Court Services will likely fulfill the 20% match. Mr. Zeunik explained that the 20% match is an in-kind match, not a cash match.

Mr. McIntyre asked for an explanation on how this grant could be the foundation for a Mental Health Court. Ms. McCormick replied that the information gathered through this grant could be used to develop a Mental Health Court. She noted that this grant would be similar to the planning grant received when the Drug Court was established.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked Chief Judge Robb to talk about the potential Mental Health Court.

Judge Robb stated that Mental Health Courts and Drug Courts are categorized as specialty courts. The first Drug Court was established in Dade County, Florida about 15 years ago. Judge Robb noted that Drug Courts have been successful in

reducing recidivism. Individuals who successfully complete the Drug Court program become productive members of society by dealing with their addiction.

Chief Judge Robb indicated that the focus is turning to mental health courts. She pointed out that about 75% of the persons involved in Drug Court have been identified as having not only substance abuse issues but mental health issues as well. The terminology for that is co-occurring disorders. Chief Judge Robb stated that not as many people are being reached as could be by using only the Drug Court.

Chief Judge Robb indicated that Mental Health Courts are being used to divert persons, who are non-violent and charged primarily with criminal misdemeanor offenses, from flowing into the criminal justice system. She noted that the initiative starts at the arresting officer level, which is why police officers are trained in crisis intervention. Chief Judge Robb added that often police officers do not recognize that an individual may be mentally ill and the situation can be inflamed by the police officer inciting a reaction from a mentally ill person as opposed to taking steps to calm the situation. The police officer needs to recognize when a family member needs to be called or when the person needs to be taken to the emergency room to be assessed. Chief Judge Robb advised that crisis intervention training assists police officers in identifying mentally ill people, ratcheting down the situation and referring them to the correct place so that there is no arrest at all. If there is an arrest, the individual will go to jail until they can be assessed by a psychiatrist.

Chief Judge Robb indicated that she sees the Mental Health Court as part of the whole Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's efforts to address systemic issues, including who belongs in Jail and who doesn't. Chief Judge Robb stated that the goal is not to put mentally ill people in jail in the first place or have them inappropriately arrested. If they are arrested, the goal is to have them assessed and out of the Jail as soon as possible, which is the Intercept One Model. The Intercept One Model is to identify mentally ill people, identify that they are non-violent and to find them appropriate social service, housing, counseling, medication management. Chief Judge Robb added that the goal is to divert the individuals earlier in the system to keep them out of the criminal justice system where they consume significant resources in Court Services, the Jail, State's Attorneys Office, and the Public Defender's Office.

Chief Judge Robb advised that individuals charged with a crime, who are identified as having a mental illness, can go to the Mental Health Court which focuses on forcing persons to elect to participate in treatment, medication management, housing and working with community service provides as opposed to going to prison. The individuals would be required to go to the Mental Health Court on a weekly basis to make certain that they are following their treatment plan. Depending upon the model selected in the planning process, the Court can dismiss charges against persons who engage in that process, or require them to go through the whole process and, at the end, dismiss charges, which is pre-disposition or post-disposition.

Mr. McIntyre asked what agencies provide service to the individuals. Chief Judge Robb replied that a mental health agency, substance abuse agency, the Housing Authority, Center for Human Services, Community Mental Health Center, and other local agencies will assist the individual in finding housing, medication management, psychiatric services, and counseling services.

Mr. Wendt asked what other Counties in the State of Illinois have a Mental Health Court. Chief Judge Robb replied that the following Counties have a Mental Health Court:

- Winnebago County (well-regarded);
- Rock Island County (excellent);
- DuPage County;
- McHenry County;
- Kankakee County is close to having one;
- Madison County;
- St. Claire County is developing one;
- Decatur, Macon and Peoria Counties are in the developing stages.

Mr. Wendt asked what County received the grant previously. Chief Judge Robb replied that Winnebago County received a planning grant and then the County received an implementation grant. Mr. Wendt asked if Rock Island received a grant. Chief Judge Robb replied that Rock Island County did not receive a grant.

Mr. Wendt asked what judge did Chief Judge Robb talk to in the Quad Cities. Chief Judge Robb responded that she talked with Judge Ray Conklin who is the Mental Health Court Judge.

Mr. Rankin asked if an individual is identified as an addict as well as a mental health person, which Court would they be referred to and which one would be more beneficial for them. Chief Judge Robb replied that Drug Court does not

Admit persons with mental health issues. Mr. Rankin commented that he thought mental health issues are inherent with drug issues. Chief Judge Robb replied that, at this time, the model for the Drug Court does not allow mental health individuals to participate.

Mr. Rankin suggested that both Drug Court and Mental Health Court should help reduce the strain on Jail overpopulation.

Chief Judge Robb indicated that there is a lot of Federal money being devoted to the mental health area.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas commented that we used to have State mental institutions that were closed and then individuals were "main-streamed" in the community. The result has been that our jails are now the new mental institutions. She added that it is important to understand that these are all measures to help reduce the Jail population, but, foremost, it is the right thing to do to help the community be safer and help these individuals grow into useful citizens. Vice Chairman Rackauskas reiterated that relieving the jail population is only a side benefit to the initiative.

Mr. Wendt asked who makes the decision if an individual goes to Drug Court. Chief Judge Robb replied that the Drug Court Team makes the decision. The Drug Court Team is comprised of a Judge, an Assistant State's Attorney, a Public Defender, a Probation Officer, a Drug Court Coordinator, Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy and a treatment provider. Chief Judge Robb explained that if a person is charged with an offence, the person is screened through the State's Attorneys office with a set of criteria and protocol that establishes who is eligible. Following the assessment, the person is sent to the Drug Court Team for evaluation and assessment, and a vote is taken.

Mr. Wendt asked if defense attorneys get involved. Chief Judge Robb replied that the Public Defender gets involved in the evaluation.

Mr. McIntyre asked if the training given to the police officers is an attempt to raise their level of awareness. Chief Judge Robb replied that the training is much more intense with 40 hours of training. A CIT trained officer will be available on each shift, and when police officers encounter a mentally ill person, they will bring in the CIT trained officer to assess the individual and make decisions on what should be done.

Mr. Wendt expressed concern that defense attorneys may push their clients towards Mental Health Court to get them out of going through the regular justice

system. Chief Judge Robb replied that the screening and evaluation is so intense that it is unlikely that would happen. She added that they are establishing criteria using national standards. Chief Judge Robb indicated that there are many restrictions and limitations on who is eligible for Mental Health Court. She advised that the State's Attorneys Office is the second gatekeeper next to the police. It will be a team approach, and no one will be eligible without a vote of the majority of the team. Ms. McCormick added that there are many people who would like to get in the program, but are not approved.

Ms. McCormick indicated that the next Drug Court graduation is the end of March. Vice Chairman Rackauskas recommended that members of the Committee go to the graduation.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas advised that the Drug Court is a long process, sometimes two years long. Ms. McCormick stated that participants are required to go to group therapy three times a week and are drug tested at least once or twice per week.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas recommended that the justice community give a presentation on Drug Court and Mental Health Court to the entire Board. She added that the judicial system is very complex. Vice Chairman Rackauskas noted that Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, gave a very good presentation at a League of Women Voters meeting.

Motion by Rankin/Hoselton to Recommend Approval to apply for a \$50,000.00 Grant through the US Department of Justice for a Mental Health Court Planning Grant (20% Match).
Motion carried.

Ms. McCormick presented the 2008 Year-End McLean County Department of Courts Services Statistical Report. She noted that if anyone has any questions, she would be glad to talk to them individually and provide a tour of Court Services.

Ms. McCormick advised that on February 10th, the Governor signed Senate Bill 2275, which will increase the age of juveniles to age 17 beginning January 1, 2010. Right now, if someone age 16 and under commits an offense, it is handled in the Juvenile Division. As of January 1, 2010, any person under the age of 17 that commits a misdemeanor offense will be charged as a juvenile. Ms. McCormick noted that a felony offense does not fall under that guideline. She indicated that Illinois is one of a very few remaining states that has not raised the juvenile age to 18. Ms. McCormick stated that there are a couple of states that

are at age 16, but Illinois is one of the states that has maintained the 17 threshold age. She advised that this will result in a unique work load for the Court Services Department, noting that this will result in a 33% increase in police reports for just those misdemeanor offenses. Vice Chairman Rackauskas expressed concern that this would move those individuals out of the Jail and into the Juvenile Detention Facility. Ms. McCormick responded that it is possible, but added that many of the individuals that fall in the 17 year old category are charged with drug misdemeanor, retail thefts and other offenses that may not get them detained as a juvenile if it is their first offense. She added that in juvenile law, the police reports need to be dealt with, such as determining if the individual will be placed on juvenile probation.

Ms. McCormick advised that the State has created a task force that needs to report back to the Governor by January 1, 2010 with recommendations on how the juvenile misdemeanors should be handled.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Ms. McCormick.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, informed the Committee that she is part of the Drug Court team. She noted that, in the Public Defender's Office, she handles the Drug Court. She provided the following steps necessary for someone to get into Drug Court:

- Person has to apply to Drug Court either through an attorney or by letter to someone on the Drug Court team;
- The person is screened by the State's Attorney to see whether or not he meets the eligibility criteria;
 - The criteria have to do with a prior criminal record such as a crime of violence, which would preclude him from Drug Court.
- Person must have an addiction and admit that he has an addiction.

Mr. Wendt asked what happens if the State's Attorney does not recommend that the individual be placed in Drug Court. Ms. Davis replied that the individual would be denied. She advised that if the State's Attorney determines that someone is eligible for Drug Court, the following steps will be taken:

- The State's Attorney will forward Ms. Davis a copy of the "discovery in the case," which includes the police reports and the basic information about the case.
- Ms. Davis will then interview the client and advise them of their options, with Drug Court being an option.

- After the treatment person has interviewed the defendant, the Court Services Department will interview the individual.
- The team gets together to share the information in written form and have a meeting once a week about the new applicants.
- The team takes a vote to determine if the person can be enrolled in Drug Court.
- Once the person is in Drug Court, he signs a Plea Agreement just as he would in any regular case. There is no deferral; the person will have a record.
- Person is required to go to Court once a week (4:30 p.m. on Thursdays).
- Person must go to treatment three times a week, group and individual sessions.
- Person must meet with the Drug Court Probation Officer twice a week.
- Person must take drug test drops two or three times a week.
- Person must attend AA or NA meetings.

Ms. Davis indicated that, initially, the individual does not need to be working. However, later, the individual must have a job. She added that in order to graduate from Drug Court, it is necessary to pay all fines and costs in full.

Ms. Davis advised that about a third of the Drug Court participants have mental health issues and they are referred to the appropriate people for treatment.

Mr. Wendt asked what happens if an individual does not follow through with Drug Court. Ms. Davis replied that there is a long list of sanctions and awards for individuals in Drug Court. If an individual does something good, they immediately receive an award and if they do something bad, they are immediately punished. Ms. Davis pointed out that in the normal Court system if you are on probation and do something bad, it may be a month before you go before the judge. In Drug Court, if you do anything wrong during the week, on Thursday (Court day), you will immediately go to jail or receive another sanction. Ms. Davis pointed out that if an individual relapses, often they are sent to additional treatment rather than being sent to jail.

Mr. Wendt asked what happens if someone totally drops out of the program. Ms. Davis replied that there are two different ways that people can serve time after they have been in Drug Court. Ms. Davis stated that If a participant in Drug Court does something major, like dilute a screen, they will go to jail. One of the requirements of Drug Court is that participants in Drug Court must have a stayed jail sentence. An individual who does something major can be sentenced to jail.

Ms. Davis indicated that if a person messes up three or four times, a vote is taken and the person can be kicked out of Drug Court. At that time, the person will go back to Court and be sentenced to prison.

Ms. Davis invited the Committee members to attend Drug Court on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. in Judge Drazewski's Courtroom on the fourth floor of the Law and Justice Center. Vice Chairman Rackauskas also urged the Committee members to attend Drug Court.

Mr. McIntyre commented that Mental Health Court will be much more difficult to implement a system and more complex to identify and treat. Ms. Davis agreed, noting that when Adolph Meyer Hospital closed its doors several years ago, the agreement with the government was that all of the resources that had gone into that institution would now be given to communities for community-based treatment programs. That promise was not met. Ms. Davis advised that there are nine apartments in the community where people with mental illness can live in a supervised place.

Ms. Davis presented a request for approval of a Contract between John J. Bussan, Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's Office. She noted that this is a contract the Board approved as part of the Public Defender's 2009 budget. It is being implemented at this time because Mr. Bussan has been substituting for another attorney who has been on maternity leave.

Mr. Hoselton asked how does his salary compare to other contract attorneys. Ms. Davis replied that all of the contract attorneys' salaries are the same, except for the person who does the post conviction cases who makes a little bit less.

Motion by McIntyre/Rankin to Recommend Approval of
a Contract between John J. Bussan, Special Public
Defender, and the Public Defender's Office.
Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Ms. Davis.

Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, reviewed the Children's Advocacy Center Monthly Statistical Report and the CASA Report. She pointed out that the CASA report is always a month behind in statistics because the volunteers have to submit their hours before the reports can be completed.

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Ms. Renner reported that the CAC statistics are on par with last year, with 42 interviews so far.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Ms. Renner.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas presented the February 28, 2009 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Pending Total of \$1,040.84 and a Prepaid Total of \$1,944,358.38 for a Fund Total of \$1,945,399.22.

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Motion by Hoselton/Rankin to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills as of February 28, 2009, as transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Rackauskas asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary