

May 14, 2002

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Community Corrections Planning Council was called to order this 14th day of May, 2002, in the conference room of the County Office Building by Chairman Dave Stockwell. Roll was called by Dorinda Harvey, County Clerk/Secretary and those present were:

Dave Stockwell, Chairman
Dorinda Harvey, Secretary
Waldo Blanton, Member
William C. Hetherington, Member
Libba Smith, Member

Members Melissa McLawhorn-Houston, DeWayne Beggs, Leroy Krohmer, and Tim Kuykendall were absent at roll call.

Others present were: Bill Yeager, Debbie Cox, Jennifer Beck, Tom Belusko, Tim Guinn, Toby Taylor, Julia Curry, Bill Nations, Corry Flowers and Richard Stevens.

Chairman Dave Stockwell asked if the Council was in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

Dorinda Harvey answered in the affirmative.

After the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 9, 2002, Waldo Blanton moved that the minutes be approved. Libba Smith seconded the motion.

The vote was: Dave Stockwell, yes; Dorinda Harvey, yes; Waldo Blanton, yes; William C. Hetherington, yes; Libba Smith, yes.

Motion carried.

(DeWayne Beggs entered the meeting at this time).

Waldo Blanton moved, seconded by Dorinda Harvey, to approve the use of ignition interlock systems and not to endorse any one vender.

(Leroy Krohmer entered the meeting at this time.)

The vote was: Dave Stockwell, yes; Dorinda Harvey, yes; DeWayne Beggs, yes; Waldo Blanton, yes; William C. Hetherington, abstain; Leroy Krohmer, abstain; Libba Smith, yes.

Motion carried.

Bill Yeager complimented the Council on the outstanding job it has done this year and that this Council has done some things that Mr. Yeager has not seen any of the other Councils do. He spoke of how this Council gets together and talks about individual cases and in term of the State averages this Council is right on the line. Mr. Yeager passed out information in the form of charts and reports and stated that it was amazing how this Council has gone from thirty-nine (39) active offenders in July, 2001, to seventy-three (73) in April, 2002, which is a very outstanding gain in numbers. He stated that his boss made a commitment that no Council would run out of money so that should not be a worry to this Council, but Mr. Yeager would appreciate this Councils cooperation in trying to support some things that might help reduce expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year. Mr. Yeager explained

the budget report from July 1, 2001, through April 30, 2002, stating how much was allocated (\$99,300.00), how much was expended (\$98,253.85), how much was outstanding obligations (\$13,484.52) and the current deficit (\$12,437.78). He also explained the projections stating the average monthly expenditures were \$12,415.30, which would bring the annual trended expenditures to \$148,983.69 that would be an anticipated deficit of \$49,683.69.

(At this time Melissa McLawhorn-Houston and Tim Kuykendall entered the meeting.)

Mr. Yeager continued by telling the Council what the projection would be if more offenders were added to the system or no more offenders were added. Mr. Yeager asked the Council for recommendations and request that he go ahead and pay the bills if he could find the money. He would like to set some spending limits for the next two (2) months and work with the providers as far as offender pay etc. Mr. Yeager stated that some Councils have not spent all of the money given them and he might be able to come up with \$60,000.00 to be split on a couple of Councils.

Libba Smith inquired about the trended expenditures and Mr. Yeager explained it to her.

Mr. Krohmer asked about the deficit and stated that in County Government you can't have a deficit.

Judge Hetherington stated that this Council couldn't have a debt and there shouldn't be a deficit but there is no State Law that prohibits the Council from having a deficit, it's just that in the end the bills have to be paid. It's a matter of the Planning Council being fiscally responsible and with the help of Mr. Yeager to make it come out even.

More discussion took place as far as the deficit.

Dave Stockwell stated that Mr. Yeager is asking the Council if he could pay April bills.

Melissa McLawhorn Houston moved, seconded by DeWayne Beggs, that Mr. Yeager pay the bills for April.

The vote was: Dave Stockwell, yes; Melissa McLawhorn Houston, yes; Dorinda Harvey, yes; DeWayne Beggs, yes; Waldo Blanton, yes; William C. Hetherington, yes; Leroy Krohmer, yes; Tim Kuykendall, yes; Libba Smith, yes.

Motion carried.

Bill Yeager explained that he had spoken to several of the providers and they are willing to work with the Council, one way is with offender pay.

Mr. Belusko stated that his agency started their offender pay in April with the offender being put on a sliding fee scale. He stated the amount received was taken off of the invoice for April and he thought that was pretty good as he treats some forty (40) offenders.

Chairman Stockwell asked if the offender's treatment was suffering because of the lack of funding.

Mr. Belusko stated he can't say suffering, but some could or would be more intense. The ones that really need the individual treatment are not getting cut back.

Mr. Yeager stated that the providers have been notified that limits might have to be put on contracts.

More discussion took place that if the providers did what was asked if that would eliminate the deficit.

Mr. Yeager asked the Council to remember that after looking at the other Councils there may be additional funds available, but he can't promise it and at the end of the year there could be money available from other Councils. Mr. Yeager explained to the Council the time frame that everything was due and payable.

It was asked of Representative Bill Nations if next year the State was going to cut the funding for this program and he stated that he did not think that this program would be cut as far as State funding, but anything could happen.

More discussion took place as far as this year's budget and what the Council has asked for, for next years budget.

Tim Kuykendall stated that the Council has combined the discussion as far as next years budget and the shortfall of this year's budget. He thinks it is very simple that the Council lives within its means; it doesn't spend more money than what it has. The Council has to figure out a way to stretch that money and if it means cutting back on services then services are cut back. Mr. Kuykendall thinks its irresponsible of government to spend more money than what it has hoping to find it somewhere else.

Mr. Yeager stated that Chickasha's Community Sentencing had to stop because it ran out of money. But one of the unique things about Community Sentencing is that people get real creative about stuff. That Council is taking advantage of a lot of the Native American Services and the District Attorney's Office over there, pays someone out of his budget.

Mr. Stockwell stated that the reason he had invited the legislators here was to hear how this Council has asked it providers to cut their expenditures, having offender co-pay, and what is happening is that the Council is going to have to ask the private citizen of Cleveland County to pay for this program to succeed because the Council is not getting enough money from the State. Mr. Stockwell stated that he doesn't have a problem with the Legislature but he does have a problem with the Council not getting the money it asked for and this Council is not going to be able to do this program on \$100,000.00 next year.

Waldo Blanton stated that his fear is that because of the thing that has happened this year as far as cutting services, providers reducing fees, offender co-pay and people doing stuff free that the people in the higher positions in State Government are going to look at this and say, well you got by on such and such and you treated all of these people, that is what the Council is going to begin with next year and that isn't fair.

Mr. Yeager explained to the Council how the money would be distributed next year.

Mr. Yeager stated that he would work with the providers to make sure treatment and supervision doesn't suffer.

More discussion took place with Melissa McLawhorn-Houston and Mr. Yeager how the State Statute reads as far as this program being a resources limited system and that the Council is going to have to limit the number of offenders it puts into the program or the number of months it can operate unless the providers are going to donate free services. Bill Yeager and the Council spoke about new statutes and how they would affect the program.

Waldo Blanton moved, seconded by Leroy Krohmer, per Chairman Stockwell's request to allow Mr. Yeager to contact the providers and work with them to get the Council through the next forty-five (45) days.

Melissa McLawhorn-Houston stated that she didn't have a problem with the Council making the request of the providers as members of the team to make this work, but she does have a problem with making this request of them and within thirty (30) days from now we are setting ourselves up for the very same thing as Mr. Blanton had stated if the Legislators think the Council can do the job on half the money then why should the Legislators give the Council what it really cost.

Judge Hetherington stated that nothing would help a number of these people and if this Council could help one hundred and fifty people that would be a whole lot of people not going to prison.

Mr. Kuykendall stated that he thinks he understands the motion but if it allows this Council to spend money it doesn't have then he can't vote for it. There is a \$12,000.00 deficit now and as far as he is concerned the Council doesn't spend another dime unless the providers are willing to do their services free between now and the end of the year. He thinks the Council needs to quit providing services until more money is obtained.

Mr. Yeager stated again that his boss stated that the Council was not going to run out of money. Mr. Yeager spoke about \$34,000.00 and asked if the Council wanted to request it. More discussion took place. Mr. Blanton and Mr. Krohmer withdrew their motion and second.

Sheriff Beggs asked what would be the impact if the Council did nothing else between now and the end of the fiscal year.

Judge Hetherington stated there would be seventy-three (73) offenders that are now in the program running amuck.

Waldo Blanton asked if a motion is made and it passed allowing Mr. Yeager to get \$34,000.00 to the Council to get current could he get the money and Mr. Yeager stated he would get the Council the money.

Representative Nations stated that he doesn't have people come into a committee meeting and offer money to make budgets work until the end of the year. He hears Mr. Yeager saying that if this Council makes a motion and request the money it is very, very, very likely that it will be there.

Melissa McLawhorn-Houston stated that she thought this was discussed two or three meetings ago, is she understanding right that there is another pot of money and Mr. Yeager replied yes. Chairman Stockwell stated to Mr. Yeager if the Council approves a motion for you to get \$34,000.00 then you will get the \$34,000.00 and Mr. Yeager replied yes.

Melissa McLawhorn-Houston moved, seconded by Waldo Blanton, to request Mr. Yeager to get the Council \$34,000.00.

Libba Smith asked if the Council gets this money then no new offenders could be put into the program until someone is dropped.

Mr. Yeager stated he didn't know he would have to look at the program.

Leroy Krohmer asked what the success rate is for Cleveland County and Richard Stevens stated it was eight-five to ninety percent.

Tim Kuykendall asked if the motion was just to allow Mr. Yeager to get more money and it doesn't allow the Council to spend more money than it has.

Chairman Stockwell stated it is just to get more money. Then the money would have to be looked at and get the service providers to give the Council a forecast to see if anyone else could be put into the system.

The vote was: Dave Stockwell, yes; Melissa McLawhorn-Houston, yes; Dorinda Harvey, abstain, DeWayne Beggs, yes; Waldo Blanton, yes; William C. Hetherington, yes; Leroy Krohmer, abstain, Tim Kuykendall, yes; Libba Smith.

Motion carried.

(Tim Kuykendall exited the meeting at this time.)

Representative Nations made a few comments and stated that the Council is on the right track. He told the Council of all of the other States that are experiencing budget shortfalls and appreciated the Council inviting him to the meeting.

(William C. Hetherington exited the meeting at this time.)

Leroy Krohmer moved, seconded by Melissa McLawhorn-Houston to strike discussion, consideration, and/or action on questions to the Providers on how they are doing on the sliding scale.

The vote was: Dave Stockwell, yes; Melissa McLawhorn-Houston, yes; Dorinda Harvey, yes; DeWayne Beggs, yes; Waldo Blanton, yes; Leroy Krohmer, yes; Libba Smith, yes.
Motion carried.

(Tim Kuykendall re-entered the meeting at this time.)

Chairman Stockwell called for discussion, consideration and/or action on Status Report from Oklahoma Court Services, Inc., and Corry Flowers. Julia Curry and Corry Flowers stated that everyone was doing just great.

Libba Smith asked about the last page of the report and stated it looks like a dozen cases had been closed out.

Julia explained the last page to Ms. Smith.

Melissa McLawhorn-Houston moved, seconded by Waldo Blanton, to accept the report from Julia Curry and Corry Flowers.

The vote was: Dave Stockwell, yes; Melissa McLawhorn-Houston, yes; Dorinda Harvey, yes; DeWayne Beggs, yes; Waldo Blanton, yes; Leroy Krohmer, yes; Tim Kuykendall, yes; Libba Smith, yes.

Motion carried.

The next meeting was discussed and it was decided that the next regular meeting would be changed from June 11, 2002, to June 25, 2002, at the same time and place.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Leroy Krohmer moved that the meeting be adjourned. Waldo Blanton seconded the motion.

The vote was: Dave Stockwell, yes; Melissa McLawhorn-Houston, yes; Dorinda Harvey, yes; DeWayne Beggs, yes; Waldo Blanton, yes; Leroy Krohmer, yes; Tim Kuykendall, yes; Libba Smith, yes.

Motion carried.