

May 10, 2005

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Community Corrections Planning Council was called to order this 10th day of May, 2005, in the conference room of the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 605 E. Robinson, Norman, Oklahoma, by Chairman Dave Stockwell. Roll was called by Dorinda Harvey, County Clerk/Secretary and those present were:

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

Members F. DeWayne Beggs, Leroy Krohmer, and Tim Kuykendall were absent.

Others present were: Julia Curry, Jennifer Creecy, Terri Paxson, Debbie Cox, Wayne Barnes, Cheryl Farnsworth, Rhonda Peterson, Tom Belusko, Steve Nelson, David Williams, Tracy Ramirez, and Dan Merritt.

Chairman 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 12, 2005, and there being no additions or corrections, Libba Smith moved that the minutes be approved. Waldo Blanton seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

Chairman Stockwell called for discussion, consideration, and/or action to sign the Approved Budget and Plan for FY 2006. The Council had been presented with a copy of the Plan Narrative but not the Budget as the Budget did not have any changes made to it from what was approved in the last meeting. Chairman Stockwell asked about the changes and was told there had been some changes in the narrative on the mental health portion, changes were made on the page that concerned the problems that the Council was facing and there was some grammatical changes and typo's that needed to be corrected.

Vice-Chairman Houston stated one of the difficulties that she thought the Council was going to talk about had to do with the community-sentenced people not being able to get into Griffin.

And Chairman Stockwell stated community-sentenced people were being instructed not to mention that they were community sentenced or they would not get any services. The Council was going to try to put that in the Plan Narrative to let the Legislature know of these problems.

Vice-Chairman Houston stated she thought that was the reason the Council was asking for additional money and to do the mental health case load was because the services that should be provided was not getting done. It is not just because the Council has mentally ill people. Judge Hetherington stated he remembered the Council talking about this but he does not have a specific recollection of whether or not the Council asked that it be included in the narrative or not. Judge Hetherington does not object to this being in the narrative.

Chairman Stockwell and Vice-Chairman Houston stated this needed to be added

Vice-Chairman Houston expressed her concern about the first page of the narrative and that it is not that one hundred (100%) percent of our people have mental health issues, that is a significant issue and the Council is trying to address it with a mental health unit, but the Council has a lot of people with substance abuse and other issues, so to talk about the client characteristics as only being mental health does a disservice to the other seventy (70%) percent that the Council is trying to address.

Chairman Stockwell asked to have included in the narrative paragraph one page one and again in the paragraph on page nine he wants that re-worded and sent to him so he can look at it. On the narrative were its states, The Judicial District 21 has the unique burden of operating the State Mental Health Hospital and State Mental Health School, that is not done, the State of Oklahoma operates these. He would like an explanation in that paragraph as to why the Council is asking for this additional money and the reason is because we have the services available but we can't use them. They won't let the citizens of the State of Oklahoma in Cleveland County who are on a community sentence use the services that are available to everyone else. Either give the Council the money or break the log jam so the Council can send it's people to this facility and not cost the Council any money.

Judge Hetherington recommended that on page one were it says, The local Planning Council has determined that there will be 100 offenders receiving services during FY 2006, change that wording to there should be 100 offenders. Also on the last sentence of that paragraph the word "will" needed to be changed to should.

Chairman Stockwell moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Houston, to approve the Plan as presented with the changes, deletions, additions, and spelling corrections that the Council just went over, subject to the Chairman's final approval.

Chairman Stockwell and Judge Hetherington will sign.

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

Motion carried.

Chairman Stockwell called for discussion, consideration, and/or action to approve the Review of the bills for the month of March, 2005.

The Council was concerned with the budget balance this late in the year.

Julia Curry, with Oklahoma Court Services, stated one reason there is such a large budget balance was supervision. Wayne Barnes' caseload had to be filed and it cost more for Ms. Curry's group to supervise than it does for Wayne Barnes. And the number of offenders participating in community service is down.

Chairman Stockwell is hoping that the numbers are up after the training takes place later this month and continuing education is going to be held for defense attorneys.

After further discussion, Vice-Chairman Houston moved, seconded by Dorinda Harvey, to approve the review of the bills for the month of March, 2005.

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

Motion carried.

Chairman Stockwell called for Review Status on Bench Warrant Executions and Arrest of Absconders.

Terri Paxson, with Oklahoma Court Services, stated one absconder had been arrested. There were eleven (11) absconders about four (4) months ago and that is now down to seven (7).

Chairman Stockwell called for Presentation on Status Report from Oklahoma Court Services, Inc., and Wayne Barnes.

One offender was discussed in length; Mr. Barnes had found guns, money and marijuana in his possession. This offender is currently in the hospital in Oklahoma City with multiple gun shot wounds but is expected to make a full recovery. This offender also robbed a Sonic in Norman. Mr. Barnes informed the Council what had taken place and what all had been found.

Chairman Stockwell and Council Members commended Mr. Barnes.

Judge Hetherington expressed his unhappiness to the Council and stated the Council has to get Wayne Barnes and Julia Curry help. Page seven of the Planning Council Report says close supervision of offenders is at the core of the Community Sentencing Program, and the Judge doesn't think that job is getting done. There were three (3) of our people in on the incident that Mr. Barnes had described.

Judge Hetherington stated the Council has to get Ms. Curry and Mr. Barnes the resources they have to have to be in these people's pockets two or three time a week. These people are not being supervised closely enough or the incident Mr. Barnes described would have been known about. Whatever money is left over needs to be used to increase supervision, Mr. Barnes, Ms. Curry and Ms. Paxson need help and it needs to be done now. Judge Hetherington is not being critical of Mr. Barnes, Ms. Curry, or Ms. Paxson, he is being critical of the system, but he is being very critical of their inability to have resources to supervise the way they are suppose to supervise.

Chairman Stockwell doesn't think (but he will check into it and ask Carmen Jackson) that the Council can move money that is left in the budget around for supervision, but it can be shifted from one type of treatment to another.

Discussion took place on funding, if funding can be moved around for supervision, what needed to be done to make the program work i. e. hire officers to do home visits and the pay of the officers, and if letters need to be written telling the recipients of the letters of the situation and whom to send the letters.

It was the consensus of the Council that if money can be moved around beef up supervision for the next two month or the rest of this fiscal year with the funds that remain.

Terri Paxson stated there were four (4) cases closed successfully in the last thirty (30) days, only one new person was gained which brings the numbers down a little bit. There were no incentives but there will be quite a few for next month. The total of DOC payments was \$400.00. Ms. Paxson stated she did not mind reporting the home visits as well on the monthly report that she provides the Council.

Chairman Stockwell wanted to know if the successful closings were under the Council determination or DOC's.

Ms. Paxson stated it was the Council's and that there would be two (2) to three (3) more in the next sixty (60) days that would be closing successfully also.

Chairman Stockwell informed the Council's that the regular meeting of July 12, 2005, needed to be changed to July 19, 2005, and this will be on the agenda next for month to vote on.

There being no further business to come before the Board Melissa Houston moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dorinda Harvey seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.