

Overview of Recommendations to Champaign County Regarding the Criminal Justice System

Recommendations related specifically to the facilities issues are not included in this table. The categories used in the Community Justice Task Force report provided a convenient framework for organizing the material.

<u>Champaign County Community Justice Task Force (CJTF), June 2013</u>	<u>Institute for Law and Policy Planning (ILPP), September 2013</u>	<u>National Institute of Corrections (NIC), May 2011</u>
Recommended Services and Sentencing Options		
<p>#1. Integrate Restorative Justice Principles throughout the Justice System</p> <p>Goals of restorative justice include accountability of individuals for the harms caused and healing of the victims, their families, the community and the individuals who committed the crime. Methods include victim-offender mediation and related programs, and sanctions include community service. Already being used in Champaign County juvenile justice system, should be expanded to adult system.</p> <p>(pages 7-8)</p>	<p>Administer restorative sentences. Create restorative justice centers.</p> <p>(Appendix V, page 208)</p>	<p>Those assigned to alternative programs provide restitution as they participate in community service.</p> <p>(page 11)</p>
<p>#2. Expand Pre-Trial Services into a Comprehensive Pre-Trial Services Program To Avoid Unnecessarily Incarcerating People Not Convicted of a Crime</p> <p>In order to decrease detention of individuals who are not a public safety risk, use evidence based practices and protocols, “utilize validated risk-assessment instruments when screening individuals for pretrial release and possible conditions of release,” and provide adequate funding.</p> <p>This will decrease the costs to the county and the financial and social impact on the individual and his/her family pending trial, such as interruption of employment, housing and education and dislocation of children from the home. (pages 8-10)</p>	<p>CC should establish a pretrial services program operated as a stand-alone unit of the court. Participation by defendant should be voluntary. Consider use of inmate welfare funds to support release of indigent suspects. Use an objective risk assessment tool, validate by a professional researcher to ensure the tool is producing desired results. Electronic monitoring program should partner with newly formed pretrial services program to monitor higher risk defendants awaiting trial.</p> <p>(page 36 and Appendix V p. 206)</p>	<p>Limit the number of individuals who remain in jail pending trial to specific categories like flight risks, dangers to community etc., all others to be released with possible supervision, including Day Reporting Center. “This way alleged and convicted offenders are less likely to lose their jobs and their families’ income; frequently resulting in their families being thrown onto the County’s welfare system to further drain county resources.” (page 11)</p>

<p>#3. Develop a System of Care for Behavioral Health Services that Avoids Incarceration, Reduces Recidivism and Promotes Rehabilitation for Persons with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders</p> <p>The system of care would be designed to avoid incarceration, reduce recidivism and promote rehabilitation for persons with mental health and substance use disorders. Both an assessment center and significantly expanded services are needed in the community. Effective collaboration between jail and behavioral service providers is needed, including case management from pretrial through reentry with arrangements for after care. Crisis intervention training for law enforcement officers should be continued. Drug Court should be continued and detoxification services should be reestablished.</p> <p>(pages 10-12)</p>	<p>Create a Mental Health Collaborative Planning Group with key county staff; also collaborate with local government, service providers to develop Community Resource Center.</p> <p>Re-establish detoxification services including providing funding.</p> <p>Make Crisis Intervention Training a dept priority.</p> <p>Police depts need to have plan to adjust detainee handling and arrest procedures, and to collect and record arrestee MH status.</p> <p>Implement a screening tool to allocate resources to those who need and would benefit most; this will most greatly affect recidivism.</p> <p>Do regular audits of contracted medical and MH provider; establish a local MH provider; set up data system to track cases and program effectiveness.</p> <p>Allocate best possible jail housing for mentally ill inmates who cannot be safely housed with others.</p> <p>(pages 20 and Appendix V p. 207)</p>	<p>Increase number of programs in jail to aid in rehabilitation – AA, NA, GED, Anger Management, Domestic Violence, thinking Errors, Job Search, etc. and support a seamless continuation of these programs in the community.</p> <p>(page 14)</p>
<p>#4. Expand Community Diversion and Sentencing Sanctions to Include a Full Range of Community-Based Diversion, Deferred-Adjudication and Sentencing Options</p> <p>Includes restorative justice programs to enable repair of harm done, day reporting center, electronic supervision – lower costs than incarceration, allow individuals to continue work and stay involved with family. These penalties can avoid unnecessary supervision and incarceration. Increasing sentencing options would afford judges the opportunity to tailor a sentence to fit the gravity of a defendant’s crime and circumstances.</p> <p>(pages 12-13)</p>	<p>Expand the use of non-jail sanctions for low-risk individuals.</p> <p>Reinstitute an adult diversion program to supervise lesser offenders while reducing legal costs and downstream system costs.</p> <p>(page 36)</p>	<p>Community sanctions still provide control, supervision, and management by the criminal justice system, can involve Day Reporting Center with mandated program participation. Those assigned to alternative programs provide restitution as they participate in community service, spend renewed time with their families. They will have a “high probability of becoming a tax-paying/law abiding citizen”</p> <p>(page 11)</p>

<p>#5. Establish a Re-Entry Program for People Returning to the Community after Completing a Sentence in an Illinois Department of Corrections Prison</p> <p>Additional support services are needed for people released from prison and jail, including those on parole, with more options for housing, education/training, and employment, and a program of peer mentors, so that they become productive members of the community. This will also reduce the demand for jail bed space due to recidivism and reduce the racial discrepancy in the jail population, since the overwhelming majority of those on parole in the county are African-American. It will also move the county toward a restorative philosophy focused on rehabilitation and community building.</p> <p>(pages 13-15)</p>	<p>Reentry staff should focus on conceptualizing, researching, designing, and writing grants for reentry. Once the Reentry Council is formed, grants should be a standing subcommittee that reports to the Council.</p> <p>Champaign must establish a First Step Reentry Program with intensive case management and discharge planning, to increase the likelihood of successful reintegration.</p> <p>The County Board should create explicit policies to target funding dedicated sources for reentry programs.</p> <p>Responding to violations by reentry clients with a continuum of available sanctions and rewards – from low intensity, community based options to highly secure residential and institutional options – can be more effective in preventing relapse and future offending, and less expensive than revocation of parole and reincarceration.</p> <p>(page 19 and Appendix V 209)</p>	<p>Recommendation to “fully embrace the philosophy of reentry and reintegration – making the offender whole, while addressing the requirements of the court and getting the offenders back into the community as productive citizens.”</p> <p>(page 9)</p>
<p>Recommended Strategies for Implementation of Services and Sentencing Options</p>		
<p>#6. Identify and Acquire Adequate Funds to Implement Best Practice Services and Community Sanctions</p> <p>Increase percentage of Public Safety Sales Tax used for prevention and alternative programs to 30% of annual proceeds now and over 50% in 2019 when fund changes occur.</p> <p>Pursue additional funding possibilities (see list of potential sources on page 16 of CJTF report]</p> <p>(pages 15-16)</p>	<p>There are two main sources for funding system and facility improvements. The first source should be the cost savings that result from system reengineering described throughout this report. The second source of funding available for implementation of new programs and facilities is Champaign County’s Public Safety Sales Tax Fund.</p> <p>(Appendix V page 209)</p>	
<p>#7. Create a Council to Plan and Coordinate Steps That Can be Taken to Reduce Recidivism in the County, Further Restorative Justice and Ensure that the Criminal Justice System Operates Both Effectively</p>	<p>ILPP described formalizing the Criminal Justice Executive Council (CJEC) which involves key justice system leaders and gatekeepers but no other</p>	

<p>and Cost-Effectively Criminal Justice Coordinating Council or similar format involving law enforcement, courts and public defenders, probation; local government officials including Mental Health Board; community experts on mental illness, substance use disorders, education, employment; and the public. It would plan, coordinate, and evaluate services and sentencing options. (pages 17-18)</p>	<p>community members. “The efforts of the CJEC should be aided by subcommittees, with input from civic leaders and citizen groups.” (pages 141-144 and Appendix V p 210)</p>	
<p>#8. Form a Racial Justice Task Force to Identify Measures Needed to Address the Disproportionate Number of African-Americans in the County Jail African Americans comprise 12.7% of population and 54.7% of those in jail – need task force to examine data in more detail, evaluate contributing factors and differential impact of arrests, incarceration, and sentencing on African American and/or low-income populations (pages 18-19)</p>	<p>CC should eagerly review and if warranted, study any identified prejudice-based serious claim of disparity in order to implement improvement. Invest in deeper local research on racial disparities in the criminal justice in cooperation with the University of Illinois. Emphasize bias-free policing in police training and take time to understand community conflict and neighborhood tensions. After adopting a validated pretrial release risk/needs assessment instrument, further review release patterns to ensure that they represent objective decision making. Establish a best practice prosecution assessment to assist state attorneys in monitoring and guarding against any unrecognized racial bias in prosecutorial decision-making. (page 209)</p>	
<p>#9. Collect Data, Set Performance Standards and Measure Outcomes That Will Enable Programs to meet Goals, Be More Cost-Effective and Be More Successful in Reducing Recidivism Define what data are needed internally to track effectiveness of existing and new programs and procedures, then collect it systematically and evaluate it. (page 19)</p>	<p>Importance of collecting and evaluating data and outcomes mentioned in a number of settings, including systems for classification and for pretrial services, identification of racial disparities, and evaluation of programs for alternatives to incarceration. Supports integration of information systems. (various locations in document)</p>	

<p>#10. Provide Training and Public Engagement Opportunities to Further Systemic Improvements in the Criminal Justice System</p> <p>The system coordination team should be responsible for assuring staff training for program evaluation and for interpreting and conveying that information to the community and eliciting their involvement. (pp 19-20)</p>		
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ILPP recommended another policy to decrease jail population:

Construct a system-wide written citation policy as an ordinance or resolution through the Criminal Justice Executive Council ... low-level offenders should always be cited in lieu of incarceration unless certain specified public safety concerns are at issue. [This is already in process]
 Monitor compliance with the citation policy by reporting citations as a percentage of all arrests, as well as booking fee amounts.
 Expand the criteria of those who are eligible for electronic home monitoring.
 Expand the capacity of booking officers to release offenders on their own recognizance for some Class A offenses.
 (pages 15 and 17)

The NIC report made the following recommendation regarding a less expensive, temporary space solution for the jail:

“To deal with the current problems within their criminal justice system and the crowding within their jail, the [consultants] hereby recommend:

1. That the County and the Sheriff explore acquiring one or more small manufactured buildings ... to provide flexibility for:
 - a. Programs space directly adjacent to the current jail,
 - b. Dormitory space:
 - i. If a review of the jail population reveals that there are persons who do not qualify for electronic monitoring, but are such that can reside in a low security dorm;
 - ii. This dormitory housing would be ideal for those persons who have to remain in jail for traffic charges
 - iii. Used for detention during construction / renovation.

... These structures could be truncated to the satellite jail through recreation yard [utilizing the existing outer door], allowing easy supervision utilizing existing staff making frequent security and welfare checks. In addition, the closing of the downtown jail would provide staff to provide ‘direct supervision’ (24-7) for the dorms. To ensure that there is appropriate security for these units, a security fencing system should be installed to create a secure perimeter around the modular units.”

Notes on compiling the recommendations from the three reports:

The majority of the information from the Community Justice Task Force was obtained from the Summary Report (first 20 pages of the 80 page report). For the ILPP report, the Executive Summary, Key Points and Principles, and Action Plan (first 26 pages of the 272 page report) plus Appendix V, comparison with the CJTF report, were used. The entire 27-page NIC report was reviewed and used. The reports are all available at www1.co.champaign.il.us/sheriff/CCSOMasterPlanning.php

A number of entries in the table were quoted exactly from the respective reports, even though they are not shown with quotation marks.

- D. Vura-Weis, March 2015