

**ALLEN COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
January 26, 2006
Noon**

PRESENT: Judge Stephen Sims, Allen Superior Court, Juvenile Jurisdiction
Nelson Peters, Allen County Commissioner
Karen Richards, Allen County Prosecutor
Joe Brita, Superintendent, Juvenile Justice Center
Ruth Anne Sprunger, Mental Health Association
Elisha Harris, Allen County Jail Ministry
Judge Frances Gull, Allen Superior Court, Criminal Division
Judge John Surbeck, Allen Superior Court, Criminal Division
Marla Irving, Allen County Commissioner
Judge Thomas Felts, Allen Circuit Court
James Herman, Allen County Sheriff
Charles Leonard, Attorney at Law
Beth Beams, Center for Non-Violence
Thomas Ryan, Circuit Court Hearing Officer
Mark Keen, Chancellor, Ivy Tech Community College
Paul Wilson, CEO, Park Center
Rusty York, proxy for Graham Richard, Mayor of Fort Wayne
David Sprague, President, Old Fort Specialties

ABSENT: Michael Cunegin, Allen County Council
Michelle Savio, Division of Family & Children
Eric Zimmerman, Chief, Adult Probation
Marla Irving, Allen County Commissioner

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Allen County Community Corrections staff
David Lombard, PhD
Anthony Hudson, Blue Jacket, Inc
Harold Jewett, Chair, Blue Jacket, Inc.

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM

Chair Judge John Surbeck, called the meeting to order. Sheila Hudson called the roll and it was determined there was a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting made by Joe Brita, seconded by David Sprague. Carried unanimously.

CHAIRS REPORT:

Chair John Surbeck provided a brief overview of the legislative meetings with Senator David Long to formalize ReEntry Court. The matter has been approved by the Senate and will now go forward to the House.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

1. Misdemeanor Programs

Director Sheila Hudson explained the funding guidelines set forth by the Department of Correction for this year's grant requests. The state funds will only be allocated for programs addressing felonies and evidence-based programs. The DOC will no longer fund misdemeanor programs.

Allen County Community Corrections is committed to continue to provide programs to misdemeanants as these offenders are public safety issues and affect the bottom line of the Jail population. The programs will be funded by project income fees, offender user fees and monies generated by the work crews.

She further explained that Inspector General David Thomas has been looking into project incomes across the State to ensure they are being used in appropriate fashion.

2. GED Testing Site

Director Hudson stated that Allen County Community Corrections is now a full service GED testing site. The first class of 7 offenders all passed the test in the first setting.

3. 2006-2007 Grant Application

The current grant applications are due to the Department of Correction by February 15, 2006. The adult and juvenile components are completed.

Judge Stephen Sims provided a handout and overview of the juvenile part of the grant request. This portion is basically the same as previous years, funding the salaries of day reporting officers and electronic monitoring equipment. The Judge will also be sending in an amendment to the grant requesting 3 officers, a vehicle and equipment for DOC consideration.

Motion by Dr. Keen to submit the Juvenile Grant request to the Department of Correction, seconded by Joe Brita. Carried unanimously.

Director Hudson explained that the entire Adult portion of the grant had been delivered to all Board members prior to the meeting and requested any questions of the members. She stated that all budget items had been flat lined from the previous year except for salaries that moved on the grid due to longevity.

A motion was made by Stephen Sims to accept the grant as written, seconded by Joe Brita. Carried unanimously.

4. Adult Grant Amendments

The DOC Deputy Commissioner Julie Von Arx encouraged Allen County to submit grant amendments to request additional funding from DOC. Amendments have been prepared to request monitoring equipment, urine testing, GPS system equipment, and a data management component. Also included for review is a ReEntry Court Amendment.

The grant applications and amendments will be reviewed in March to begin funding July 1, 2006.

A motion was made by Fran Gull to submit the Grant Amendments to the Department of Correction as written, seconded by David Sprague. Carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Blue Jacket, Inc. Funding Request

Anthony Hudson, Director of Blue Jacket, Inc. gave a presentation on his proposal to request DOC grant funds to provide training and employment to older youth aged 17-21 that are not eligible for programs with Community Corrections. Blue Jacket would possibly partner with Community Corrections, Drug Court, CDS, Probation and/or Parole, hoping to expand services to up to 250 offenders referred from those agencies.

A motion was made by Chief York to accept this grant request, seconded by Paul Wilson. Discussion was brought forth on why it was appropriate for approval to be sought from this Board and not from the Board of Directors of Blue Jacket. Mr Hudson explained that the DOC funds would be channeled through Community Corrections as the fiscal agent.

Chair Surbeck stated that the motion would pend with Mr Hudson providing a document in 10 days or less to address questions and concerns to all Board members. The Chair will then call for a voice vote. Dr. Keen stated as he was also on the Blue Jacket Board, he must abstain from any discussion and voting.

2. Half-Way House Investigation

The collected information has been passed along to those groups that deal with this type of issue.

3. Global Positioning System

The use of the active GPS electronic monitoring is suspended until the issues with the software technology and hardware limitations are addressed fully. Community

Corrections is engaged in joint meetings with BI Incorporated, working to modify equipment so it will work to the best advantage.

4. Evaluation Procedure

Deferred to next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Work Release Update – Sheriff James Herman

The Sheriff stated that research has shown that the current work release facility is not able to house anymore offenders. He is open for further conversation on what Allen County can do to be a housing component of Allen County Community Corrections. He is offering no formal proposal at this time.

2. Meeting Times

The Chair explained that the currently scheduled meeting for November again falls on Thanksgiving. He requested the Boards consensus for another date. It was decided that November 30, 2006, at noon, would work the best for majority of members.

Motion to adjourn by Chief York, seconded by Paul Wilson. Carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

The next meeting will be March 23, 2006 at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Wilson,
Board Secretary