

Drug Commission Meeting

Minutes

01/14/2014

Present:

Gene Morgan
Keith Query
Dr. Joseph Spalitto
Venessa Maxwell-Lopez
Marva Moses
Gloria Fisher
James Witteman

Also Present:

Stacey Daniels-Young
Dave Fleming
Tammie Jordan
DaRon McGee
Jodi McDaniel
Lisa Honn, County Executive's Office
Jaime Guilen, Legislative Aide

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM.

Dr. Joseph Spalitto motioned to approve the December minutes; Marva Moses second; motion carried.

Marketing Update

Stacey informed the Drug Commission that there were additional funds left in the 2013 marketing budget. Those funds were used for additional radio advertisements. Under 2014 Marketing, COMBAT will continue the Anti-Violence theme and focus on the zip codes that the agencies funded under the Anti-Violence Special Initiative will be serving. Vince is also obtaining the crime statistics for the areas that were targeted last year to see if there is a decline in these numbers. Stacey stated the four violent crimes we have been asked to track are aggravated assault, forcible rape, domestic violence and theft/robbery.

Connections Update

Dave stated Connections is currently finalizing 2013 statistics. The reporting date is December 20th so the yearend report will be available at the next meeting.

He informed the Commission that there will be training for Treatment agencies on Mastering Essential Business Operations starting in the first part of February, through a collaboration involving the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration and the National Council on Behavioral Health. Some of the courses that will be available online include:

- Strategic Business Planning
- Third Party/Billing and Compliance
- Third Party/Contract Negotiations
- Eligibility Determination
- Meaningful Use of Health Information Technology

He stated there are currently twelve agencies that are interested in joining this training. COMBAT is encouraging our Treatment funded agencies to attend.

HRO Update

There was no update in the High Risk Offender Initiative as Vince was out of town.

Anti-Violence Special Initiative (AVSI) Update

Stacey provided the Commission with two handouts, the first one of which was the "Five Bricks" that will be the root building blocks of the AVSI. The next handouts were the logic models for each of the seven funded areas.

The Commission inquired about what will be used to gauge the success of the AVSI, and were told that the focus is Violent Crime Statistics: Domestic Violence, Rape and Aggravated Assaults, and Vince has begun collecting this information within the areas being targeted by the AVSI agencies. They questioned whether both the incidence of these as well as the number of arrests can be collected, and stated an interest in us pursuing both.

Prevention RFP, Grant Match Applications, Treatment and DARE Renewal

Stacey distributed the 2014 funding recommendations for the upcoming Prevention, Grant Match, and Treatment funding period. The Commission discussed the recommendations, and urged the staff to consider the merits of including new projects that may have promise, as well as phasing out existing projects where warranted.

Update on Treatment – Swope Health

Stacey informed the Commission that Swope Health is still unsure whether they will be able to continue service at Imani House Residential Treatment. They are currently providing residential house at a building they are leasing from Comprehensive Mental Health, augmented by intensive outpatient services at another Swope location for outpatient services. They have submitted a revised budget for the end of 2013 which is currently being reviewed by COMBAT staff.

Drug Commission Meeting

Minutes

02/12/2014

Present:

Gene Morgan
Dr. Joseph Spalitto
Keith Query
Venessa Maxwell-Lopez
Anita Russell
Marva Moses
James Witteman
Gloria Fisher

Also Present:

Stacey Daniels-Young
Vince Ortega
Dave Fleming
DaRon McGee
Laci Beavers
Alan Flory, President, CEO of ReDiscover
Cathy Jolly
Jay Haden
Lisa Honn
Jaime Guillen

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM.

Keith Query moved to approve the January minutes; Anita Russell second; motion carried.

Cathy Jolly introduced herself to the new Drug Commissioners. She explained the COMBAT audit that began last year, stating Phase One has been completed, which focused on financials as well as making sure projects of funded agencies were being conducted as proposed. She stated the outcome of Phase One was positive, with the audit recommending streamlining of some functions. The auditors will be back this year to finalize Phase Two which will be a more in-depth look at COMBAT Administration and goals.

Presentation of ReDiscover

Stacey Daniels-Young introduced Alan Flory, President and CEO of ReDiscover Mental Health Services. He explained their programs stating that ReDiscover has three COMBAT funded programs, a prevention program which takes place in schools and teaches children about the dangers of drug use, a treatment program, and a Grant Match program which maximizes Medicaid dollars to increase the number of people who can obtain treatment services. ReDiscover is able to provide residential treatment services to approximately 900 people per year; they receive approximately 5,000 calls per year from people seeking treatment services. They only have 22 beds, eight of which are in Lee's Summit and 14 in Kansas City, which makes it difficult to decide to whom to provide services to and who gets turned away on any particular day. He said the usual priority for state drug treatment funds is pregnant women or mothers of children, with fewer funds available for men, unless they have a connection to corrections, probation or parole. They work with Drug Court as well so they have an agreement with COMBAT to prioritize these referrals as well. Several Commissioners questioned Mr. Flory about ReDiscover's programming, how long their waiting list is, and how they assess their quality of services.

Marketing

Stacey updated the Drug Commission on Marketing stating a recent meeting was held with O'Neill Marketing, where they were given information on the Anti-Violence Special Initiative and its agencies. As they are constructing the plan for 2014 marketing campaign they have been asked to include ways to maximize marketing opportunities in these geographic areas and enhance these projects.

Connections

Dave Fleming provided a handout to the Drug Commission showing the 2013 Annual demographics collected from COMBAT Connections. He explained each section to the Commissioners.

High Risk Offender Initiative

Vince Ortega gave a brief introduction of the High Risk Offender Initiative (HROI) for the new drug commissioners. He stated that since HRO started there has been 30 HRO's entered into the system; 16 are incarcerated, three are fugitives with warrants, four are inactive, two were victims of homicide and five are active. He stated there is now a secure portal for communication between law enforcement statewide, called MO-MIAC and Kansas City is the Liaison. A question was asked about why new offenders have apparently not been entered for awhile and when more will be entered. Vince explained the criteria and capability of the system.

Anti-Violence Special Initiative (AVSI)

Stacey presented the Commission with a timeline for the AVSI. She explained that there will be bi-monthly meetings with a Steering Committee that will be constructed and include the Chair of the Drug Commission. Monthly collaborative efforts will begin being tracked. Vince is gathering crime data for areas being impacted and she and Jim Nunnally will begin looking at policy implications with different institutions such as the jails and the prosecutor's office that may be helpful for AVSI agencies.

DARE Funding

Stacey provided a handout showing the DARE 2014 recommended funding. She walked through the handout with the Drug Commission explaining the measures that were taken to come up with the 2014 recommended funding amounts, including anticipated numbers of students for each jurisdiction, which is usually the basis for funding, as contrasted with actual numbers of students taught the prior year. Commissioners were concerned about any plan to award more funding to any agency that did not meet their projections. Stacey thanked Commissioners for their feedback and stated that adjustments will be made, along with reminding jurisdictions to be more realistic in their projections.

Announcements

Second Chance will be presented at the next meeting which will Tuesday March 11, 2014.

Drug Commission Meeting

Minutes

03/11/2014

Present:

Gene Morgan
Dr. Joseph Spalitto
Keith Querry
Venessa Maxwell-Lopez
Anita Russell
Marva Moses
James Witteman

Also Present:

Stacey Daniels-Young
Vince Ortega
Dave Fleming
Laci Beavers
DaRon McGee
Jodi McDaniel
Ron Smith (Director of Kansas City
Crime Commission's Second Chance
Program)
William Snyder

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM.

Dr. Spalitto motioned to approve the February Minutes; Marva Moses second; motion carried.

Stacey Daniels-Young introduced Ron Smith, Director of the Kansas City Crime Commission's Second Chance program. He spoke about the program explaining some of the outcomes they are expecting to see and some of the core functions of the program. The Second Chance AVSI Program differs in that it provides more intensive case management for those whom the Dept. of Corrections has assessed as being at higher risk for violence.

Marketing Update

Stacey explained that during the next meeting with O'Neill Marketing, a plan for 2014's marketing campaign will be made. She stated that an update will be available at the next Drug Commission Meeting.

Connections Update

Dave Fleming explained that modifications will be made in the database for the Anti-Violence Special Initiative agencies.

HRO Update

Vince Ortega gave an update on the secure portal for communication between law enforcement entities.

AVSI Update

DaRon McGee updated the Drug Commissioners on the site visits he has conducted to the AVSI Agencies. He stated that as of now everything seems to be flowing smoothly with the agencies, there is a lot of collaboration taking place. He stated that the agencies are getting their

programs started and he is working with them on anything that they need assistance with and questions they may have.

COMBAT Goals

DaRon informed the Commission about COMBAT's Staff Retreat at the Kauffman Center of Performing Arts. He stated that during that meeting the staff identified the goals that need to be met for 2014 and what goals need to be made incorporating the AVSI. The Commission asked for a copy of the staff's prioritization from the staff retreat for their use. Stacey said she will also distribute a questionnaire to help shape this conversation.

Announcements:

DaRon gave a brief presentation on where legislation was with the legalization of marijuana.

The next meeting will be May 13, 2014.

Drug Commission Meeting
05/13/2014
Minutes

Present:

Gene Morgan
Marva Moses
Gloria Fisher
Venessa Maxwell-Lopez
Anita Russell
James Witteman

Also Present:

Stacey Daniels-Young
Vince Ortega
Dave Fleming
Tammie Jordan
Laci Beavers
DaRon McGee
Jodi McDaniel
Jim Nunnelly
Cathy Jolly
Whitney Miller, County Counselor's Office
Lisa Honn

The meeting was called to order at 1:13 PM.

Additions to the Agenda

Lisa Honn gave a presentation on the Constructing Futures project. She explained that this project started in 2008; the main focus of this project is to take homes from disadvantaged neighborhoods and employ ex-offenders, who are usually referred by Connections to Success, to rehabilitate these homes. They then choose a family in need to give the home to once finished. Gene Morgan inquired about whether or not the people who have been given the home have stayed or have any of them been turned over. Lisa stated they are all still currently living in the homes.

Update on Swope Imani House Residential Treatment

Stacey updated that ReDiscover has taken the majority of the clients that Swope had to release due to the condition of their facility. Stacey notified that \$15,000 will be moved from Swope's budget and give to ReDiscover to cover the cost of treating Swope's clients.

Approval of Minutes

James Witteman motioned to approve the March minutes; Marva second; motion carried.

Update on AVSI

Cathy Jolly explained about the AVSI projects and how they were coming along. She stated that she, COMBAT staff, and all 16 agencies meet bi-monthly to discuss their programs and to engage the agencies in collaboration. Stacey went into detail about the start-up of these programs and explained that they had 60 days to initiate their program, but they did not see the number of clients they were expecting.

DaRon McGee explained that he is basically the go-to person for all of these 16 agencies. He conducts monthly site visits and assists them with any issues they may encounter. Tammie Jordan collects the monthly reports on the agencies programs.

Marketing Update

Stacey explained that the 2014 marketing plan has not come in yet. O'Neill marketing is still working on it.

Next meeting is June 10th at the Independence Courthouse.

Drug Commission Meeting

June 10, 2014

Minutes

Present:

Gene Morgan
Marva Moses
Gloria Fisher
Venessa Maxwell-Lopez
Keith Query
James Witteman

Also Present:

Stacey Daniels-Young
Vince Ortega
Dave Fleming
Anita Russell
Laci Beavers
DaRon McGee
Deanna Bellamagany
Adam Goldberg

The June meeting of the Jackson County Drug Commission convened at 12:30 at the MyArts East facility in Independence. The Commissioners participated in a tour of the facility conducted by Deanna Bellamagany and Adam Goldberg of the MyArts staff, during which commissioners learned about the programs both MyArts. The meeting reconvened at 1:45 at the Eastern Jackson County Courthouse. In attendance were: Gene Morgan, Venessa Maxwell-Lopez, Jim Witteman, Marva Moses, Dr. Joe Spalitto, Anita Russell, Gloria Fisher, and Keith Query.

Jim Witteman moved that the May minutes be approved, second by Marva Moses; motion carried.

DARE

Vince Ortega updated the commissioners on the DARE program. He described a meeting that had been held with representatives of the eight DARE funded law enforcement jurisdictions funded by COMBAT and presented a new report form that was discussed. This form will better capture violence related incidents in which DARE officers may be involved.

New Business

Kansas City Municipal Court Judge Joe Locascio discussed the need for drug treatment among those who are a part of the Municipal Drug Court that operates in his courtroom. Last year, the program was funded under the COMBAT Treatment award to First Call that funds the same program in the Jackson County Detention Center. First Call has reported to Judge Locascio that the 2014 Treatment funds awarded to the agency by COMBAT (\$36,000) are not sufficient to incorporate services for Municipal Drug Court. Judge Locascio explained the current dilemma to the Drug Commission in a request to approve additional funding to First Call for the program. He stated that First Call continued to provide services January – March, unfunded. The amount required for the remaining six months of 2014 is \$36,000, which will fund 10 men and 10. After much discussion, the Drug Commission requested that First Call be invited to the next meeting to present the information regarding the request and to answer questions. Specific questions to be answered:

By First Call:

1. How many people were served in the program) in January – March 2014, and at what cost?
2. What is the number who will be served July – December 2014?

By Judge Locascio:

3. Can you identify another way to absorb this program for Municipal Drug Court, either in the form of another vendor or using another solution?

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10p.m.

Drug Commission Meeting

August 5, 2014

Minutes

Present:

Gene Morgan
Marva Moses
Gloria Fisher
Venessa Maxwell-Lopez
Keith Querry
James Witteman
Anita Russell

Also Present:

Stacey Daniels-Young
Vince Ortega
Dave Fleming
Laci Beavers
Jodi McDaniel
Jay Haden – Counselor’s Office
Michael Mansur – Prosecutor’s Office
Major David Bosworth – KC Police Department
Clyde Harvey – Shooters’ Touch
Jim Nunnelly

The August meeting of the Jackson County Drug Commission convened at 1:40 p.m. There were no additions to the agenda.

Jim Witteman moved that the June minutes be approved, second by Marva Moses; motion carried.

Major David Bosworth, who attended the meeting to represent KCPD, gave an update (attached) from the Narcotics and Vice unit showing that most violent crime indicators are down so far for 2014. The Commissioners commented on the trends related to drugs and firearms, noting that the attention of COMBAT to drug abuse remains important as we also begin more violence programming.

Special Projects

Michael Mansur of the Prosecutor’s Office presented Teens in Transition, a program that the Prosecutor’s Office conducted this summer for youth under the age of 18 identified through the No Violence Alliance (NoVA). The youth received life skills training and an arts program; for successful completion each was to receive \$800. Twenty of the 30 youth completed the program. The Prosecutor’s Office is requesting \$12,200 from COMBAT to finalize payment of the stipends. The budget for the program is handled through the NoVA contractor, KC Crime Commission. Mr. Mansur stated that UMKC is performing a formal evaluation of the project. He was also asked by the commissioners to discuss the results of NoVA to date; he reported that the homicide rate in Kansas City, the target area for NoVA, is 33% lower than in the past three years. He stated that the Prosecutor’s Office will scheduled time on the Drug Commission agenda in October or November to give another update.

Jim Nunnelly also appeared with Clyde Harvey of Shooter’s Touch to discuss another special project. Shooters’ Touch was funded by COMBAT during the fall of 2013. Mr. Nunnelly explained how the program is being revamped to strengthen its Prevention component. If funded for the remainder of 2014, the program will be folded into the Prevention funding process in the future.

Commissioners asked how the special projects can be funded since all COMBAT Prevention funds were allocated early in the year. Stacey Daniels-Young explained that these funds, if recommended by the Drug Commission, would be requested for funding by the Legislature from the COMBAT non-mandated 3% Contingency Fund. After discussion, it was moved by Marva Moses, second by Anita Russell; motion carried to fund the stipends for the Prosecutor's Teens in Transition project. They requested a copy of the evaluation of the project when it is available. Keith Querry moved, second by Anita Russell; motion carried to approve the funding of Shooter's Touch. They informed Mr. Harvey that this would be the last funding as the expectation is for the program to compete in the Prevention area. They also asked for a copy of this evaluation when it is completed.

Marketing Update

Stacey Daniels-Young gave a brief update on the 2014 Marketing Campaign (attached). The campaign has been designed to have a new look and focus more directly on violent crime, such as homicide. It will include three different billboard presentations throughout the County, a radio spot, new door hangers, and television (including cable). Canvassing has been scheduled to begin later in the summer, with the first canvass in Grandview.

Connections Update

Dave Fleming distributed the attached quarterly report on the current statistics related to the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Drug Commission Meeting
September 12, 2014
Minutes-Corrected

Present:

Gene Morgan
Marva Moses
Gloria Fisher
Venessa Maxwell-Lopez
Keith Querry
James Witteman
Dr. Joe Spallito

Also Present:

Stacey Daniels-Young
Vince Ortega
Dave Fleming

The Drug Commission convened at 12:30 with lunch. The meeting formally began at 1:00 p.m. The minutes of August 5 were reviewed; Dr. Joe Spallito moved to approve the minutes; second by Marva Moses; motion carried.

The Commissioners began by reviewing the Mission/Goals/Strategies document that was dated January 2010. Changes recommended:

- Change name to COMBAT Commission-from Drug Commission
- COMBAT- acronym needs to reflect violence Anti-Violence and just not Anti-Drug Tax
- Chapter 93 of the County Code should be headed Anti-Drug /Anti-Violence
- Sales tax fund-Change to Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Tax (everywhere this appears should be changed -- probably every paragraph).

Specific questions of interest:

What are we getting for COMBAT funding- Same or different results?

How many people are jailed annually as a result of COMBAT funds?

How many people are Sentenced?

How many cases are Prosecuted?

How many Arrests are made in Jackson County?

What programs are at the Jackson County Detention Center (not necessarily funded by COMBAT)?

Is the Jackson County Legislature interested in continuing attention to those items referenced in chapter 9303 regarding 50% of funding under the control of the Prosecutor/Law Enforcement?

Has the Jackson County Drug Task Force begun to address violent crime and gangs? Should its name be changed to include Violence?

The Commission still needs a Blue Springs Representative is Greg Grounds aware or has he been approached re: submitting a candidate?

Commission desires a third party evaluation of COMBAT evaluation--according to Chapter 9303 there is supposed to be an evaluation

The commissioners were reminded of the COMBAT Awards to be held on October 9 at the Gem Theatre. They were also informed of the COMBAT upcoming canvassing events to be hosted by County Executive Michael Sanders:

Independence, September 19

Northeast Kansas City, September 26

Grandview, October 3

Stacey Daniels-Young will appear before the Independence City Council on Monday, September 15 to inform them of the upcoming canvass. Opportunities to address the Kansas City Public Safety Committee and the Grandview Board of Aldermen will also be scheduled to inform them of canvassing in their cities.

Drug Commission Meeting

October 14, 2014

Minutes

Corrected

Present:

Gene Morgan
Venessa Maxwell-Lopez
Gloria Fisher
Joe Spalitto
Keith Querry
Anita Russell

Also Present:

Stacey Daniels-Young
Vince Ortega
DaRon McGee
Tracy Jordan
Laci Beavers
Caleb Clifford-Prosecutor's office
Gina Robinson-Prosecutor's office

The October meeting of the Jackson County Drug Commission convened at 1:30 pm.

Additions to the Agenda

A discussion was held re: whether it would be useful to change the meeting date and/or time to accommodate commissioners. It was decided this is not necessary.

Approval of the September Minutes

Two corrections were noted: 1.) regarding the spelling of Dr. Spalitto's name and; 2.) the fact that Anita Russell was not present at the September 12, 2014 Drug Commission Meeting. Dr. Spalitto moved that the September minutes be approved; second by Anita Russell; motion carried.

High Risk Offenders Update

Vince Ortega explained that COMBAT's Gang Intelligence database project has partnered with Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) Intelligence in addition to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in order to collect gang intelligence from the Jackson County jail. HSIN-Intelligence facilitates the sharing, dissemination and notification of key sensitive but unclassified intelligence information between federal, state, local and tribal stakeholders supporting the Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Analysis. HSIN-Intelligence was established to support the critical intelligence information sharing needs of the Department and its partners. This partnership will allow us to distribute our gang information from the jail countywide. This system should go live by mid-December.

Caleb Clifford of the Prosecutor's Office briefly discussed the status of NoVA, the joint project of the Prosecutor's Office, the City of Kansas City, Kansas City Police Department and several other law enforcement entities. NoVA addresses group related violence by offering an alternative to violent crime by perpetrators. NoVA administrators believe this has made an impact on violent crime as evidenced by an over 30% drop in homicides compared to this time last year. The focused deterrence model holds the group responsible for actions of individual blur line jurisdictionally. The Prosecutor's Office was asked to schedule to give a formal presentation to the Drug Commission in an upcoming month.

Anti-Violence Special Initiative (AVSI)

Stacey Daniels-Young presented a progress update of the AVSI. The Commission commented that they are interested in hearing examples of who has changed as a result of the initiative and hear from a line worker of success stories. AVSI videos that Laci has prepared with Communications department may be a way for the Commissioners to learn more of the AVSI projects. Venessa Maxwell –Lopez asked do the various probation and parole offices outside of that one run by the State of Missouri know about AVSI special programs for violent offenders, especially teens. It was also suggested that some of the programs approach Municipal Judges – at least those dealing with offenders ages 18 and above – be approached for availability for these programs. COMBAT will investigate these possibilities with relevant AVSI agencies and set up meetings as appropriate.

Marketing Update

The Commissioners were each provided with door hangers and screen wipes from the 2014 marketing campaign. The neighborhood sized Billboards are now up and have the same corresponding anti-violence messages depicted on the door hangers so that the same theme goes throughout Jackson County. COMBAT arranged three door to door canvass sessions in September and October; no more are scheduled this year. We hope to start this process earlier in 2015.

Connections Update

Dave was absent so there was no report this month.

Upcoming Events

A workshop, How to apply for COMBAT Funding, is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 6:00-7:00 pm Southeast Community Center.

Next Scheduled Meeting- **Wednesday**, November 12, 2014, 1:30pm – 3:00 pm (Veteran's Day is on the regularly scheduled date, Tuesday November 11).

Meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm

Drug Commission Meeting
November 12, 2014
Minutes
1:30-3:00 p.m.

Present :

Gene Morgan
Gloria Fisher
Dr. Joe Spalitto
Keith Querry
James Witteman
Anita Russell
Venessa Maxwell-Lopez

Also Present:

Stacey Daniels-Young
Vince Ortega
Dave Fleming
Laci Beavers
Tracy Jordan
Jim Nunnelly
Col. Randy Hopkins, Kansas City Police Dept.
Maj. Dave Bosworth, Kansas City Police Dept.
Sgt. Chris Cesena, Kansas City Police Dept.
Page Bellamy, Jackson County Prosecutor's Office
Caleb Clifford, Jackson County Prosecutor's Office
Jackson County Sheriff Mike Sharp
Chrissy Light, Jackson County Sheriff's Office
Sgt. Mike Scofield, Midwest HIDTA

The November meeting of the Jackson County Drug Commission convened at 1:30pm. There was a correction to the October minutes, adding Keith Querry as present. The October minutes were approved as corrected.

Update from Kansas City Police Department and Jackson County Prosecutor's Office

Representatives from the Kansas City Police Department were present and discussed the current status of drug and violent crime. They stated that narcotics crime generally mirrors where violent crime appears. They recommended that the Drug Commission endorse a consideration of funding for more Prosecutors in the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office to deal with the level of cases being seen, including those appropriate for Drug Court. Specifically, they noted that the prevalence of cocaine has decreased, while methamphetamine and heroin have increased. It was also stated that current drug trends require a different strategy: synthetic drugs, Bath Salts have largely gone underground and clandestine meth labs are greatly reduced which affects the ability of police intervention efforts. Heroin addiction needs immediate treatment to respond to withdrawal; marijuana and cocaine addicts are different, with different types of withdrawal.

Representatives from the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office were also present and discussed current Drug Court operations. They reported that OSCA (the Office of State Courts Administrator) is looking to begin placing Drug Court participants in different Treatment. Those with fewer problems would have less responsibility for coming to Drug Court, those with greater problems would come in more frequently. Vince asked if the philosophy has changed re: who is eligible for Drug Court; the response was Drug Court is no longer just for first time offenders and actual drug cases; Drug Court can also take cases that are drug related. However, defendants charged with committing violent crimes generally do not qualify for participation in drug court.

Commissioner Witteman asked about the time it take to prosecute drug related cases, and asked if the wait-time for lab results which need to be done to verify drug use has been reduced. He lamented that

the delays caused in prosecution can be an impediment to participation in Drug Court. Dr. Spalitto asked how long does it take to get these cases to court. Jim Nunnally spoke to Drug Court history, showing that the time to get in Drug Court decreased beginning in 2009. The original capacity of Drug Court was planned at 500 cases per year; now Drug Court sees roughly 300 per year. Jim also stated that the longer the wait to get into Drug Court, the longer the recidivism, as participants begin to relapse during the wait period. Jim also questioned asked how long it takes now from the time a case is obtained from the police department and recognized as eligible for Drug Court, and if it is still three (3) weeks? Dr. Spalitto asked if cases to be prosecuted are being stacked up. Jim agreed to find the answer to this question.

Dr. Spalitto endorsed the idea of more prosecutors and even another Drug Court commissioner, and urged police and prosecutors to continue to collaborate.

Old Business

Gang Initiative

Sheriff Mike Sharp gave an update on the Gang Initiative. He stated that before the Gang Initiative began he had no representative at the jail, but would have to send a deputy there when needed. He had begun to send Deputy Mark Estrada there to collect gang intelligence. Now, since the Gang Initiative has begun, gang intelligence is collected in a format that can be shared with other jurisdictions, including other county sheriffs. Now there is a place to put the information. He stated that there is a need for deputy in the jail on a daily basis. The partnership that has been developed that will allow use of the Homeland Security Information Network for data management will provide the necessary software to share the information broadly.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11pm. There will be no meeting of the Drug Commission in December; due to scheduling conflicts with the use of the Legislative Chambers the next meeting will be January 21, 1:30 to 1:30pm,