

COUNTY OF KENDALL, ILLINOIS
Law, Justice and Legislation Committee

Monday, March 28, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Pledge Allegiance – Chair Judy Gilmour called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Committee Member	Status	Arrived	Left Meeting
Judy Gilmour	Here		
Amy Cesich	Present		
Dan Koukol	Here		
Ruben Rodriguez	Here		
Robyn Vickers	Here		

Others Present: Sheriff Dwight Baird, Chief Deputy Circuit Clerk Lynn Cullick, EMA Director Roger Bonuchi, Court Services Director Alice Elliott, Commander Jason Langston, Special Courts Coordinator Melissa Moore, Presiding Judge Robert Pilmer, Coroner Jacquie Purcell, Undersheriff Bobby Richardson, Commander Jeanne Russo, State’s Attorney Eric Weis, Assistant Public Defender Chris Wheaton

Approval of Agenda: Member Cesich made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Member Rodriguez. **With five members present voting aye, the agenda was approved.**

Approval of Minutes – Member Koukol made a motion to approve the February 28, 2022 meeting minutes, second by Member Cesich. **With five members present voting aye, the motion carried by a 5-0 vote.**

Public Comment – None

Status Reports

Coroner – Written report provided. Coroner Purcell reported a total of 31 deaths in the month of February, with 2 suicides and 29 natural.

Coroner Purcell stated that the full-time Deputy Coroner position was approved by the Board earlier in the month, and that the deadline for application submission will end soon. They have received approximately 25 applications thus far, and hope to conduct interviews next week. Purcell hopes to have a start date for the new position of May 1, 2022.

Coroner Purcell informed the committee of her office’s participation in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) **Takeback Day** Event on Saturday, April 30th from 10am – 2pm. in front of Coroner’s Office at 804 John Street, Yorkville.

The event is to encourage and educate the public about the importance of disposing of any unwanted, unused or expired prescription medications, needles, etc. in their household. The Coroner's Office partners with local law enforcement agencies in this effort. Drive-thru drop-off is available for citizens as well.

EMA – Written report provided. EMA Director Bonuchi reported that work continues on the Mitigation Plan. The draft agreement has been sent to the State's Attorney's Office for review, and the contractor is currently working on the FEMA GO application.

Bonuchi stated they are currently conducting the Amateur Ham Radio Operator 13-week course, with 6 students participating. Once they are certified, they qualify to become storm spotters.

Bonuchi also reported that he has been working with Facilities Management on renovation of the EMA Command Post, and will keep the committee updated on the progress.

Public Defender –Assistant Public Defender Chris Wheaton introduced himself to the committee, and reported that former Kendall County Assistant Public Defender Jessica Deets has been rehired by the office and will begin in the next few weeks.

Circuit Clerk – Written report provided. Chief Deputy Circuit Clerk Lynn Cullick reported their office is down five employees, including 3 supervisors. Discussion on the ongoing turn-over in the office, mostly due to the amount of work required, and the low pay offered.

Court Services – Written report provided. As part of the Court Services/Probation Department's continued efforts to highlight existing programming, Director Elliott highlighted the Juvenile Delinquency Diversion Program. Elliott stated that the Diversion Specialist Probation Officer position is reimbursed 100 percent by the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, and the police municipalities funds the benefit portion of that position.

A juvenile diversion is a means by which the office tries to take as many opportunities to divert youth away from the judicial court system. They know that when they hold youth accountable for their behavior without resorting to legal sanctions or court oversight or the threat of confinement that there is a 45 percent of participants are less likely to reoffend once they are in the program. Having a skilled Diversion Specialist to work with them can help to decrease the recidivism by 10 percent more.

The process begins when a police department sends a referral to Court Services when a youth is charged with an alleged offense, Court Services then meets with the State's Attorney's Office to review all of the police reports, determine if it is an offense, the nature of the offense, the age of the youth, and next steps.

If a youth is diverted, assuming that the SAO would prosecute, and the youth is cooperative with the process, the youth and their parent are invited to a preliminary conference where information is gathered, explaining what diversion is, accepting responsibility for the offense, issues and a contract for participation in the program, buy in from the parents, and next steps.

Presiding Judge – Judge Pilmer reported on a collaboration of the Special Courts Coordinator, Court Services Director, the Judicial Office, and local law enforcement agencies, they recently hosted a Symposium to answer questions on Mental Health Issues that were identified by the Supreme Court.

Judge Pilmer reported that the Supreme Court has indicated they want remote proceedings, hybrid and in-person proceedings. This is a benefit to the public attorneys, State’s Attorney’s Office and Public Defenders Office. They might have to invest in updating technology equipment in the future.

Judge Pilmer stated that on Friday, March 25, 2022, the Supreme Court issued an order with time standards for case closure in Illinois Trial Courts, setting guidelines for moving cases to a conclusion for every case category. This will require more reporting by the Circuit Clerk’s Office, but will benefit the Court System. This involves cases filed after January 1, 2022, but will take effect on July 1, 2022.

Lastly, Judge Pilmer informed the committee that his office was awarded a \$237,000 Technology Modernization Grant through the Illinois Courts. This grant will allow the purchase of new hardware, equipment and updates for the Court rooms.

State’s Attorney – No Report

Sheriff’s Report –

- a. Operations Division – Written report provided. Commander Langston reported that all Command Staff are now wearing Body Cameras as mandated.

Langston also informed the committee on updates to the Sheriff’s Office Transparency Dashboard webpage for public use which includes month-end statistics, Heat Maps, Demographics, Incidents, Citations, and Arrests.

Commander Langston reported that they recently hired 5 new deputies, and to assist with replacement of retiring deputies, Sheriff Baird stated that the Merit Commission would have to approve expedited testing to decrease loss of candidates and lateral hires.

- b. Corrections Division – Written report provided. Commander Russo reported an increase in medical appointments and expenses.

Russo announced that a new EHM Clerk has been hired and currently in training with EHM personnel.

Commander Russo also reported that inmate transports have increased with the opening of the courts, medical facilities, and dental facilities.

- c. Records Division – Written report provided.

Old Business – None

New Business

- *Discussion and Approval of Court Services Grant Budget Revision* - Director Elliott reported that the Family Violence Coordinating Council for the 16th and 23rd Circuit is nearing the end of their fiscal year. The Court Services Office has requested a budget thorough the ICJIA. The revision does not change the total budget amount, but simply changes the categories (line item) amounts.

Member Cesich made a motion to approve the request for the grant budget line item revisions, second by Member Koukol. **With five members present voting aye, the motion passed by a 5-0 vote.**

- *Approval for the Sheriff's Office to issue an Invitation to Bid for Jail Food Service* – Undersheriff Richardson stated that the current Food Service vendor has informed the Sheriff's Office that they can continue jail service, but at an increase of 20 percent. Richardson stated that the Sheriff's Office is seeking Committee approval to go out for bid of Jail Food Service. Member Cesich made a motion to approve the request to bid, second by Member Rodriguez. **With five members present voting aye, the motion carried by a vote of 5-0.**

- *Approval of the Gateway Foundation, Inc. and the Kendall County Problem Solving Courts Agreement* – Judge Pilmer said that this is an annual agreement for the Drug and Veterans Courts. Discussion on the use of other insurances, Medicare benefits and Medicaid benefits for those involved in the special courts. Member Cesich made a motion to forward the agreement to the County Baord for approval, second by Member Vickers. **With five members present voting aye, the motion carried by a vote of 5-0.**

Legislative Update – Chair Gilmour updated the committee on HB4169 – to restore the Local Government Restorative Fund (LGRF) which is co-sponsored by Representative Keith Wheeler.

Chairman's Report/Comments – No report.

Items for the April 5, 2022 Kendall County Board Meeting

- *Approval of Court Services Grant Budget Revision*
- *Approval of the Gateway Foundation, Inc. and the Kendall County Problem Solving Courts Agreement*

Items for the April 14, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting – None

Public Comment – None

Executive Session – Not needed

Adjournment – Member Cesich made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Vickers. **With three members in agreement, the meeting adjourned at 4:05p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Valarie McClain
Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary