

WILL COUNTY BOARD
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

9:30 a.m.

302 North Chicago Street
County Board Committee Room
Joliet, Illinois 60432

May 5, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Dralle called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Kusta, Jr., Anderson, Riley, Smith, Stewart, and Dralle.

Absent were Members: Deutsche.

Also Present: Moustis and Adamic

Present from State's Attorney's Office: Mary Tatroe.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Johannsen led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, Jr., seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the corrected minutes from the April 7, 2009 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

Update Re: Men's & Women's Recovery Home from Drug Court Fees

Mrs. Dralle stated I asked for an update regarding a recovery home for Drug Court. Part of the fees were to sustain the program and the rest was to purchase a recovery home. Drug Court is ready to purchase, build, or lease a home. There is some concern that the home should not be in a residential area in Joliet. Once an individual goes in to this type of setting; they have to work, they have to pay for their lodging, and they have to have be close to public transportation. The likelihood that

they are within the city of Joliet is very high. That means they need the city's zoning and blessing.

Mr. Moustis arrived at this juncture.

Ms. McCabe stated at the end of the last meeting, I met with Mr. Rafac and the house would sustain itself. The question is why do we have to run it. We have a recidivism rate of about 70 percent, 27 percent of our relapses happen when they are in a recovery home. The relapse happens because they are not supervised like I would like. If we had our own recovery home it would be all Drug Court people. Our revenue is there and the house will sustain itself. We met with the city before we started this process. They know the Oxford Houses are there.

Mr. Stewart questioned where are the Oxford Houses.

Ms. McCabe stated right in the neighborhoods in Joliet. They are just like the house next door. If your concern is that you do not want it in the community we can look toward the edges. Building is also an option that we have considered.

Mrs. Riley questioned do they let the neighbors know that this is in their neighborhood.

Ms. McCabe stated the Oxford Houses do not. We want a DASA licensed recovery home. I would start with a women's recovery home.

Ms. Smith questioned how many people would you have.

Ms. McCabe stated usually it is two people in a bedroom. For the women I would want 4-6; for the men 8 with two to a room.

Ms. Smith questioned do you assist them with the job search.

Ms. McCabe stated we assist them as best that we can. If they have a criminal record it is hard to find employment. There would be Drug Court staff during the day and a resident at night.

Mrs. Riley stated I am concerned that the neighbors are not notified.

Ms. McCabe stated I cannot speak to what Oxford House does. If we built I can look at the fringes. I do not have a problem going door to door and talking to the neighbors.

Mrs. Dralle questioned what is the position of the Chief Judge.

Mr. Sangmeister stated I have not spoken with Judge Kenney regarding his opinion.

Mr. Moustis stated when we enter into these new activities, there is a level of liability.

Mrs. Tatroe stated I did give an opinion on tort immunity. The opinion states that the home would be covered under the Tort Immunity Act just like any other activity or facility that the County owns. I addressed three areas of potential liability which are: 1) the action of our employees; 2) the maintenance of the property; and 3) the activities of the residents. The Act does address actions of other parties that are not employees. The only liability from their actions would be if our employees saw behavior which was dangerous and they ignored it.

Mr. Friefeld questioned 27 percent recidivism rate, is that the same for men and women. This is a new initiative within Will County. I would suggest that if it is the same, we can start out with the woman and look at it. The goal is to get that rate down.

Mr. Moustis questioned if you build it, could you to it to accommodate both men and women.

Ms. McCabe stated we can look at that. Can we look at property?

Mrs. Dralle stated yes. Please come back next month.

Results of ADF Operational Audit RFP's

Mr. Palmer stated we will come back next month with a recommendation.

Update on Arrest/OP Grant

Ms. Cain gave the committee an update regarding the arrest/orders of protection grant.

Mrs. Dralle stated with three years of history and people going through the program. What are the success rates? That is something that I would like to know.

Ms. Cain stated I have that.

Mr. Moustis left at this juncture.

Update on E-Ticket Pilot Project

Mr. Enright and Mr. Squires gave the committee an update regarding the e-ticket pilot project.

Deputy Chief Romeo stated the Sheriff is very interested in this program. At this time we have not identified where the resources are going to come from to move forward. There have been discussions in the Sheriff's office and we are very interested, no decision has been made at this time.

Mrs. Dralle stated keep us updated and come back in three months.

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Legal Self-Help Centers in Illinois

Mr. Joseph Dailing, Executive Director of Illinois Coalition for Equal Justice came before committee to discuss legal self-help centers.

Mrs. Dralle stated this is something that Mr. Sangmeister needs to work with you about.

Mr. Anderson questioned how would this help the County. What would we need to implement this?

Mr. Dailing stated increasing people are showing up in court without representation. The courts like it because they have a place to send these people. This is a great resource for the public. You need a printer, some computers and someone to help the public navigate through the website.

Mr. Moustis stated anything that gives people a way to navigate the legal system is a good idea. I would ask that the Chief Judge looks at this.

Mr. Sangmeister stated I am encouraged about this. We have computers in the law library. I think this is something that we can implement easily.

Other New Business

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Riley, seconded by Mr. Kusta, Jr., to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.