

Berrien County Administration Committee
Minutes of September 26, 2019

Present: Jim Curran
Michael Majerek
Don Meeks
Chris Heugel

Appointments Scheduled: Elvin Gonzalez, Family Division Administrator
Kendall Casey, Clinical and Treatment Services Manager
Mac Elliott
Bill Wolf

Meeting called to order at 9:17 a.m.

Family Division Update - Elvin Gonzalez

- County Classification and Compensation Study:
 - Elvin is pleased with how inclusive the process has been so far.
- Court Services:
 - There are eleven Juvenile Probation Officers in the Family Division and a focus area is on staff enrichment and training. Two training tracks have been developed; Carey Guides and EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Supervision). Both are evidenced based trainings and are highly regarded. The Court will also be enhancing electronic monitoring of offenders by adding TAD, an electronic monitoring device specifically for the detection of alcohol use. The Court is also reviewing the use of drug test kits.
- Raise the Age:
 - The effort to "Raise the Age" would move 17 year old offenders into the juvenile justice system and away from the adult system where they are currently serviced. Elvin discussed the funding challenges associated with this initiative.
- Implementation Site:
 - The Family Division is currently one of four national sites chosen to develop and test methods to improve how the child abuse/neglect cases are handled. He invited the Committee members to an open house of the newly developed children's waiting room. Said open house will occur October 10, from 4 - 5 p.m. on the 4th floor of the Courthouse. Elvin also mentioned that the Family Division is hosting a training tomorrow with the focus on resiliency in the face of trauma for caregivers and child welfare staff.
- Children's Mobile Intensive Crisis Team:
 - Elvin distributed a brochure detailing Riverwood's new program. The program is staffed by two well-trained and respected clinicians. There is 24-7 availability for interventions as necessary. Police and child welfare staff have been advised of this team and the work focus.

- Technology:
 - The Court is currently implementing case management software called JWorks. The Family Division has long used Bizstream as their case management system. The Court requested an interface for the two systems in the CY2020 capital projects budget.
- Juvenile Center Update:
 - The Court also requested ten additional cameras to enhance safety and security at the Center. Two cameras will view the back fenced areas and the remaining eight will provide video surveillance in the secure detention rooms where cameras are not presently installed. Kendall then shared the Juvenile Center quarterly update and highlighted that the average length of stay has increased from 38 days to 45 days. This has led to some overcrowding, which was solved by placing youth outside the County. Kendall also advised the Center received a perfect score on the State licensing audit.

Administrator/Chairman Q & A

Board Chair Mac Elliott reviewed the consent calendar and reminded the Committee of the scheduled October 3 night meeting. Commissioners were asked to let the Chair, Administrator or Annette Christie know if they would not be able to attend the scheduled night meeting. Mac also advised of the appointment of John Dewane as special counsel regarding the Freehling ethics issue.

Minutes Approval

Motion by Commissioner Majerek, with support from Commissioner Meeks to approve the minutes of the September 19 meeting. Motion carried.

Resolution Approval

- Resolution A1909305, was reviewed and signed by all Committee members.

Public Comments -

- Tony Benhart: Silver Beach Park proposed food pavilion and parking issues
- Michael Haskins: Hochberger/Dean's Hill Road temporary closure
- Dick Bertog: Offered \$1000 toward the purchase of property for a Sheriff's Dept. firing range.
- Darrin Schear: Past difficulties in site selection for a firing range

Meeting adjourned 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Jasper
Human Resources Director