

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 28, 2008

Meeting called to order at 4:50 p.m.

Present: Legislators Dart, Hansut, Ronk, Aiello, Donaldson.

****SPECIAL NOTE:** Legislator Aiello arrived at about 6:00 p.m. due to his Personnel Committee Meeting which was being held at nearly the same time**

(Informal meeting, no quorum.)

- Donaldson: Discussion about Jail recidivism, number of alternate programs in place, success/failure rates, empower Sudlow to obtain information/numbers from magistrates, form committee to track programs (ie: Methadone, Drug Court).
- Dart: No tracking in place as of yet. Obtaining certain information may be in violation of HIPPA. Meeting with magistrates might be a problem because of their schedules. Criminal Justice Committee should send letter to magistrates.
- Faluotico: Presentation of information and materials with regard to proposed Sheriff's sub-station in Wawarsing (owned by Town of Wawarsing) at town-owned airport. We could occupy space rent-free and pay utilities (electric, heat, phone). Met with architects to talk about our space needs. We would get 3 enclosed garage areas for vehicles, a kennel for the department K9's, a male/female locker room, interview room. Public could watch planes land and take off.
- Ebel: Number of board-ins: 5.
- Donaldson: Old Jail – maybe house some other County departments in there such as Family Court and Information Services?
- VESID: Presentation by Mr. Al Sindone of VESID and Mr. Lou Spina, Second Chance Tutoring with regard to Ulster County government partnering with VESID and hiring citizens with various physical disabilities who are otherwise full employable. VESID, through their program, can reimburse salary for up to 16 weeks, on a sliding scale (100%, 75%, 50%, 25% over 16 weeks). Sheriff's Office has been set up as a vendor for VESID for the purpose of Sheriff creating the title of Database Clerk Typist to hire VESID candidate Melissa Potolsky. Resolution will be submitted by Sheriff VanBlarcum at the February CJC meeting, requesting funding for that title. Personnel has already been given a Request To Fill and that has been approved, pending funding.
- Carnright: No report.
- Dart: Open the floor to discussion – Social Host Legislation. Contributors to the discussion were Ulster County Citizens Marie Shultis, Howard Lipson, former UC D.A. Don Williams and other members of the public – friends and acquaintances of either Shultis or Lipson. Each aired their views regarding the newly passed Ulster County Legislation – Social Host.

Dart recommends that Shultis submit a statement to the committee outlining what language she'd like to see added to the existing law. Dart indicates he wants to see happen what would be best for the people of Ulster County.

Williams: Sees no need to add any language to the existing law. Each Judge knows they have certain options under the law. If you were to add more language, you could raise issues on appeal. Suggests doing a memorializing resolution to encourage education, programs, etc.

Aiello: Points out that this particular issue is becoming much too personal.

Dart: Order called and restored. Announces that everyone will have a chance to be heard, everyone will have input.

Hansut: The Lipsons are grieving and they don't need to be at these meetings month after month, discussing the same issues over and over again.

Lipson: Commends UC Legislature for passing the Social Host Law. Resents the defendant in this particular case being treated as a role model for other teens.

Sears: Everyone should work together. Recent events have forced her to review current programs. The plan is to pool resources among groups.

Barringer: Youth Director – Prevention Programs are up and running throughout the County. Marie Shultis applied for funding in 2007 – didn't have trained staff, wasn't not-for-profit, etc. Application was denied by Barringer.

Beckman: Behavioral Health Services – is in charge of entire County. Doesn't recommend naming any specific program in the law. Reminding the committee that the Legislature created an Ulster County Substance Abuse Advisory Board to use as input. Board was created because Ulster County has a huge substance abuse problems. Board has suffered due to budget cuts – prevention always gets cut first. Board advises UC Legislature about legislation, etc. (15 reps from all major groups in Ulster County – Probation, Mental Health, Magistrates, Schools, etc.). Funding comes to evidence-based programs, state-licensed programs and credentialed individuals. Is an important component.

Sinsapaugh: Prevention Connection Program.

Flynn: Private citizen / Teacher. Do not insert additional language about education in the law.

Dart: Prevention / prevention / prevention. Requests each person in attendance tonight write a note to Frank Dart with their recommendations.

Aiello: Clarify AND add an educational component to the law and he's not recommending or condemning Shultis' program in particular.

Dart: Resolution to accept funds from NYS Department of Health (COLA) – Rape Crisis - \$3122.00
Motion: Ronk
Seconded: Aiello
All in Favor

Dart: Motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED AND TRANSCRIBED BY BARBARA O'BRIEN – UC SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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