



Douglas County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC)
Temporary Justice Reinvestment (JRI) Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes

Noon, Wednesday, July 31, 2019
Room 310, Douglas County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Boice, *Commissioner*; Frances Burge, *Presiding Judge*; Joe Garcia, *Community Corrections*; Rick Wesenberg, *District Attorney*;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Nores, *Douglas CARES*

ALSO PRESENT: Melissa McRobbie-Toll, *LPSCC Coordinator*; Robert Wilson, *Treatment Court Coordinator*;

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

Subcommittee discussed existing Justice Reinvestment (JRI) programs and the JRI funding outlook for 2019/21. Points covered included:

- **Statewide update** – Both the Justice Reinvestment (JRI) and Supplemental JRI program have been fully funded by the Legislature. The main Justice Reinvestment grant remains a formula-based grant. The Supplemental JRI program will remain a competitive grant.
- **Application timeline** – JRI and Supplemental JRI applications are due at the end of August. Letters of support are needed from various entities, and LPSCC needs to approve the allocations proposed in the application. Expenditure plan requires LPSCC approval.
- **Overspent programs** – Due to position cost increases that were not accounted for in the 2017/19 JRI planning, the RSAT deputy program was short by \$106,000 and the RSAT Liaison/Release Assistance Officer position was short by \$4,982.08. Both of those shortages will be covered by leftover JRI funding from the 2013/15 biennium.
- **Underspent programs** – As of the end of Q8, the following programs were underspent: Supplemental JRI program by \$63,822.28; the Public Defender program by \$24,000; the Transitional Housing Program by approximately \$22,000; the Specialty Court prosecutor program by \$13,978.85; and the Coordinator supply program by a few hundred dollars. The CJC's stated deadline for 2017/19 expenditures is Dec. 30.
- **LPSCC Coordinator position** – Subcommittee considered possibility of bringing on LPSCC Coordinator full-time in Douglas County. Part of Coordinator's salary would be funded through Mobile Crisis grant; part would be funded through the CJC specialty court grants; leaving a gap of \$70,000 for the biennium to cover the cost of the position. (*Note: It was determined after the meeting that the gap may only be \$10,000*)

Cost increases/funding reduction for 2019/21: There are two major factors that are negatively affecting the funding outlook for Douglas County's JRI programs for the 2019/21 biennium:

- **Change in JRI formula percentage** – The regular JRI grant is allocated statewide by a formula that takes into account the number of people on supervision in each county. That number has gone down in Douglas County. According to the new Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) funding formula table, Douglas County will receive **\$57,268.37 less** for 2019/21 than in the previous biennium.
- **Position cost increases** – Per County Finance figures, due to bargaining & PERS increases, Douglas County will need to budget an additional \$144,563 to pay for RSAT deputies and an additional \$26,769 to pay for the RSAT Liaison/Release Assistance Officer, for a **total cost increase of \$171,422** to fund regular JRI programs at the same rate this biennium. Additionally, the cost of the DDA position for the Supplemental JRI program has increased by **\$42,808**.

Due to the above factors, Douglas County LPSCC must resolve a **shortage of \$228,690.37** to fund its regular JRI programs at the current service level for the 2019/21 biennium, and a **shortage of \$42,808** to fund the Supplemental JRI program at the current service level.

Additional consideration for RSAT program – In addition to JRI funding, the RSAT program receives funding from a separate CJC grant for in-jail treatment programs. For the last biennium, Adapt received **\$312,000** in funding through this grant to provide RSAT treatment. This grant funding has historically gone entirely to Douglas County, but the grant is now competitive and Douglas County will see a reduction in its award amount.

SOLUTIONS: Subcommittee discussed potential solutions to these shortages, including the possibility of contracting out RSAT beds to nearby counties. RSAT has 18 beds (12 male beds and 6 female beds), and has historically seen low enrollment, meaning beds are sitting empty. Such an approach would involve significant conversations among partners including Adapt, Drug Court, Parole/Probation, contracting counties and others regarding the details of how this would work. Additionally, Robert Wilson suggested that if RSAT counselors perform assessments, they may be eligible for funding from Douglas County's Drug Court grant.

ACTION ITEMS: *Subcommittee will request a cost breakdown for the RSAT program from Adapt. Subcommittee members will contact local partners including Adapt and the Sheriff's Office to discuss the idea of contracting out RSAT beds.*

RECOMMENDATIONS: Subcommittee makes the following recommendations to the full LPSCC:

- Explore possibility of contracting out RSAT beds to other counties
- Identify funding to continue LPSCC Coordinator position on a full-time basis in Douglas County

NEXT MEETING: TBD