

**Franklin County
Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Strategic Plan
2008-2011**

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Introduction

Franklin County is a fifth class county, which comprises both urban and rural areas. In the past five years, the rural areas have been developing at an alarming rate, along with the urban areas. With the influx of growth, Franklin County's criminal justice system has been growing at a rate that is causing great concern, especially in regard to tightening government budgets and resources. It is estimated that close to 77 cents of every tax dollar is spent on the county criminal justice system.

Prior to the inception of the Franklin County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) in 2000, there was no attempt to organize county criminal justice departments and initiatives. A forum did not exist that brought together all of the county criminal justice entities to focus on system needs, and address those needs. The development of a county-based criminal justice policy board created the forum to begin a comprehensive, organized system approach to focusing on criminal justice issues in Franklin County.

Overview of the Board

In October of 2000, Franklin County, with the assistance of Criminal Justice Associates, formed the Criminal Justice Advisory Board. Criminal Justice Advisory Board guidelines were originally adopted on March 16, 2001. At that time, the chair of the Board was identified as Richard Walsh, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas with the vice chair of the Board identified as Robert Thomas, County Commissioner. The Board approved by consensus the creation of the Executive Committee, consisting of the CJAB chair and vice chair, an At-Large member, and the committee chairs. Judge Walsh and Commissioner Thomas remain the chairs. During the second year of operation, the Executive Committee met to re-evaluate the guidelines to address Board membership and voting rights. The guidelines were adopted as the Franklin County Criminal Justice Advisory Board Bylaws on April 25, 2002. An adhoc committee was formed to recommend individuals to fill open positions on the Board. In year three, the board pursued academic and business representatives to the Board.

During the initial meetings of CJAB, participants identified the following critical issues facing the county's criminal justice system at that time: Central Booking/Video Arraignment, Coordination of Services/Sharing of Information, Effective use of Technology, Court Facilities and Technology, and Retention of Experienced Personnel.

As a result of identifying the critical issues of the Criminal Justice System, the first four committees of CJAB were established. Over the years, as the CJAB has grown and changed, some committees have served their purpose and others have begun. The following have become the working sub-committees of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board as of 2008:

- Executive Committee (Committee Chairs, Chair, Vice-Chair, At-Large Member to convene as needed for decision making and advisory purposes)
- Evaluation
- Case Flow Management
- Central Booking
- Behavioral Health
- Intermediate Punishment/DRC
- Video Conferencing
- JNET
- Technology.

Mission Statement

The Criminal Justice Advisory Board has adopted a mission statement to reflect the need to address important system issues and has continued to pursue these matters as part of its strategic plan to take an all-inclusive, structured approach to solving criminal justice problems in the county.

The mission statement for the Board is:

The Franklin County Criminal Justice Advisory Board provides a continuing forum in which key decision-makers and policy planners in the Criminal Justice System collaborate by researching, planning and recommending to agencies and decision makers integrated and prioritized approaches to criminal justice policy and program planning.

The purpose of the Board is to achieve consensus on methods to create efficiencies and improve the effectiveness of the administration of criminal justice in Franklin County.

Goals of the Board

The goals of the Franklin County Criminal Justice Advisory Board are:

To create and coordinate methods within the Franklin County criminal justice system to make the system more efficient, effective and productive.

Based on these goals, CJAB has established the following procedures:

1. Bring together key decision makers on a bi-monthly basis to openly discuss issues that affect the justice system.
2. Identify problems and issues, and proactively address those issues through planning and coordination.

3. Review programming and policies, avoid duplicate spending of criminal justice units, improve programming, and initiate innovative programs and policies through working group processes.
4. Facilitate the administration of justice and the provision of services and programs through the Criminal Justice Advisory Board Office.

Board Structure & Membership

In 2006, the Board, based on recommendations from the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency, added members to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Board towards meetings its goals. Added members included community members and victim services.

A Judge of the Court of Common Pleas serves as Chair of the Board and a County Commissioner serves as Vice-Chair. The CJAB Office staff consists of the Program Planner and Administrative Assistant and they serve as ex-officio members of the Board. Other members were selected based on their position in the criminal justice system, county government and dedication to the criminal justice system. Listed in the table below is the full current membership:

Name	Title/Position	Member Since
Douglas Amsley	Director of Children, Youth and Family Services	2001
Teresa Beckner	Fiscal Director	2003
Alaina Ingels	CJAB Administrative Assistant	2008
Michael Christopher	Township Manager/COG Representative	2001
Jeff Diller	Reverend/Member at Large	2004
David Kellyer	County Commissioner	2001
John Hart	County Administrator/Chief Clerk	2001
Douglas Herman	Court of Common Pleas Judge	2001
Amy Hockenberry	Victim Services	2006
Ed Yonker	MIS Representative	2006
Dan Hoover	Chief Probation Officer	2008
John Nelson	District Attorney	2001
Larry Pentz	Magisterial District Justice Representative	2005
Robert Ziobrowski	County Commissioner	2001
Neil Burkholder	Court Administrator	2001
Jim Sourbier IV	Municipal Police Representative	2001
Bernie Staloni	State Police Representative	2005

Benjamin Thomas	Township Administrator/Member at Large	2004
Robert Thomas	County Commissioner	2001
Michael Toms	Chief Public Defender	2002
Carol Van Horn	Court of Common Pleas Judge	2001
John Walker	Court of Common Pleas Judge	2001
Richard Walsh	Court of Common Pleas Judge	2001
John Wetzel	Prison Warden	2002
Richard Wynn	Human Services Administrator	2006
Dane Anthony	Sheriff	2008

Review of the Board and Past Priorities

At a CJAB Board meeting in December of 2005, the following items were voted as the top priorities of the justice system that needed to be addressed:

- Case Management
- Central Booking
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment.

Over the past three years the Board developed ambitious plans through a Strategic Plan (2005-2008) that addressed these priorities. In a relatively short time, the Board has pushed through the following projects:

Franklin County Central Booking—Members of the Board and staff have visited and toured Central Booking sites in Pennsylvania, met with individual police departments to examine current booking facilities and procedures, and developed a plan and procedures for the central processing of offenders in the county jail facility. This program is in its second year of operation.

Day Reporting Center Project—Board members and staff researched, visited and corresponded with several day reporting/community corrections facilities throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Staff and board members selected treatment models and programming for center. Two grants to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency were written and secured to assist in the implementation of this \$1 million project. The program is in its fourth year of operation and now includes a comprehensive state-approved Drug and Alcohol treatment component for offenders.

Mental Health Services for Offenders—Board members and staff have attended numerous trainings and visited numerous programs that provide comprehensive services to offenders who have mental illness. Results of this work have included the implementation of a Court

Case Management Project—Board members and staff have visited numerous court sites and attended workshops on how to better improve the flow of criminal cases through the justice system. This work has resulted in the implementation of a pre-trial project that provides a pre-trial detective and sentencing guidelines coordinator in the District Attorney’s office and a case worker in the Public Defender’s office to help accused defenants access needed services. A workgroup has also been formed that is addressing the needs of offenders arrested for alcohol violations, including how to better process this population through the justice system and how to access timely treatment.

Current Priority Planning

Since the inception of the original CJAB Strategic Plan 2005-2008, numerous other issues in the criminal justice system have come to the forefront. Recently, in 2008, the Board convened to again conduct a needs assessment and develop priorities. The following 14 items were identified as priorities in the justice system that need to be addressed:

- Courtroom Technology
- Specialized After care Services for Offenders
- Automated Screening for Indigents
- Better Referrals for Services
- Criminal Justice and Court Facilities
- Behavioral Health Data Integration
- Day Reporting Center Intake and Procedure Development
- Diversion for Offenders with Serious Mental Illness
- Drug and Alcohol Court Programs
- Laserfiche Records
- Increasing Numbers of Service Providers
- Mental Health Court Programs and Planning
- Offender Housing Issues
- Radio Project
- Continued Caseflow Management Concerns.

Of those 14 topics identified, the following five items have been marked as priorities for the Board to address over the next three years:

- Criminal Justice and Court Facilities
- Continued Caseflow Management Concerns
- Diversion for Offenders with Serious Mental Illness

Mental Health Court Programs and Planning
Offender Housing Issues.

CJAB Committees can now focus and work on addressing the issues indicated above. Thorough comprehensive development and strategic planning regarding these issues will help guide CJAB sub-committees and board agendas through 2011.

Strategic and Management Plan Details

The Criminal Justice Advisory Board of Franklin County has completed seven very successful years and has laid a strong foundation that holds a sustainable future. Complicated challenges, however, are inevitable in the criminal justice system, and the need for collaboration and strategic planning is more and more important.

Although the Franklin County Criminal Justice System has made significant improvements, having one new program here or there throughout the system still does not solve all the problems that exist in the justice system. The Criminal Justice Advisory Board recognizes that future planning must cross all parts of the criminal justice and court system, in order to adequately address the problems that currently exist.

Maximizing County resources and finding new resources will be the key to success. It will require comprehensive planning from the CJAB sub-committees and the Board to improve the criminal justice system in the County, rather than looking at each criminal justice agency separately. Members of the Board and CJAB staff commit to continuing the previous success of priority identification and sub-committee workgroups that identify and undertake key issues and supply the framework for which the board can address top priorities. This working document and its subsequent planning should guide the Board, the Courts and the justice system for the next few years.

Besides continued planning, the Board needs to continue to move full speed ahead on initiatives already started, such as Case Management and Central Booking.

Addressing inter-agency communication and collaboration, a continuous process for the Criminal Justice Advisory Board and its members, holds considerable promise in enhancing the ability of the Board to function and plan well. Efforts to enhance inter-agency communication and collaboration should integrate state initiatives (JNet, cNET, GIS, Homeland Security, etc.) and national initiatives (Diversion Programs, Central processing, Housing Programs, etc.).

Another important challenge for the Board is the issue of funding for criminal justice initiatives. Efforts to sustain funding for initial programs, continuation of programs and services, and future programs and services should be an on-going discussion at the Board and sub-committee level. The Board and CJAB staff should work collaboratively to find and enhance sources of revenue for criminal justice programs and services in the county.

Objectives Through 2011

Through 2011, the Franklin County Criminal Justice Advisory Board establishes the following objectives toward meeting its goal, mission statement and priorities:

1. Conduct board meetings on a bi-monthly basis to openly discuss priority issues and planning.
2. Fully plan for and implement programs and services that address system gaps:
 - Criminal Justice and Court Facilities
 - Continued Caseflow Management Concerns
 - Diversion for Offenders with Serious Mental Illness
 - Mental Health Court Programs and Planning
 - Offender Housing Issues.
3. Continue to identify issues through periodic needs assessments and through sub-committee work--proactively addressing those issues through strategic planning and coordination.
4. Continue the management of criminal justice resources, board support, grants, and provision of services and programs through the Criminal Justice Advisory Board office.
5. Review current and future CJAB programming and policies through grant reporting and evaluation.

CJAB Schedule of Meetings

Board meetings will be held bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month, with the exception of December, which is the second Thursday of the month. The Board may hold additional meetings if issues or continuity is needed, as well as the Executive Committee may meet to discuss a CJAB priority issue as needed. 2008-2009 dates for scheduled meetings are as follows:

August 28, 2008
October 23, 2008
December 11, 2008
February 26, 2009
April 23, 2009
June 25, 2009
August 27, 2009
October 22, 2009
December 10, 2009