



PUBLIC SAFETY

LG Task Force Chair: Bruce Cannon
Chair: Johnny Mack Brown
Facilitator: Pat Mullen

PRESENT SITUATION

A major concern of the working group was how to expand law enforcement to accommodate population growth. Discussions included opportunities for better using technology in criminal investigations, and in the courts. This, of course, is controversial, but the opportunity will soon be present to maintain substantial personal information on file. In addition, technology could be used in court, where a defendant might not have to be transported could tap into court using video conferencing for simple cases. There was also a general discussion about the efforts to deal with first offenders differently. The recommendations below resulted from the general discussion.

The statements regarding mental health services were developed after the meeting, but were associated with the fact that an estimated 80% of the crimes in Greenville County are drug-abuse related. The courts have been making adjustments for first offenders and setting up special drug abuse courts, but a more integrated approach between law enforcement and the medical community is needed.

VISION

The magistrate system becomes a County Court System using lawyers as judges. These courts use judges elected by the bar, smaller juries, limited discovery, and efficiently dealt with civil cases below \$12,000, misdemeanors and minor felonies, thus unclogging the other courts."

Working with the Department of Social Services and the Greenville County School District, Greenville developed a system for early intervention courts that provided effective counseling for first time offenders. Specialized courts for drug abusers and mental health provided better rehabilitation and reduced the need for more prisons.

Law enforcement was one of the great beneficiaries of technology, as criminal records could be easily share between jurisdictions. Video conferencing was widely used by the court, reducing the need to transport people between facilities. A national database of DNA was available to law enforcement, but not for other purposes.

There will be a pluralistic, redundant and overlapping series of both public and private institutions for both inpatient and outpatient care, acute and chronic.

- These institutions will be private and public funding available in many different forms – straight fee for service, non-profit grants, insurance co-pays, etc.
- There will be training for all sectors of the public safety community to recognize and respond appropriately to mental health issues in the people they encounter.
- There will be multiple avenues for alcohol and drug detoxification, education and rehabilitation, with everything from halfway houses to acute detoxification facilities to long-term residential treatment.
- Every approach to mental health care will be represented by some practitioner or institution in the community from prayer to herbs to electroshock therapy and more.

**PUBLIC SAFETY
VISION STATEMENT
August 5, 2003**

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OUTCOMES

A County Court system replaced the old magistrate system. These courts used judges elected by the bar, smaller juries, limited discovery, and efficiently dealt with civil cases below \$12,000, misdemeanors and minor felonies, thus unclogging the other courts."

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PUBLIC SAFETY
January 23, 2003
Revised February 23, 2003

VISION

PROJECTS

IDEAS

- Round the clock courts
- Consolidation
- Expanding the court system
 - Physical
 - Personal
 - Not proportional
- Provide courts when laws
- Vulnerable adults
- Specialized Courts
 - Early intervention
 - Drugs
- Early identification of problem families\
- More mental health services
 - Coerce
 - Voluntary
 - Variety
- Children who don't attend schools – more of a potential problem
- Need to look at home environment
- One data base. Multiple data bases. Traffic tickets
- Separate mental health from crime system
- Law enforcement, social services in same neighborhoods “Didn't I put your Daddy in jail?”
- Separate crime from mental health issues.
- Better mental hospitals. Patrick Harris in Grenville. Multi county.
- Law enforcement last result. Prevention, intervention should come first.
- Better funding for drugs, medical care, personnel
- Consolidate government
- Criminal registry
- Neighborhood police departments
- Public education. Complexity. Impacts them. Way to get funding. Peace Center – vision. Every idea tied to availability of funding.
- Automobiles. Bad. Most registered vehicles.
- Downtown – feel completely safe.
- Traffic – large part of response
- Surveys – litter and traffic – two most major concerns. Crime was #7.
- Create mini-downtowns. City's vision – combination of business and residential. #1 issue is complaints about noise. Street party – 1500 motorcycles.
- Village concept

- Law enforcement concept – combine courts and jail. Present law enforcement center – project
- Traffic message boards around town
- Consolidation
- Education of any kind
- Political Intervention/ people who had an understanding. Week long school for new sheriffs. Leadership Council. Chamber.
- Appropriate numbers. One per thousand = downtown 100,000 per day.
- Create a Greenville County Mental Health Commission

BREAKOUT GROUPS

Because of the ice storm, only 9 people attended the session. The priority items were discussed by the whole group.

EARLY AND COORDINATED INTERVENTION

- With DSS and Schools
- Revise drug laws
- Drug laws vs. intervention
- Binding mediation (?) for simple cases
- County courts – court – judge elected by bar – minor misdemeanors and felonies
- Do away with magistrates, 12,000 civil cap, nature of casea. Lawyer should be served.
- Discovery is limited to 10 interrogatories. Mandatory policy 3 to six man jury. Timing for hearing much shorter. Cap on sentencing.
- Mediation and arbitration for criminal courts
- Need expertise in specific areas of mediation
- Intervention concept to avoid jail and
- Court TV judges.

INTERVENTION COURTS – non-adversarial.

- Wipe out convictions if person is willing to perform specific service
- Youth courts
- Drug courts
- Traffic
- Domestic violence – over 70% should not be filed in family court
- Arbitrator
- Need intervention for first and second offenders
- Limit mandatory sentencing to serious cases.
- Provide alternatives to mandatory sentencing.
- Mandatory arrest for domestic violence.
- Technology for interconnecting prisoners/courts

MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES/SERVICES

These ideas were developed by Dr. Mullin after the session

- Establish a mental health commission empowered by a coalition of Doctors, hospital officials, local clergy and law enforcement officers

- Public private foundation to fund a living endowment for the operation of mental health centers (1 per 10000 inhabitants)
- Better education of stakeholders (police, judges, Doctors) on mental health issues
- Greenville County Mental Health Commission wins Dorothea Dix Award

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER & FACILITIES, SYSTEMS, PERSONNEL

- Intra-agency operability for all police and public safety agencies for local, state and federal agencies.
- Communications
- Database
- Palmetto Project – emergency broadcast system
- Computer compatibility
- Automated Fingerprinting system – connected to all 50 states.
- DNA – sex offenders
- Projectile data base, test fired, new gun, national program
- Glock guns – no rifling
- Physical facilities and personnel adequate for population increase. It should be based on workload of officers.
- Challenge – keeping officer – personnel retention – retirement issue
- Technology instantly – tag number – criminal record. Crime net around the state. Simpsonville own database. Help officers identify. Social security has this information.
- Officer – 30% answering calls. Measuring stick for manpower allocation

TRAFFIC LITTER NOISE

- Message Boards, Cameras
- Saves personnel and money
- Aerial surveillance – helicopters
- Traffic calming
- Downtown – no vehicular.
- Parking outside of city with buses to central city. Pedestrian traffic, walk bikes.
- Connectivity of buildings.
 - Mass transit
 - Sidewalks
 - Large parking lots outside city
 - Cycling paths
 - Free parking lots
 - Downtown non-vehicular
- Litter Education
- Talking trash can.
- Material codes that recycle packaging.
- Technology. Computer system. Camera.