

# **COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 MEETING**

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Street, Room 739

Los Angeles, California 90012

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair: Gloria Molina, County Supervisor for the First District and  
Chair of the County Board of Supervisors

Lee Baca, Sheriff and Vice Chair of CCJCC  
Cynthia Banks, Director, County Department of Community & Senior Services  
Peter Espinoza, Supervising Judge, Superior Court  
Janice Fukai, County Alternate Public Defender  
Lois Gaston, California Contract Cities Association  
Gigi Gordon, Directing Attorney, Post Conviction Assistance Center  
Al Leiga, Chair, County Quality & Productivity Commission  
Ezekiel Perlo, Directing Attorney, Indigent Criminal Defense Appointments Program  
Richard Propster, Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County  
Richard Sanchez, County Chief Information Officer  
Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, County Coroner – Medical Examiner  
Greg Savelli, President, South Bay Police Chiefs Association  
Mitch Ward, League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division

### **ALTERNATES**

\*Richard Barrantes for Larry Waldie, Undersheriff  
Susan Cichy for John Clarke, Superior Court Executive Officer  
Kathleen Daly for Marvin Southard, Director, County Department of Mental Health  
Xiomara Flores-Holguin for Trish Ploehn, Director, County Department of Children and  
Family Services  
Steve Gores for Gabriella Holt, County Probation Commission  
Pamela Hamanaka for Edmund Brown, California Attorney General  
\*Eric Harden for John Torres, Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol,  
Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
William Montgomery for Tom Tindall, Director, County Internal Services Department  
Cecile Ochoa for Dennis Tafoya, County Affirmative Action Compliance Officer  
Steven Olivas for Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
Earl Perkins for Ramon Cortines, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District  
Robert Philibosian for Isaac Barcelona, Chair, County Economy and Efficiency  
Commission  
Devallis Rutledge for Steve Cooley, District Attorney  
Greg Savelli for Scott Pickwith, President, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs  
Association  
Stanley Shimotsu for Michael Judge, County Public Defender

Earl Thomas for Carmen Trutanich, Los Angeles City Attorney  
John Viernes for Jonathan Fielding, Director, County Public Health Department

**\*Not a designated alternate**

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT OR REPRESENTED**

Mark Arnold, Judge, Superior Court  
Charles Beck, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department  
Andre Birotte, U.S. Attorney  
Donald Blevins, County Chief Probation Officer  
Michelle Carey, Chief U.S. Probation Officer  
William Fujioka, County Chief Executive Officer  
Lili Hadsell, President, San Gabriel Valley Police Chiefs Association  
Anthony Hernandez, Director, County Department of Coroner  
Sean Kennedy, Federal Public Defender  
Richard Kirschner, Judge, Superior Court  
Tim Landrum, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
Steve Martinez, Assistant Director in Charge, Los Angeles Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Charles McCoy, Presiding Judge, Superior Court  
Michael Nash, Supervising Judge, Juvenile Court  
Andrea Ordin, County Counsel  
Darline Robles, Superintendent, County Office of Education  
Miguel Santana, Los Angeles City Chief Administrative Officer  
Stephanie Sautner, Judge, Superior Court  
Patricia Schnegg, Assistant Supervising Judge, Superior Court  
Greig Smith, Los Angeles City Council, 12<sup>th</sup> District  
Thomas Sonoff, President, Southeast Police Chiefs Association  
Warren Stanley, Southern Division Commander, California Highway Patrol  
Robin Toma, Executive Director, County Human Relations Commission  
Adam Torres, United States Marshal  
Michael Tynan, Judge, Superior Court  
Frank Venti, President, Independent Cities Association  
Mike Webb, County Prosecutors Association

**CCJCC STAFF**

Mark Delgado, Executive Director  
Kenna Ackley  
Cynthia Machen  
Craig Marin

**GUESTS/OTHERS**

Gary Akopyan, County Chief Executive Office  
Steve Biagini, Sheriff's Department  
Dale Cunningham, Los Angeles School Police Department  
Kamran Khan, LAPD  
Fred Klunder, Superior Court

John Ruegg, Information Systems Advisory Body  
Vicky Santana, First District, County Board of Supervisors  
Karen Tamis, Vera Institute of Justice  
Cheri Thomas, LAUSD

**I. CONVENE/INTRODUCTIONS**

Gloria Molina, County Supervisor, First District

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair of CCJCC.

Self-introductions followed.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Gloria Molina, County Supervisor, First District

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the July 7, 2010 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

**ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2010 meeting was seconded and approved without objection.**

**III. INFORMATION SYSTEMS ADVISORY BODY (ISAB)**

John Ruegg, Director, Information Systems Advisory Body

John Ruegg, Director of the Information Systems Advisory Body (ISAB), appeared before CCJCC to present ISAB's Semi-Annual Report.

ISAB is a standing subcommittee under CCJCC. Its core mission is to facilitate the sharing of information across the criminal justice enterprise using standards-based protocols and technologies. Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca serves as the Chair of ISAB.

The membership of ISAB includes the Alternate Public Defender, County Chief Executive Office (CEO), County Chief Information Office (CIO), Department of Coroner, District Attorney's Office, Internal Services Department (ISD), Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Superior Court, Probation Department, Public Defender's Office, and the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Ruegg highlighted some of the projects that ISAB is involved in:

**Electronic Subpoena Project**

ISAB is continuing to expand the electronic subpoena project in which the District Attorney's Office issues subpoenas electronically to law enforcement officers. The Sheriff's Department, LAPD, Long Beach Police Department, and Culver City Police

Department are all participating, and the Santa Monica Police Department will be included soon.

This project allows the District Attorney's Office to electronically serve subpoenas on law enforcement officers that are needed to testify. It also provides an email acknowledgement of the availability of the officer.

The benefits of this process include: (1) Reduction in the number of law enforcement officers to subpoena because of rapid direct response by the officer as to availability to testify; (2) Reduction in law enforcement overtime; and (3) Reduction in court continuances by obtaining rapid feedback on officer availability.

### Video Arraignments

Video Arraignment equipment has been installed and tested at the Sheriff's Department central jail and the Superior Court's Department 30 of the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center. A pilot program will begin this month in which some of the arraignments scheduled for Department 30 will be conducted via video from the central jail.

Chief Richard Barrantes of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will discuss this project in further detail later in this meeting.

### Electronic Delivery of Probation Reports

Electronic delivery of Probation reports to the District Attorney's Office is in the testing phase. The Public Defender's Office is currently receiving probation reports through electronic delivery; the Alternate Public Defender's Office is planning to follow.

Receiving a probation report early improves efficiency in that the attorney has an opportunity to review it before the hearing and properly prepare, thereby avoiding some continuances.

### Interface With Mugshot Photos

The Probation Case Management System (PCMS) and the Countywide Criminal History Reporting System (CCHRS) are now capable of displaying Livescan photos in their systems via a new secure electronic interface to the Sheriff Mugshot system.

This allows probation officers to access the photos and match them to the cases that they are working with. The Public Defender's Office has also expressed an interest in participating in this type of interface.

## Field Based Reporting System (FBRS)

ISAB is working with the Sheriff's Department in developing a Field Based Reporting System (FBRS), which would provide for electronic creation/distribution of Police Reports, Probable Cause Determination (PCD), and other inter-agency filing documents.

Mr. Ruegg noted the following features of FBRS:

- FBRS will allow Sheriff's Department deputies to prepare an Incident Report electronically in the field;
- The report will be stored in the Department's Central Document Repository;
- A workflow engine will route the report automatically to the supervisor for review and approval;
- The Incident Report will become a digital asset available to other justice agencies in electronic format; and
- The PCD will be prepared and submitted for Judicial Review electronically (replacing the existing paper based system).

Mobile digital computers will be in Sheriff's patrol cars and will be utilized by the deputies for their field based reporting.

The most frequent documents in the Incident Report are the DUI Report, Statement of Facts, and supplemental reports. In addition, if an individual is to be taken into custody, they need to get approval from the Court to hold them. This requires completion of the PCD form. These will all be made available through FBRS.

With respect to the PCD submittal, Mr. Ruegg emphasized that the entire process is electronic, including the response from the Court.

A motion was made to approve the ISAB Semi-Annual Report for submission to the County Board of Supervisors.

**ACTION: The motion to approve the ISAB Semi-Annual Report for submission to the County Board of Supervisors was seconded and approved without objection.**

## **IV. VIDEO ARRAIGNMENT PROJECT**

Chief Richard Barrantes, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Chief Richard Barrantes of the Sheriff's Department Court Services Division appeared before CCJCC to provide an update on video arraignment projects in the county.

The Glendale Video Arraignment Project has been in operation for two years and provides a means by which defendants held in the Glendale Police Department Jail are arraigned in the local Glendale Courthouse via video arraignment. In addition, the

Sheriff's Department stations at Altadena and Crescenta Valley also arraign arrestees through the Glendale Police Department Video Arraignment system.

The advantages of video arraiving an inmate include reducing transportation costs as well as minimizing safety issues involved in moving the prisoners from the jail to the courthouse.

Since the start of this program in August 2008, there have been 2,140 arraignments; of these, 953 inmates were released at arraignment. The program has been averaging 110 proceedings per month.

The Glendale Video Arraignment Project began as a pilot project, but the success of the program has resulted in it becoming permanent.

Chief Barrantes noted that no inmates have refused the option of participating in video arraignment. Thus far, each has waived the right to be in the courtroom for the arraignment.

Discussions are underway to create a similar video arraignment process between the Pasadena Police Department and the Pasadena Courthouse.

Another project being developed in the county is a video arraignment and video visiting project (AVVS) in the downtown Los Angeles Men's Central Jail. Chief Barrantes introduced Lieutenant Steve Biagini of the Sheriff's Department to provide further details.

Lieutenant Biagini stated that this project will provide a means for the Sheriff's Department to video arraign inmates in Department 30 of the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center (CSF), which is one of the busiest courtrooms in the county. This pilot effort will focus on those inmates that have difficulty getting to Court due to medical reasons (medical no-go's). This project may also include inmates that commit crimes inside the jail and inmates with out-of-state warrants.

On August 20, 2010, a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) for the AVVS maintenance agreement was signed by the Los Angeles Superior Court and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department with the County Information System Division's Voice & Video Applications Division.

On August 23, 2010, a Memorandum Of Understanding was signed by all concerned department heads for the joint department AVVS project. The MOU established operational guidelines as it relates to the functions of the video arraignment process.

Training for each department will commence September 2010. This will detail the video arraignment process and the responsibilities. Mock arraignments are scheduled for mid to late September to ensure the efficiency of the paper flow process, scanning of documents, and video connectivity. Actual video arraignments between the Men's

Central Jail and Department 30 of CSF are slated to begin in late September.

Chief Barrantes stated that AVVS includes a video visitation aspect as well. Using the same equipment and technology that is used for the video arraignments, visitations with inmates can be conducted via video from a Sheriff's station or public library.

The AVVS project is part of an overall effort by the CCJCC Jail Overcrowding subcommittee to improve core efficiencies.

Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, County Coroner – Medical Examiner, inquired as to whether video arraignments may be expanded to include mentally unstable patients. Chief Barrantes stated that the system can be expanded to include any individuals that the participating departments agree upon. The initial pilot program, however, includes a narrowly defined group of participants.

Hermosa Beach Mayor Mitch Ward (League of California Cities) inquired about the security for the transmission of the video. Chief Barrantes stated that the transmission occurs within the county's communication network. No vendors are involved other than those that provided the purchased equipment.

Mayor Ward also inquired as to the length of time needed for the Sheriff's Department to take custody of an individual that has been remanded to them. Chief Barrantes stated that this takes place every day at the Glendale Police Department.

Judge Peter Espinoza, Supervising Judge of the Superior Court's Criminal Division, emphasized that the video arraignment process can be implemented anywhere in the county if it is successful in Department 30. The volume of cases handled in that courtroom is enormous: Of 65,000 felonies filed every year with the Superior Court, about a third of them are arraigned in Department 30.

Duarte City Councilwoman Lois Gaston (California Contract Cities Association) inquired about the cost savings resulting from this project. Chief Barrantes stated that efforts thus far have been testing the efficiency of the process. Large cost savings will be observed when the video arraignments become more pervasive throughout the county.

**ACTION: For information only.**

**V. ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT OPTIONS FOR 5150 DETAINEES**

Mark Delgado, Executive Director, Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee

Mark Delgado, Executive Director of the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC), provided an update on alternative transport options for 5150 detainees, which was discussed at the previous meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Delgado noted that Sheila Shima, Los Angeles County Deputy CEO for Health and Mental Health Services, planned to present the update but was unable to attend today.

Individuals in the community who are placed on a Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 5150 hold (involuntary psychiatric hold) in the field are currently transported to hospital care by law enforcement. Due to concerns about this process, the County Board of Supervisors passed a motion in February of this year that instructed the County CEO to explore alternative options for this transportation.

On July 7, 2010, CCJCC passed a motion to coordinate and convene the 5150 Study Group as an ad hoc subcommittee of CCJCC. The Study Group is exploring whether there is a more effective way of transporting 5150 detainees to psychiatric beds at designated hospitals.

The Study Group includes representatives from the County CEO, CCJCC, the County Emergency Medical Services and Mental Health Commissions, the Departments of Sheriff, Fire, Mental Health, and Health Services, the LAPD, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Los Angeles County Ambulance Association, the Hospital Association of Southern California, and the County Counsel's Office.

The 5150 Study Group has reviewed research that has already been conducted on this subject and created the following five work groups to review specific facets of the issue:

- Statutory/Legal Work Group
- Options/Alternatives Work Group
- Finance/Resources Work Group
- Field Assessment and Training Work Group
- Psychiatric Bed Capacity and Tracking Work Group

Three work groups have already met and begun to discuss a framework for further exploration. In particular, the Options/Alternatives Work Group has focused on the possibility of using ambulette transport services.

Ambulettes are vehicles specially equipped to transport individuals whose medical condition requires transportation services, but does not require emergency services or equipment during transport. It is equipped with a gurney and soft restraints, and it is operated by two people.

Such a system would require contracting with a County-licensed ambulance service provider to respond to call for non-emergent transport of 5150 detainees identified by law enforcement in the field. The service provider would provide a dedicated fleet of ambulettes available at all times for this function.

This method of transporting 5150 holds would be an addition to a continuum of options that law enforcement can utilize in the field. An alternate transport system will not be appropriate for all 5150 transports when law enforcement is called.

Mr. Delgado noted that the work group is continuing to gather data to assess the cost and impact associated with implementing an ambulette transport process, as well as

determine any legal or statutory issues that may be of concern.

In the coming weeks, staff from CCJCC will continue to work with the relevant agencies to gather information and will convene the remaining two work groups. Information will be disseminated to Study Group members for their next meeting, which is scheduled for September 28, 2010. Based on this information, the Study Group will continue its discussions aimed at developing a set of recommendations to present to CCJCC and the Board of Supervisors by the end of the year.

Dr. Sathyavagiswaran requested that he be included in an advisory capacity if the decision is made to utilize ambulette transportation services. He stated that improper use of soft restraints with 5150 transports could potentially result in injury or death, and that his office can advise the Study Group on procedures for preventing this from happening.

Mr. Delgado agreed that the Study Group will consult with Dr. Sathyavagiswaran if the decision is made to pursue the use of ambulette transportation services.

**ACTION: For information only.**

#### **VI. FORENSICS WEST COAST TRAINING CONFERENCE**

Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Chief Medical Examiner - Coroner

Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Chief Medical Examiner – Los Angeles County Coroner, reported that the Department of Coroner is hosting a forensics training conference on October 21-22, 2010, at the Beverly Garland Holiday Inn in North Hollywood. CME and POST credits are available.

This will be the 20<sup>th</sup> forensics training conference hosted by the Department of Coroner. Dr. Sathyavagiswaran thanked the Board of Supervisors and the County CEO for their support.

Topics included in this year's conference are: (1) Infant and Child Death Investigations; (2) Legal and Medical Investigations of Elder Abuse and Neglect; (3) Improvised Explosive Device Recognition and Threat Update; (4) Blood Stain Pattern Interpretation for the Death Scene Investigator; and (5) Tool Mark Analysis In Biological Tissues – Identification and Limitations.

For more information, please visit <http://coroner.lacounty.gov>.

Dr. Sathyavagiswaran stated that the Department of Coroner has a staff of 210 personnel. In addition, there are 30 outside consultants that the Department works with on an ad hoc basis.

When a Death Certificate is completed, the cause of death is listed as natural death, accident, homicide, suicide, or undetermined. Only the Medical Examiner in the

Coroner's Office has the authority to sign a death certificate as undetermined.

For the Department of Coroner, the main function in the criminal investigation process is to determine the cause and manner of death. Additionally, identification of the deceased, notifying the next of kin, and securing personal property are also important functions.

Dr. Sathyavagiswaran discussed a particular case and cited it as an example of the work that must be performed to identify the deceased, even if the death occurred many years ago. In this case, the skeletal remains of a minor were found in a chimney in 2005. After a picture developed by a reconstruction expert was published, a relative identified the individual.

A subsequent DNA test with the deceased's mother confirmed the identity of the child. It was learned that the deceased had gone missing during the Christmas of 1977. Funeral services were donated and the family was able to obtain closure.

**ACTION: For information only.**

**VII. OTHER MATTERS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no additional matters or public comments.

**VIII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.