

Hello Julie: my name is Roger Jefferies and I'm the County Executive for Justice Planning for Travis County. I lead the Jail Population Monitoring Group. We meet twice monthly and have high level representation from the following:

- District Attorney
- County Attorney
- Sheriff's Office
- Austin Police Department
- Probation and Pretrial Services
- Defense Bar
- Justice Planning
- Mental Health Authority
- Various Commissioners' Offices
- Criminal Courts including some judges and administration
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Parole Division
- Information Technology Services

We do "sprints" to study various bottlenecks in our system and devise solutions. The work is often assigned and accomplished through subcommittees. Over the last six months we've looked at:

- Indigent attorney appointment process
- Production of inmates to court
- Criminal justice budget requests and their potential impact on the jail population
- Time to complete competency exams and placements in state hospital beds
- Delays in discovery process
- Mapping of time from arrest to filing, filing to indictment, and indictment to disposition

Last week the group landed on the following to study in "sprints" over the next six months:

- Maximize Court Time – Scheduling cases, trial readiness, resets (related to court production)
- Attorney Resources/productivity – caseload distribution and productivity (defense and/or prosecutor) Are there ways to expand the A list? Attorneys get overwhelmed with these cases and they go inactive. Good quality attorneys do not want to take on these cases because of the county's compensation model. We should look at caseload models and best practices.
- Jail call/transfer – we can save money by keeping inmates at central booking versus transporting to TCCC. This will require clerk coordination and needs involvement from CA. Can cases be resolved at first setting? This benefits the defense because of the location of the inmates. Cases will be resolved quicker. Two options: get cases set earlier OR keep defendants at central booking longer.
- Tools for D/A – They need access to data. For example, reviewing bond forfeitures. Full access to list of all indicted cases. Goal is to be data driven and prioritize cases.
- Treatment to reduce recidivism/alternatives to incarceration – 1244a means that an inmate is waiting on treatment. A case gets resolved and defendant takes jail time because treatment is not available and then they recidivate. The solution is to make treatment more available. Issues: wait time and funding for treatment. Options: is there some sort of supervised released plan while someone is in treatment? Look at supportive outpatient treatment options. Criminal courts are exploring a state jail felony docket to relieve pressure on other dockets. Perhaps we could use this docket to test out this issue area.
- Court optimization –Communication and coordination between CA & DA. Each scenario will need different players at the table. Defense will always need to be involved.

— Revisit production of inmates to court – ongoing work group.

We will be reporting out to the Commissioners Court once a quarter. Feel free to contact me at 512-854-4759 if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further. Thanks for your interest.

Roger Jefferies