

Louisiana State Bar Association
Criminal Justice Committee
Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 11:30 AM
Baton Rouge Bar Association
544 Main St, Baton Rouge

Attendees:

Richard Bourke, Louisiana Capital Assistance Center
Zach Daniels, Louisiana District Attorneys Association
Shannon Dirmann, Louisiana Sheriff's Association
Amy Duncan, LA State Bar Association (staff liaison)
Jean Faria (Vice-Chair), Attorney at Law
Scherri Guidry, 15th JDC Public Defender Office
Barksdale Hortenstine (Co-Chair), Orleans Public Defender Office
Mithun Kamath, Barrasso, Usdin, Kupperman, Freeman & Sarver, LLC
Hon. Patricia Koch, 9th Judicial District Court
John Landis, Stone Pigman
Kristen Lee, Louisiana Supreme Court
Andrew Leonards, The Johnson Firm
Michael Mitchell, Louisiana Public Defender Board
Monte Mollere, Louisiana State Bar Association
Hillar Moore, East Baton Rouge District Attorneys Office
Charles Raymond, Forrest Cressy and James, LLC
Sarah Whittington, Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana
Joey Williams, Calcasieu Parish District Attorneys Office

Meeting Minutes

- I. Minutes from Previous Meeting Approved.**
- II. 9th JDC Behavioral Health Court – Hon. Patricia Koch, Rapides** presented the 9th JDC Behavioral Health Court, specifically discussing the structure, procedure, and data on Judge Koch's Behavioral Health Court in the 9th JDC (materials were included with the agenda). The court is funded by the local Human Services District. It started with a volunteer and five participants starting in 2014. Works with providers to offer services for Pretrial intervention, post adjudication and parolees. This program can work with people convicted of violent offenses. Program has full time probation officer. Judge can issue OPC. In New Orleans, DA and PD starting a mental health diversion program. There was discussion regarding challenges with transportation in other jurisdictions. Court meets every Tuesday at 1pm in the afternoon with providers.
- III. Commons – informational item – Hillar Moore, East Baton Rouge District Attorney** – Overview on the program launch of Commons, “a community-driven data tool that helps shape criminal justice policy.” This dashboard hosts local criminal justice data for East Baton Rouge Parish, LA and is designed for public use. District Attorney Hillar C. Moore, III, serves East Baton Rouge and the 19th Judicial Court and is here with us

today to talk about this community and data driven tool. EBR was one of four sites in the nation to receive a grant for this project. Presentation included in the minutes. Dashboard updated quarterly and includes data from referral to disposition. Overview of cases and data shown was provided. Information will be added regarding reason for case dismissal. Member Mithun Kamath mentioned a similar website that Orleans launched a couple years ago.

- IV. New Orleans Mobile Crisis Intervention Unit – *informational item* – Barksdale Hortenstine** – Overview of Resources for Human Development’s launch of the Mobile Crisis Intervention Unit (MCIU) in New Orleans. Resources for Human Development launched the Mobile Crisis Intervention Unit (MCIU) in New Orleans on June 1, 2023. This program was created in response to a request by the city’s health department. It is funded through the city of New Orleans. MCIU serves as the fourth branch of the emergency response system, responding to behavioral health crises called into 9-1-1. In the first three months of operations, the team conducted 662 face-to-face interventions for an average of 7-8 interventions per day. The team’s average response time is 15 minutes and average length of time on scene is 40 minutes. Future plans include expanding outreach to universities, urgent care clinics, homeless shelters, other bh providers, libraries and other community centers/events. Additional suggestions include expanded call response with law enforcement, specialized school teams, city-wide disaster response, and formal designation of MCIU staff as first responders.

V. Next Meetings:

- a. ~~Friday, March 1, 2024, at noon~~ *CANCELLED*
- b. Friday, May 3, 2023, at noon (tentative)