

**Provincial Integrated Justice Forum Meeting
Monday 30th January 2006
Held at the Hilton Hotel, Durban**

A. Meeting Purpose

- I To review the forum's work for 2005,
- I To agree on the purpose, objectives and functioning of the forum,
- I To set strategic objectives for 2006
- I To agree on the role of IPT

B. Expectations

Participants raised the following as their expectations for the workshop:

- To develop a clearer purpose and strategic direction for the forum
- To ensure better implementation of decisions and monitoring by the forum,
- Clarity on the role different departments play
- To ensure better representation for decision making
- That the workshop will develop practical and implementable resolutions
- To identify what recourses are available to the forum
- See the forum make an impact on national government
- Discuss/develop a more integrated approach at grassroots level
- Ensure more efficient case management
- Look for goals to focus on for 2006
- Link with other provincial / government forums
- Development standardised measuring tools

The following workshop programme was used to guide the discussion

Session	Topic	Facilitation	Time
1	Welcome and Introductions	Facilitator	9:00- 9:10
2	Purpose Of Workshop	Group indicate their expectations	9:10- 9:15
3	Presentation of Programme	Facilitator	9:15- 9:30
4	Review Of Forum over 2005	Group answer the questions; What did the forum achieve last year, What worked well What did not work, What should we improve.	9:30- 11:00
5	Setting Out forum Purpose Objectives, Role and Functioning	Group answers the Questions: What is the purpose and function of the forum, How should it function to be effective and how should it be structured What level of representation is required at what level.	11:00- 12:30
	LUNCH	LUNCH	12:30- 13:30
6	Setting out Strategic Objectives for 2006 for the Forum	Group to identify 3 to 4 key objectives they want the Forum to have met by the end of 2006 Group to identify things that need to happen\be in place for the objectives to be met.	13:30- 15:00
7.	Defining the role and function of IPT	Group to define the role its want IPT to play.	15:30-16:00
	Closure	Chairperson	16:00

C. Session Four

Review of Forum

Participants were split into two groups to review the achievements in 2005, as well as to identify the challenges and areas for improvement of the forum. The following represents the assessment of the group:

Achievements

A number of achievements were articulated which included the following:

- The forum has succeeded in bringing key departments on board and establishing good working relations between participants. The fact that the forum functions, and is able to identify problems that need addressing, was in itself seen as an achievement. The establishment of subcommittees to deal with specific issues such as children's issues and statistics assisted the forum in its work. The forum has functioned well with good attendance from participants,
- Related to the aforementioned achievement, is the professional and effective way in which Independent Project Trust (IPT) facilitated which enabled the forum to have effective meetings. This relates specifically to the logistical arrangements, the recording and distribution of minutes, the establishment of a forum webpage etc,

- The Forum was able to tackle a number of key issues such as the problem of juveniles, CCTV linkages, community courts, and the management of children in the system,
- The beginnings of the development of a statistical monitoring tool was also seen as a great achievement as was the forum's contribution to the production of the Case Flow Management manual,
- The fact that a Judge with the necessary authority chairs the forum was seen as an achievement, because it has contributed to the commitment of participants and has given the forum the necessary weight,

Challenges

- The lack of communication was seen as a key challenge. The need to communicate the findings and discussions of the forum back to various departments and respective national line functions was raised as a serious challenge. This, linked to the lack of uniformity of practice between departments has impacted negatively on the impact of the forum,
- The forum regularly dealt with operational issues as opposed to the higher level strategic and policy matters that should occupy the senior people on the forum,
- The high turnover of representatives and the lack of senior decision makers from some departments on the forum has affected the forums ability to make speedy decisions and have them implemented,
- Some participants felt that the role and objective of the forum was not marketed to other departments and this lack of understanding had an impact on participation,
- There was insufficient follow through on outstanding issues. A number of issues were never resolved and many simply remained on the agenda,
- The lack of strategy and coordination of committees dealing with juveniles in the province,

Areas for Improvement

- Senior department representatives need to attend the forum and the consistency of this representation needs to be reviewed, (or representatives need to be accessed who have authority regarding the specific issues discussed at a justice forum)
- Forum needs to focus on strategic and higher level policy interventions and not on operational detail,
- The forum needs to improve its information base and have reliable data on which to base its decisions. It should also improve its basic information management,
- Increase the participation in the forum to include the Law Society and the Bar Council
- Improve communication at all levels as well as the overall project management of the forums work

E. Session Five

Purpose, Role, and Functioning

The session clarified and developed consensus on the Purpose, Role Functioning and Structure of the forum. The following is a combined report from the two groups:

Purpose

The purpose of the forum is to develop an integrated approach to improving the efficiency of the Criminal Justice System in the province,

Role

Participants provided the following as the role of the forum;

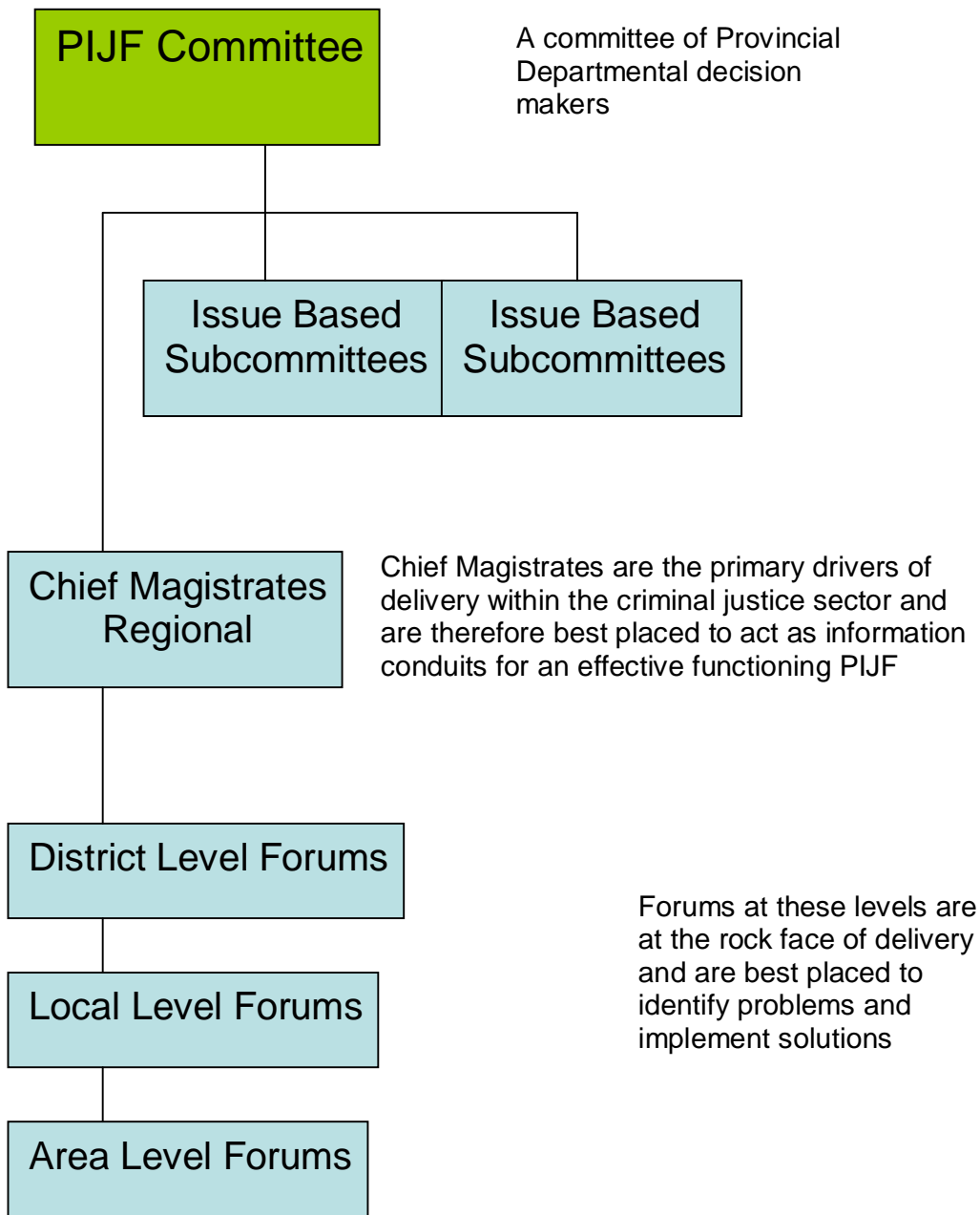
- To provide a space for role players to communicate and enable inter-sectoral collaboration. This will enable the forum to resolve issues at national and provincial levels
- Monitoring progress, with specific attention to court performance
- To promote delivery of justice to the people in an efficient and effective manner

- To promote a more co-ordinated and collaborative approach from all departments
- To promote an efficient and effective justice system through inter-sectoral collaboration
- To coordinate, monitor and evaluate activities of role players
- Develop common objectives
- Give effect to government priorities insofar as it is relevant to the JCP

Structure

The following structure was proposed for the forum.

- The forum should have a main committee comprising of decision makers
- It should then have sub committees that are issue based and that are interdepartmental of nature
- The Forum should be a leading department and it should be chaired by a Judge
- A deputy chairperson should be elected from the forum
- The forum should link up with existing district, local and area level forums to increase the implementation and communication capacity, Chief Magistrates at regional level should report on progress from these area level forums



Representation

Participants decided on two levels of representation. Core departments must be represented by their heads of department.

- Core Justice Departments
 - § SAPS; NPA; Judiciary; Justice; Correctional Services; Law Society; Bar Council; Legal-Aid Board

Non – core departments (whose focus is not within the Criminal Justice Sector) should be represented by individuals who are responsible for projects or activities relating to justice or crime prevention issues

- Non – Core
 - § Social Welfare – Probation Services; Health – Forensic; Education; Home Affairs

F. Session Six

The session was intended to develop strategic objectives for the forum for 2006. However during discussion it was noted that there was insufficient information, regarding the various projects being run by various departments as well as the numerous other forums that were active in the Justice, Safety and Security Arena. This information was necessary to ensure that the forum does not duplicate these projects but adds value to them by mobilising broader support from other departments. It was agreed that IPT would endeavour to gather this information and present it to members prior to the next PIJF meeting on 3rd March 2006.

(Because this information was not available at the workshop no firm strategic objectives could be agreed on. The finalisation of objectives will take place at the next forum meeting after the information on existing projects is presented.)

Some possible strategic focus areas and objectives listed by the group:

- Reduce number of awaiting trial prisoners (especially children)
- Juveniles in the justice system – witnesses; victims
- Improve efficiency of Criminal Justice System
 - § Implementation and monitoring of Case Flow Management
 - § Reduction of awaiting trial prisoners
 - § Better measurement of children in custody / system
- Reduce the levels of crime
 - § Restorative justice approach
 - § Proactive approach to deal with crime

G. Session Seven

The session focused on developing a clear role for the Independent Project Trust in assisting the forum to achieve its objectives. The contribution of IPT to the successes of the forum in 2005 was acknowledged by all participants. The forum members suggested that IPT could contribute by:

- Continuing to provide administrative and logistical support to the forum and subcommittee meetings,
- Acting as an information clearing house for members of the forum and to maintain a database of relevant information to be accessed by members,
- To play a liaison role and to be an information and referral centre,
- To do research and collect data on key areas of interest to the forum and its strategic objectives,
- Supporting subcommittees work with both logistical and information based support,

It was agreed that IPT would consider this input and assess their capacity to deliver on the above, reporting back at the next meeting.

THE CHAIRPERSON JUDGE JAPPIE CLOSED THE WORKSHOP AT 15:00