



**Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
April 21, 2023 - Noon
Law & Justice Center Atrium**

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Citizen's Advisory Committee, and the Department of Criminal Justice Services exist to improve the safety of the citizens of Lewis and Clark County and ensure the equitable and efficient treatment of defendants, offenders, and victims.

1. Call to Order & Reading of the Mission

Tom Cordingley, Chair, called the meeting to order.
The Mission Statement was read by Clair Swain.

2. Introductions

Members present: Tom Cordingley, Carolyn Belling, Jen Gursky, John Lytle, Clair Swain

Members absent: Tina Eblin, Kathryn Hutchison, Theresa Ortega, Joanne Romasko, Teresa Charlton, Karen English, Moffie Funk, Mike Mahoney, CJCC Chair Judge Menahan

Staff in attendance: Jillian Danesi, Bri Lake, Kellie McBride, & Alexia Clark

Others in attendance: Candace Payne, Lutisha McFarland, Denise Mergenthaler

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Tom Cordingley

- March 17, 2021: No quorum, skipped

4. Tour of Hope Center Ministries – Carolyn Belling

Cancelled due to weather.

5. CJS Updates – Kellie McBride

No updates.

6. Non-Agenda Items

- Clair testified at a State committee meeting in support of a bill that expands workers' compensation coverage for Detention Center officers to the same level as Sheriff Deputies. The Detention Center continues to be at emergency staffing levels. Kellie noted that a large percentage of jail inmates are held pretrial, and releasing those inmates to pretrial services may help alleviate some of the pressure on Detention Center staff.
- The group discussed the housing shortage exacerbated by low wages, at a State - level and especially in Lewis & Clark County.
- The group discussed the variability in treatment and transition options in the community.
 - John discussed how the pre-release center does not teach basic skills, such as how to do laundry, how to cook, etiquette, and other basic skills that the general population may take for granted.

- Carolyn elaborated on the skills taught to Hope Center residents. Many addicts already have the education about themselves and their addiction but don't know how to apply it in their daily lives, and therefore often fail in the transition from treatment to society.
- Jenn discussed the diversity in treatment philosophies. Hope Center and the YWCA may refer individuals seeking help to one another depending on the needs of the individual.
- Jenn asked for an update on the Journey Home. Kellie mentioned that Lewis and Clark County Public Health is in contract negotiations with Many Rivers Whole Health for the Journey Home, but details are unknown at this point.

7. Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Next Meeting – May 19, 2023

The next meeting will be held at the Hope Center Ministries in Clancy, MT.

9. Adjourn