



Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting February 16, 2024 – 12:30pm
Law & Justice Center
Atrium

Mission: 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 Mark Nay.

2. Introductions

Members present: Tom Cordingley, Teresa Charlton, Karen English, Mark Nay, Moffie Funk,
Members absent: Joanne Romasko, John Lytle, Mike Mahoney, Clair Swain, Jen Gursky
Staff in attendance: Kellie McBride, Jillian Danesi, Bri Lake, and Brandi Spangler
Others in attendance: Nicole Gomez, Andy Hunthausen

3. Action Items – Tom Cordingley

Review of January 19, 2024 meeting minutes:
Tom Cordingley made a motion to accept and approve the minutes with spelling corrections.
Mark Nay seconded the motion. The motion Passed unanimously.

4. Areas of focus for 2024 – Tom Cordingley and Mofie Funk

The CJCC has prioritized Pretrial, Diversion, and Communication. A list of possible priorities for the CAC was reviewed and discussed.

The CAC identified three priorities from the list: **#6:** *Support the professionals working in the criminal justice system, including but not limited to courts and law enforcement, through cross agency collaboration; #2:* *Continue to improve diversion practices across the criminal justice system spectrum; #8:* *Improve communications with the public to keep the public aware of the system’s progress.*

- Programs with partners could be improved with some revision of policies and procedures; specifically looking at Detention Center’s medical policies and procedures.
- Discussion was held regarding a grant to fund a Physician, medical director, or other prescribing position, to be based in the Detention Center. Staff requested a letter of support for submission with the grant application.
- The MAT Bridges Program was discussed, including low numbers, lack of buy-in from Detention staff, and pushback from medical staff.
- Staff met with Helena Police Department leadership to discuss HPD’s ideas for a diversion program. HPD expressed a desire for diversion coupled with Community Court. An application will be submitted for an AmeriCorps*Vista to develop a plan for

the program. Moffie suggested some legwork be accomplished prior to the Vista's start date.

- A community and client survey was suggested to keep the public engaged and educated on progress. Many options were discussed on the most effective way to reach the maximum number of responders.
- Further discussion of priorities will be held during next meeting.

5. Non-Agenda Items

6. Public Comment

Nicole Gomez, Montana Women Vote, encourages looking into the MAT program and trauma informed care. She agrees to the importance of having an in-house physician in the Detention Center. Montana Women Vote is currently working on a bill to reform the bail/bond system and they also facilitate community conversations.

7. Upcoming Dates:

Next CAC Meeting – March 15, 2024, 12:00pm, Law and Justice Center Atrium

Next CJCC Meeting – March 26, 2024, 4:15pm, Law and Justice Center Atrium

8. Adjourn