



**Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting April 19, 2024 – 12:00pm
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

Karen English, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order.
The Mission Statement was read by Mark Nay.

2. Introductions

Members present: Karen English, Mark Nay, Moffie Funk, Jen Gursky, Teresa Charlton, Joanne Romasko,

Members absent: John Lytle, Mike Mahoney, Tom Cordingley, Clair Swain

Staff in attendance: Kellie McBride, Bri Lake, and Brandi Spangler

Others in attendance: Judge Abbott, Andy Hunthausen, Brent Colbert, Nicole Gomez, Nancy Asiada-Reynolds, Eric Parsons

3. Action Items – Karen English

Review of March 15, 2024 meeting minutes:

Teresa Charlton made a motion to accept and approve the minutes. Jen Gursky seconded the motion. The motion Passed unanimously.

4. CJS Update – Kellie McBride

Office moving May 2, 2024.

CJS Vacancies include Therapist and Pretrial Officer. Pretrial Officer and Licensed Addiction Counselor positions have been offered contingent upon successful background investigations.

Captain Bragg applied for funding to hire a prescriber in the Detention Center.

Difficulties hiring Therapists was discussed.

5. Areas of focus for 2024 – 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 possible 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.*

- Strategic Planning: A facilitator would be helpful for strategic planning. CJS has budgeted for this expense in their FY25 proposed budget. A contract with facilitator will need to be approved by the County Commission.

- Community Survey: CJS has budgeted \$15,000 for the community survey in their proposed FY25 budget. The budget goes before the Commission in May for approval. Bri requested CAC members assist in designing the survey questions.
- Communications: A communications plan including op-eds, letters to the editor, and press releases was discussed.
- Jen Gursky made a motion to create three ad-hoc subcommittees: Communications, Community Survey, and Strategic Planning. The motion was seconded by Mark Nay. The motion passed unanimously. Joanne Romasko and Jen Gursky committed to the Communications subcommittee with Tom Cordingley and Kellie as staff. Jen Gursky, Mofie Funk, and Karen English committed to the Community Survey subcommittee with Bri as staff.

6. NNCJCC Annual Meeting - CAC Panel Presentation – Kellie McBride

Annual meeting June 4-6 at St. Paul's. CAC Panel Presentation will include Commissioner Hunthausen, Mark Nay, Judge Menahan, Teresa Charlton, and Kellie. Agenda is being finalized today, April 19, 2024.

7. Non-Agenda Items

- Houselessness advocates are working to reduce the number of redundant planning meetings. The Helena Resource Advocates (HRA) Leadership meeting has merged with the FUSE meeting. The new HRA/FUSE meeting is scheduled for every-other Friday, 9:00 – 11:00, at Untied Way. Kellie suggested the CAC designate one of their members to attend, if the CAC is still interested in examining the intersection between houselessness and the criminal justice system. Jen Gursky volunteered to represent the CAC as she already attends on behalf of YWCA Helena.

8. Public Comment

No Public Comment

9. Upcoming Dates:

Next CAC Meeting – May 17, 2024, 12:00pm, Law and Justice Center Atrium

Next CJCC Meeting – May 28, 2024, 4:15pm, Law and Justice Center Atrium

10. Adjourn