



Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2023, 4:15 pm
Law and Justice Center, Atrium Conference Room, First Floor

Mission: Lewis and Clark County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council exists 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. Welcome and Call to Order – Judge Menahan
The meeting was called to order and the mission statement read.
2. Introductions
 - Members Present: Brett Petty, Sue Podruzny, Suzanne Seburn, Tom Cordingley, Mike Sanders, Leah Lindgren, Kevin Downs, Drenda Niemann, Wilmot Collins, Judge Menahan, Judge Piskolich via ZOOM, Kevin Downs, Bradley Bragg for Leo Dutton
 - Members Absent: Judge Peterson, Gina Boesdorfer, Andy Hunthausen
 - Staff Present: Kellie McBride, Bri Lake, Jillian Danesi, Alexia Clark, Brandi Spangler
 - Guests Present: Morgan Davis,
3. Action Items – Judge Menahan
 - July 25 meeting minutes:
Kevin Downs made a motion to approve the July 25 meeting minutes and was seconded by Tom Cordingley. The motion passed unanimously.
4. CAC update –
 - Tom Cordingley reported on letter that was sent to Senators Tester and Daines and Representatives Rosendale and Zinke in support of bipartisan legislation to eliminate the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP). Brad Bragg explained the process of medical attention in the detention center and how budgeting works for services.
 - Tom announced the CAC has accepted the Mark Nay as a new member.
5. Kellie McBride gave a Pretrial Services update. Copies of “A Framework for Pretrial Justice” were provided. Working toward future goal of accreditation by inviting national partners to come and provide training.
6. Community Commitments:
Judge Menahan opened discussion and gave a background on the Behavioral

Health Crisis and procedure from mobile crisis response to commitment to State Hospital. Community Commitments currently do not allow local providers to administer psychotropic medications. Currently, only the State Hospital has the authority to administer such drugs involuntarily. As it stands, male inmates in the Detention Center are waiting approximately six months to be admitted into the state hospital, and the wait list for female inmates is closer to 18-months. Drenda Niemann spoke further on the three pillars of the behavioral health continuum: 988, Mobile Crisis Response Team, and the need for more resources for placement. The goal is to have the ability to offer services that are more affordable with appropriate placement. The “Gold Standard” would be for Journey Home to provide crisis stabilization and receiving. However, funding is an issue with providing 14-day stabilization and the County is exploring a 24-hour receiving-only model. The Journey Home goal is to address mental health before a major crime is committed.

7. Judge Menahan gave an overview of the National Association of Presiding Judges and Court Officers (NAPCO) conference held in Boston, in August. Judge Menahan was invited to speak about Lewis and Clark County’s CJCC.
 - The Judge met with other CJCC leaders and was impressed with drug prevention work targeting people with a history of drug use. Federal funding is available, and that approach has been effective.
 - He met with other rural area judges who were interested in establishing CJCCs in their communities.
 - The Judge reminded all that the National Network of CJCC’s 2024 annual meeting will be held in Helena.
8. No update for Diversion at Intercept Zero.
9. CJCC Communications: Kellie McBride spoke briefly about an invitation for our CJCC to present at an upcoming Hometown Helena, yet to be scheduled. Additionally, over the past two months, there is a new County webpage and Facebook page for the CJCC, and the work of the CJCC has been featured twice on KXLH News.
10. Bri provided an update on the Data and Case Management initiative. Three vendors responded to the County’s Request for Proposals. The proposals are currently in the scoring process.
11. No old business
12. Public Comment
13. Kellie McBride gave a description of Housing is Healthcare Summit October 10-

13. While the Summit features several worthwhile sessions, members of the CJCC are encouraged to attend the Criminal Justice session, Thursday, October 12, 12:15, in Judge Menahan's Courtroom.

14. Adjourn 5:14pm.

Next CJCC Meeting: November 28, 2023, 4:15 pm