



Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2024, 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. Call to Order & Reading of the Mission – Judge Abbott

- Judge Abbott called the meeting to order and read the mission statement.

2. Introductions - All

- Members Present: Judge Abbott, Suzanne Seburn, Leah Lingren, Tom Cordingley, Brett Petty, Mike Sanders, Sue Podruzny, Tom Rolfe, Sarah for Gina Boesdorfer, Kevin Downs, Brent Colbert for Leo Dutton,
- Members Absent: Drenda Niemann, Judge Peterson, Judge Piskolich, Andy Shirtliff
- Staff Present: Kellie McBride, Jillian Danesi, Mohanish Pradeep, April Gonzalez
- Guests Present: Moffie Funk, Danny Douglass, Jake White, Mark Nay, Brad Bragg, Troy Christensen, Karen English, Teresa Charlton

3. Action Items – Judge Abbott

- July 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes were approved.

4. CJS Update – Kellie McBride

- Kellie introduced Danny Douglas and Jake White from Tyler Technologies. Douglas and White oversaw the implementation of CJS's data and case management system. The system is live and will allow staff to provide requested data on all CJS programs as well as Detention Center data.

5. Citizens' Advisory Committee – Tom Cordingley

- The CAC is discussing models for children's camp for children of system-involved parents.

6. Meaningful First Appearances – Suzanne Seburn

- Meaningful First Appearances starting October 1st in Helena Municipal Court. Collaborative effort between the Court, Public Defenders, City Attorneys, and Detention Center. Initial Appearances moving from 0800 to 0900 to allow Public Defenders the opportunity to review PSAs, meet with defendants, and prepare bond arguments. Public Defender's Office will assign one attorney per month to this Court.

7. Detention Center Numbers – Judge Abbott

- Judge Abbott reminded those in attendance that the CJCC formed in response to jail overcrowding. He noted renewed concerns of overcrowding and stated there is no easy solution to the problem. The Judge asked the stakeholders at the table to consider how they might work together.
- LCSO Captain Bragg provided a presentation on the current jail census (presentation slides attached).
 - i. There are currently 150, plus or minus, individuals in 13 housing pods.

- ii. The Detention Center can house 167 individuals.
- iii. Per National Institute of Corrections (NIC), jails should operate at 80% to allow for movement, staff safety, and safety of those being detained. The maximum number the detention center can safely house is 133.
- iv. The all-time high population was 201, on August 19, 2024. This number led to the Detention Center running out of food, sleeping mats, blankets, clothes, and space. Pot pies were purchased from Walmart to supplement meals.
- v. Bragg chose September 18th as a random date to illustrate the makeup of the Detention Center population. There were 165 incarcerated individuals housed on September 18:
 - 1) 46 sentenced to DOC and waiting transportation
 - 2) 106 felony pretrial
 - 3) 10 misdemeanor pretrial
 - 4) 3 misdemeanants serving their sentence
 - 5) 42 “weekenders,” or individuals serving time in increments
- vi. State statute requires Detention Centers to hold individuals assigned to the Department of Corrections. Missoula County has determined they will refuse individuals assigned to DOC on a case-by-case basis. The State pays the County \$82.50 per day for their individuals, however the cost to house a person is \$120+ per day.
- vii. The Detention Center currently has 34 Detention Officers out of 68 Officers needed and budgeted, with two or three candidates waiting on backgrounds. Brad and Troy spend half of their workweek working “on the line” in the role of Detention Officers.
- viii. Undersheriff Colbert noted the number of individuals assigned bonds of both cash and Pretrial Services contribute to the census.
- ix. Concern expressed over individuals sentenced to Department of Health and Human Services waiting transport.
- Committee Discussion
 - i. Sue Podruzny shared DOC’s frustration and noted the situation does not further the interest of justice. DOC has been undergoing a culture change, instituting collaborative changes, and focused on safety.
 - ii. Sue suggested the CJCC form a workgroup to address the Detention Center numbers.

8. Non-Agenda Items

- Non-Agenda Items will be struck from the Agenda.

9. Public Comment

- No Public Comment.

10. Next CJCC Meeting

- November 26th, 2024, 4:15 pm, Law and Justice Center

11. Adjourn