



Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes
March 26, 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 called the meeting to order and read the mission statement.

2. Introductions

Resignation of Judge Menahan as Chair
Welcomed Judge Abbott as Chair

- a. Members Present: Judge Abbott, Brett Petty, Tom Cordingley, Mike Sanders, Leah Lindgren, Tom Rolfe, Drenda Niemann, Bradley Bragg (Proxy for Leo Dutton), Sue Podruzny
- b. Members Absent: Kevin Downs, Andy Shirliff, Ann Peterson, Mark Piskolich, Gina Boesdorfer, Suzanne Seburn
- c. Staff Present: Kellie McBride, Bri Lake, Brandi Spangler
- d. Guests Present: Mike Mahoney, Tiffany Mowery, Mike Ferriter, Beth McLaughlin, Judge Menahan, Steven Cornish, Nicole Doyle

3. Action Items – Judge Abbott

- The meeting minutes for January 23, 2024 were approved.

4. AmeriCorps VISTA applications – Kellie McBride

- Applications being submitted for two AmeriCorps VISTAs with the CAC's support. One VISTA will concentrate on a jail diversion program designed specifically for our community. The second VISTA will research best practices in early childhood intervention to help reduce generational involvement in the justice system.

5. APRAIS Lethality Assessment – Detective Cornish, Nicole Doyle

- HPD Detective Steven Cornish and Nicole Doyle from the City of Helena Attorney's Office presented the APRAIS assessment tool as a more accurate and useful tool than the lethality tool currently used by law enforcement throughout the County. The current tool screens in approximately 80% of defendants as high-risk, whereas the APRAIS is reported to screen in only 20%. The APRAIS tool is used exclusively in Arizona and incorporated in their State Statutes. Sue Podruzny stated the APRAIS will be useful for writing treatment plans for offenders on probation and parole. There is worry about the tool being misused during pretrial condition decisions rather and at sentencing. Training and implementation planning for the assessment is April 16 and 17. All are invited and encouraged to attend as there will be break out sessions specified for each profession, including judicial.

6. Narcan Vending Placement in Courthouse

- The third and final Narcan vending machine has been placed on the landing between the 2nd and 3rd floors of the courthouse.

7. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Update – Tom Cordingley

- The CAC is narrowing down 3-4 areas of focus for the coming year.

8. Pretrial Services Program Update – Kellie McBride

- Kellie shared that she sent a draft of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Technical Assistance application to all members of the CJCC Pretrial Workgroup. In the application, she requested general technical assistance for all partners as well as focused TA for Judicial, County Attorneys, and the Pretrial Services Program. Mike Sanders suggested Kellie review the application for divisive language.
- Kellie advised members of an upcoming pretrial training open only to judges. “Pretrial Improvement: A View From the Bench” is scheduled for June 7 and June 21. All judges in Lewis and Clark County received an invitation to register for the training.
- The NIC Intensive Pretrial Justice Training is scheduled for July 22 – 26, in Colorado. Interested CJCC members were encouraged to apply for the training. Successful applicants will receive a full scholarship from NIC to include travel costs.
- Pretrial and Misdemeanor Probation Officer Tiffany Mowery provided an overview of how the Pretrial Services Program works with local community providers, a list of some of the providers, and how they connect defendants with services based on individual defendant need.
- Mike Ferriter with the State Office of Court Administrator (OCA) provided an overview of the State’s Pretrial Pilot Project. Lewis and Clark County is one of the five counties participating in the Pilot Project which began in 2018. Mike shared how pleased OCA is with Lewis and Clark County’s frequency of stakeholder meetings, as well as the communication between OCA and County staff. He provided a brief background on OCA’s involvement with pretrial and the Arnold Foundation.
 - Since inception, OCA has processed over 25,000 Public Safety Assessments (PSAs) for the five counties.
 - 24 States, including Montana, have adopted the PSA.
 - 810 PSAs were completed for Lewis and Clark County last Calendar Year.
 - Of the 1,311 closed cases, 94% of assigned defendants made all their court appearances.
 - Of the 1,311 closed cases, 86% of assigned defendants remained arrest-free while assigned.

9. NNCJCC Annual Meeting – Kellie McBride

- The NNCJCC’s annual meeting is scheduled for June 4-6, in Helena, at St. Paul’s Methodist Church. The CAC has been invited to provide a panel discussion on successful strategies for providing a citizen voice to the CJCC.

10. Old Business

- No old business.

11. Public Comment

No Public Comment

12. Next CJCC Meeting: May 28, 2024, 4:15 pm

13. Adjourn

*Selected CJCC priorities for
FY24 and FY25