



Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes
May 28, 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

- a. Members Present: Judge Abbott, Brett Petty, Mike Sanders, Leah Lindgren, Tom Rolfe, Drenda Niemann, Leo Dutton, Morgan Davis (Proxy for Suzanne Seburn), Andy Shirliff, Kevin Downs, Mark Piskolich
- b. Members Absent: Ann Peterson, Gina Boesdorfer, Sue Podruzny
- c. Staff Present: Kellie McBride, Jillian Danesi
- d. Guests Present: Keaton Welch, Brad Bragg, Scott Allen, Jami Hanson, Zoe Grover

3. Action Items – Judge Abbott

- The meeting minutes for March 26, 2024 were approved.

4. Angel Initiative (AI) – Scott Allen, COO Operation 2 Save Lives & QRT National

Scott Allen, Zoe Grover (Executive Director PAARI), and Jami Hanson (Prevention Bureau Chief DPHHS) attended via Teams. Scott provided an overview of the Angel Initiative which started in 2016, in Kentucky. Using the original model, AI was launched in Montana in 2021 to increase access to treatment and recovery for Montanans, reduce stigma, and increase collaboration between law enforcement, treatment, and recovery resources. AI is currently being relaunched in select Montana counties based on lessons learned across the country.

Angel Initiative Best Practices include multiple walk-in locations including police departments, fire departments, churches, online referrals, and community locations. The program involves volunteer or paid “Angels,” who are people in recovery, clinicians, and other personnel to provide care coordination and navigation to resources while minimizing downtime for officers and deputies. The program should address all types of addiction including opioids and other social issues including houselessness and food insecurity.

Scott, Zoe, and Jami are working with Yellowstone, Sweet Grass, Carbon, Lewis and Clark, and Cascade Counties. They plan to engage judges, pretrial services, Police Departments, Drop-In Centers, and transportation resources. They are developing a media plan for the relaunch. They want this to be a community-wide effort to divert individuals away from the criminal justice system and emergency room and into treatment and services.

5. Public Safety Mil Levy and Bond: Consideration of a Letter of Support from CJCC – Chief Petty

- Determined the members of the CJCC may not take a position for or against a levy.

6. CJS Update – Kellie McBride

- Department of CJS presented their FY25 budget to Board of County Commissioners. The budget was built based on CJCC goals and initiatives.
- Staffing: The Pretrial Services program is fully staffed with the addition of Officer Keaton Welch. The Program Analyst and Court Services positions are vacant and posted. The Behavioral Health Team is fully staffed with the addition of a Licensed Addictions Counselor and a Behavioral Health Therapist.

7. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Update – Judge Abbott

- a. Department of Corrections: Ongoing issue of addressing the number of DOC individuals housed in our County’s Detention Center.
- b. Community Survey Workgroup: Looking at public perception of public safety and the local criminal justice system.
- c. *Communications Workgroup: Looking at a marketing plan.
- d. Strategic Planning Workgroup: Will meet later in the year and include a facilitator.
- e. Medical Services: Looking at medical services provided in the Detention Center.

8. *Pretrial Services Program Update – Kellie McBride

- National Institute of Corrections (NIC) approved the CJCC’s Technical Assistance application.

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. Kellie provided an overview of the agenda. Members of the CAC will 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: July 23, 2024, 4:15 pm

13. Adjourn

*Selected CJCC priorities for FY24 and FY25
