



**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes**  
**July 23, 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, Drenda Niemann, Mark Piskolich, Tom Rolfe, Gina Boesdorfer
- Members Absent: Judge Peterson, Leo Dutton, Andy Shirliff
- Staff Present: Kellie McBride, Jillian Danesi, Zoë McBride
- Guests Present: Marissa O'Sullivan, Nicho Hash, Mike Mahoney, Troy Christensen

**3. Action Items – Judge Abbott**

- Approval of May 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes
  - The minutes are approved with corrections.
- Approval of Citizens' Advisory Committee Membership Roster
  - The membership roster is approved.

**4. CJS Update – Kellie McBride**

- National Institute of Corrections approved request for technical assistance for pretrial. They will be sending experts from around the country to meet and speak with CJCC about the pretrial.
- AmeriCorps Vistas—awaiting award letter. One Vista will research and work on a diversion program with multiple county parties. The other Vista will work on an early Childhood intervention program, researching and working with partners on that as well.
- National Association of Pretrial Service Agencies 51<sup>st</sup> Annual conference will be happening the week of September 10<sup>th</sup>. All pretrial staff will be attending.
- CJS is almost fully staffed. Still hiring for Program Analyst position, difficulty finding applicants who meet the qualifications.
- National Network of Criminal Justice Services was in Lewis & Clark County last month. The highest rated breakout session was led by members of the CAC.

**5. Citizens' Advisory Committee – Tom Cordingley**

- The committee has asked Marketing Professional Ali Mandell to put together a 6-month contract to publicize on what the CAC, CJCC, and department do for the community.
- The Healthy Montana Team did a door-to-door survey at the end of June. Once the data is collected, results will be shared with the CAC and as part of the end-of-year Community Health Report.

## **6. Meaningful First Appearances – Judge Abbott**

- There is concern around overcrowding at the Detention Center. It is a multi-faceted issue. One factor is individuals facing Felony charges who must wait, on average, three weeks for a meaningful bond hearing.
- Judge Abbott defines Meaningful Bond Hearing as a hearing wherein the County Attorney, OPD, and Judge work together to set bail for a client.
- The conversation for Meaningful Bond Hearing's arose from the creation of a new PFMA Lethality Assessment tool. This tool will not be effective unless clients are given a meaningful first appearance.
- Currently, individuals who are detained on felony charges make their initial appearance to Justice Court, without the presence of the County Attorney. CA's send advisal for bond, but do not appear.
- There have been instances where an individual's bond is significantly lowered or removed during their District Court Hearing. These individuals may not have needed to sit in the Detention Center for this time.
- Suzanne Seburn is committed to increasing OPD's interaction with clients at their first hearing.
- Judge Peterson has agreed to Meaningful Bond Hearings. This will begin in October. Municipal Court will be moved to 0900 to allow adequate time for OPD to meet with clients.
- Logistical issues:
  - i. County Attorney's office has to staff the hearings.
  - ii. Length of the Hearing's.
  - iii. Access to the jail prior to hearings for counsel.

## **7. Last Chance Coupon – Judge Piskolich**

- The Missoula Municipal Court is doing "Appearance Warrants." They are refusing to putailable warrants on non-jailable offences. I.e. receiving a non-jailable ticket and failing to appear in court, then being issued an arrest warrant.
- The "Last Chance Coupon," would offer individuals a final chance to appear in court, rather than being taken to jail. This would be a physical card that officers can issue, warning individuals that if they fail to appear again, a warrant could be issued.
- Judge Swingley, Peterson, and Piskolich agree that in an aggregate warrant in excess of \$10,000 isailable. Warrants lower than this are not typically reasons to incarcerate.
- Chief Petty is not sure that the current Warrant tracking system will be effective in alerting Judges an individual has been issued the Last Chance Coupon.
  - i. A Carbon Copy of the Coupons could help facilitate this issue.
- Chief Sanders worries that the Coupon may cause more work for Law Enforcement and that repeat offenders will not be helped.

## **8. Non-Agenda Items**

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

## **9. Public Comment**

- Friday Night at the Stampede is "Man Up" night as a domestic violence awareness event. Everyone wears purple. All proceeds go to the Friendship Center.

## **10. Next CJCC Meeting**

- September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 4:15 pm, Law and Justice Center

## **11. Adjourn**