



**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes**  
**July 26, 2022**  
**Lewis and Clark County Law and Justice Center, Atrium**  
**4:15 p.m.**

**Mission: The CJCC 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 – Tom Cordingley**

Interim City Manager Tim Burton read the mission statement.

Members present: Tim Burton for Mayor Wilmot Collins, Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, Leah Lindgren, Tom Cordingley, Kim Patterson for Gina Boesdorfer, Chief Brett Petty, Chief Mike Sanders, Judge Anne Peterson

Member excused: Leo Gallagher

Members absent: Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, Sheriff Leo Dutton, Judge Mike Menahan, Suzanne Seburn, Judge Mark Piskolich, Probation and Parole

Others in attendance: Theresa Ortega

Staff in attendance: Kellie McBride, Jillian Danesi, Bri Lake

**2. Introductions – Led by Tom Cordingley**

**3. Action Item: Approval of Meeting Minutes –**

- a. April 27, 200. No Quorum. Minutes will be placed on September 27<sup>th</sup> CJCC Agenda.

**4. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Annual Report – Tom Cordingley**

- a. Action Item: Approve the proposed CAC membership. No Quorum. CAC Membership will be placed on September 27<sup>th</sup> CJCC Agenda.
- b. CAC Update: Tom asked Kellie McBride to share the highlights of the June solutions-focused CAC meeting.
  - 1) The Department of Criminal Justice Services was contacted by a community provider, who had concerns regarding a shared client that had fallen through the cracks. No fingers were pointed at any one agency, department, or office.
  - 2) The situation: “Bonnie” had been placed in the Detention Center with an order to the State Hospital for a Fitness to Proceed Evaluation and a \$50,000 cash bond. For the safety of their staff, the Detention Center does not inform incarcerated individuals when they will be transported. The day before Bonnie was to be transported to the State Hospital, Bonnie contacted a bonds agent out of Butte. The bonds agent drove to Helena and the Detention Staff began the process of releasing Bonnie from custody. Fearing she would lose her bed at the State Hospital, staff from the Public Defenders Office unsuccessfully worked to keep Bonnie in Detention for one more day. The bonds agent drove Bonnie to her bank, where Bonnie withdrew all her money. Once the bonds agent was paid, Bonnie was left with no

- money or housing, and no way to get to the State Hospital.
- 3) Although the Court Order stated the Sheriff's Office was responsible for transporting Bonnie to the State Hospital, that order was determined null as Bonnie had been released from custody and did not pose a threat to herself or others.
  - 4) Bonnie spent seven mostly homeless days in Helena, utilizing community services and resources and deteriorating mentally. Ultimately, after seven days, the State maintained the open bed and staff from Good Samaritan Ministries and St Peter's Health transported Bonnie.
  - 5) Judge Menahan attended the CAC meeting and spoke to the Court order he placed. Charles Lane from the County Attorney's Office also attended the meeting and spoke to the inherent liabilities of the Sheriff's Office transporting someone not in custody. Charles also spoke to the inherent liabilities of community providers transporting a person with known mental health disorders.
  - 6) The solution: With agreement from Judge Menahan and Charles Lane, members of the CAC recommended the standard language in future Court Orders be changed to ensure a commitment to the State Hospital take precedence over a cash bond. With this language change, the Detention Center staff will know not to release an incarcerated person remanded to the State Hospital regardless of their ability to pay a cash bond.
- c. Tom shared that the CAC will continue to provide solution-focused meetings.

## 5. CJCC Best Practices

- a. Meetings. Referencing best practices, the members in attendance agreed to change the meeting frequency, date, and time for the next six meetings and evaluate after that time.

\* Meeting schedule: Fourth Tuesday of odd months

- b. Executive Committee. Referencing best practices, the members in attendance agreed to form an Executive Committee. The Chair, Vice-Chair, CAC Chair, and Helena Police Department Chief were recommended to the Committee. This Committee and its makeup will be further discussed at the September CJCC meeting. The Executive Committee will meet in even months. The Executive Committee will

- 1) Prioritize CJCC initiatives;
- 2) Monitor CJCC endeavors, including the work of committees and workgroups;
- 3) Advise the CJCC officers;
- 4) Select representative member positions on the CJCC;
- 5) Create committees and workgroups;
- 6) Appoint committee and workgroup chairs and vice-chairs;
- 7) Ensure the bylaws and strategic plan are updated;
- 8) Draft the agenda for CJCC meetings and assure matters are ready for council meetings; and
- 9) Other duties to ensure proper coordination and management of the CJCC.

The Executive Committee will not replace or circumvent the role and responsibilities of the CJCC. The specific duties assigned to the Executive Committee will be outlined in the CJCC's bylaws. Meetings of the Executive Committee will be open to any CJCC member and follow public meeting laws.

- c. Membership. The members in attendance discussed the current make-up of the CJCC and questioned if any additional executive-level leaders should be added. By consensus,

the members agreed that the current make-up is good. The need for a representative from Probation and Parole was stressed.

- d. Ad-Hoc Work Groups. Members in attendance discussed the idea of forming Ad-hoc working groups to focus on specific CJCC needs and initiatives throughout the year. These groups would be composed of the CJCC members, CAC members, and community members most appropriate for the subject at hand. Examples of Ad-hoc work groups included Bylaws, specific programs, social media, media campaigns, and data.
- e. Grants Review. Members in attendance agreed that all grant proposals written by the Department of Criminal Justice Services should be approved by the CJCC prior to submission. When time is a factor, CJS should request input and approval through email.

#### **6. Data – Bri Lake**

- a. Bri Lake, CJS Program Analyst, provided a brief overview of the CJS Data Initiative.
- b. Those in attendance were invited to attend the twice-monthly Data Work Group meetings. These meetings are held every other Wednesday, 3:30 – 4:00, in Room 226 of the City County Building.

#### **7. Criminal Justice Services Update: Kellie McBride**

No update provided.

#### **8. Public Comment**

**No Public Comment**

#### **9. Next Meeting: September 27, 2022**

Contact Judge Menahan or Kellie McBride to have an item of discussion added to the agenda.

#### **10. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned by Tom Cordingley at 5:45 pm.