

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 2, 2025, | 12-1:30 pm

Location: Government Center – C-1291 Amdahl Conference Room

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Eric Werner, Mary Moriarty, Patrick Enderlein (proxy), Chela Guzman-Wiegert, Michael Berger, Leah Kaiser, Mary Ellen Heng, Lisa Bayley, Michael Rainville, John Freude (proxy), Todd Fellman, David Bernstein (proxy) Hilary Caligiuri, Kerry Meyer, Sara Gonsalves, Nikki Appelbaum (virtual), Jason Nelson (virtual), Eli Farhat (proxy), Julie Maas-Kusske, Joeseeph Dotseth, Julie Rud (speaker), Dan Rogan (guest), Kadra Mohammed (guest).

Staff: Jackie Braun-Lewis, Roberta Groening, Susan Winterfield Thompson, Liz Mohr.

Notes: Qulmie Abdi

5 minutes | Roll Call & Old Business

Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair

- The meeting was called to order.
- Roll was called and quorum was present.
- July meeting minutes were approved.

5 minutes | Election of New Chair and Vice Chair

Lead: Susan Winterfield Thompson, Senior Strategic Planning Consultant

- Strategic Consultant Winterfield Thompson facilitated the election discussion on behalf of the CJCC, due to Director Heng's dual role as CJCC and Director of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCCR).
- A thank you was extended to Commissioner Lunde for his years of service as Chair, and Chief Werner as Vice Chair.
- A structural change was noted: going forward, the Chair position will rotate from Hennepin County to a representative from the City of Minneapolis or suburban jurisdictions, in alignment with the updated bylaws.
- Elections will be conducted electronically, mirroring the successful process used during the bylaw update.
- Voting Timeline:
 - Nominations are due on October 17th
 - Elections will be held in late October
 - New Chair and Vice Chair will be introduced at the November CJCC meeting
 - Eligibility criteria from Article 4, Section 1 of the Bylaws was reviewed:
 - Chair eligibility (City of Minneapolis & suburban cities reps):
 - Minneapolis Mayor

- Minneapolis City Council members (2)
- Minneapolis City Attorney
- Minneapolis Police Chief
- Suburban mayors (2)
- Suburban police chiefs (2)
- Suburban city prosecutor
- Interested members should email Senior Strategic Planning Consultant Winterfeld Thompson by October 17 deadline.
- Vice Chair eligibility (Members from Hennepin County):
 - Commissioner Greene
 - Assistant County Administrator of Public Safety
 - County Attorney
 - County Sheriff
 - Director of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation

15 minutes | Update on Hennepin County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Conditional Order & Annexing

*Leads: Sheriff Dawanna Witt, Hennepin County Sheriff
Mary Ellen Heng, Director DOCCR*

A conditional license order (CLO) from the Department of Corrections (DOC) was issued in late 2024, requiring HCSO to reduce its jail population due to staffing shortages and facility health/welfare concerns.

- Progress Highlights include:
 - Capacity restrictions have been lifted and gradually increased numbers.
 - May 2025: Increased to 735 beds on weekends, order indicated a return to 700 within 24 hours.
 - August 29, 2025: Facility capacity restored to 839 beds; however, CLO remains in effect.
 - Operational capacity remains around 755, but due to rising number of inmates needing special management (medical, mental health, "keep separates"), the actual target has been reduced to 685 beds.
 - Special management cases now account for ~20% of the jail population, significantly limiting usable capacity.
 - Annexing when needed has scaled down from nine facilities to just the Adult Corrections Facility (ACF), representing a cost-effective shift.
 - Ongoing Administrative Burden:
Compliance with the CLO includes daily EOC reports, staffing audits, and communication with DOC.
 - HCSO leadership continues to advocate for modifications to CLO terms that may not be appropriately tailored to current operational realities.
 - ACF Partnership update includes:
 - Housing 70 annexed residents at ACF, with a steady mix of male residents and a small number of female clients.

- Developing permanent transfer DOC-hold inmates to ACF, conduct hearings at the ACF and ensure private hearing spaces with necessary technology.
- This move is expected to relieve jail bed pressure and enhance operational efficiency.
- Target launch for this shift is late October, though it remains flexible based on system readiness.

The Jail Population Oversight Committee is actively analyzing ways to reduce and manage population pressures.

- Emphasis remains on exploring system-wide efficiencies to keep cases moving.

15 minutes | Hennepin County Budget

Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair

- Budget hearings continue with final budget adoption targeted for December 2025.
 - The maximum levy has been set at 7.79%, marking the highest increase since 1990.
 - Each percentage point equals approx. \$10M, translating to a projected \$80M total increase in property tax revenue.
- Major Cost Pressures are being driven by personnel costs, labor agreements and increased healthcare costs. Budgetary strain continues despite increased levy due to current and future cost pressures.
- Timeline & Process:
 - Budget hearings are underway:

20 minutes | Juvenile PT Services Update

Lead: Julie Rud, Area Director Field Services, DOCCR

A progress and impact update on juvenile pretrial services, focused on 2021–2022. Pretrial periods averaged 107 days, with 71% of youngsters not under supervision and 62% never receiving services.

In a pilot program for high-risk youth was established. Expansion of the program included all youth on the detention calendar. 90% expressing interest and 48% starting the program. Successful completion rates were 70%. The program showed an 18% reentry rate versus 29% without services, with an average reentry delay of 44 days. Cultural responsiveness and trauma-informed care are a part of the program's success.

- Program Background:
 - The pretrial services initiative was developed in response to data showing that delinquency cases often do not access supportive services until after sentencing. Average pretrial periods from 2021–2022 lasted approximately 107 days, creating a gap between arrest and intervention.

- At the time of admission, 71% of youth at the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) were not under supervision, and 62% were never under supervision. Research indicates that receiving intervention as close to the problem behavior as possible leads to more positive outcomes, prompting the launch of a pilot program for the highest-risk population in April 2023.
- Initial results are promising, indicating 85% of youth engaged in pretrial programming, 60% successfully completed the program.
- These outcomes supported the program's expansion to a broader population.
- The pretrial services program now serves all youth released from the detention calendar who meet certain criteria.
- After one year of operation:
 - The court released 48% of youth (222), while 52% (244) were not released.
 - Among released youth:
 - 45% were eligible for services.
 - 45% had current services.
 - 10% met exclusion criteria.

Voluntary participation in the program has remained high, with 90% of referred youth expressing interest and 48% beginning the program. This included 30 youth and families who had not previously received services.

- While it is early to fully assess post-program outcomes, initial indicators are encouraging.

Youth participating in pretrial services returned to the JDC less frequently (18%) compared to those who did not participate (29%). Participants also remained in the community longer before returning (44 days vs. 21 days).

- These findings suggest the strategy is effective in slowing repeated concerning behaviors and supports access to non-system community services.
- Despite strong commitment, continued efforts are needed to maintain service availability and increase participation among referred youth. Next steps include.
 - Competitive procurement to expand the program to conditionally released populations.
 - Ongoing assessment of youth who are referred but do not engage.
 - Strengthened outreach to bolster participation.
 - Continued monitoring as the program becomes a fully integrated part of the juvenile justice system.
- Successful program completion may relate to disposition outcomes. Evaluation efforts are ongoing, and future data analysis will focus on identifying behavioral patterns and service effectiveness.
- Suggestions were made to explore whether youth who declined pretrial services were engaged with other support systems, such as Health and Human Services. This analysis will be considered in future evaluations.
- Community-specific data was requested and will be shared in upcoming communications.

25 minutes | Open Forum Information Sharing

Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair

- Recruitment and staffing update included the celebration of hiring 5 new officers from the Minneapolis Community Service Officer (CSO) program leading to the highest officer numbers since 2020; a total of 118.
 - The City of Minneapolis Police department now has over 600 sworn officers.
 - The CSO and Explorers programs will be expanding to strengthen recruitment pipeline.
 - The Metro Transit Police Department Homeless Action Team (HAT) is seeing continued growth.
 - HAT has been recognized both nationally and locally for its work and has been hailed as a model for law enforcement agencies hoping to find a better way to help this underserved community.
 - Updates from the Juvenile courts included the move of three pilot programs becoming permanent.
 - Auto Theft pilot transitioned to a full program, prioritizing early engagement.
 - Youth Connection Center shifting to new community-focused model.
 - Efficiencies have been integrated into in-person hearings improving outcomes.
- Judicial and Jail Population Management updates include:
 - All judge and referee positions have been filled.
 - Pilot program has started with goal of speeding up placement for individuals needing treatment, moving decision dates and expanding Electronic Home Monitoring to ease jail population numbers
 - Data review is ongoing to guide improvements and collaboration.
 - Youth Crisis Stabilization Program is launching on December 3 for high-risk youth.
 - Concerns remain about state hospital backlogs for civil commitments.
 - \$20M youth crisis center completed in 11 months, offering expanded services.
 - Government Center construction nearing completion of the Family Justice Center.
 - The Center will look to streamline family court operations and improve access.
 - Members acknowledged the nimbleness of the incident response team to the Annunciation School shooting and the ongoing support for victims, families and community.
 - Jail Population Oversight team is analyzing data and hopes to have the report available early next year.
 - Updates from the Minneapolis City Attorney's office included extreme risk protection orders being successfully implemented, Victim Witness Specialist Unit is fully staffed Leading to improved outcomes.

5 Wrap-up and next steps

Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair

- Members were invited to submit future agenda item suggestions to Director Heng.
- Next meeting is scheduled as a virtual meeting on November 13th at 8 AM.
- Meeting adjourned.