

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 23, 2025, | 12-1:30 pm

**Location:** Government Center – A Level Auditorium (lunch provided)

#### **Committee Members/Representatives Present**

Jeff Lunde, Eric Werner, Marion Greene, Chela Guzman-Wiegert, Mary Ellen Heng, Leah Kaiser, Lisa Bayley, Michael Rainville, Robin Wonsley, Kerry Meyer, Todd Fellman, Sara Gonsalves, Joseph Dotseth, Jason Nelson, Julie Maas-Kusske, Mike Radmer (Proxy - Mary Moriarty), Geoff Isaacman (Proxy - Michael Berger), John Freude (Proxy – Mayor Jacob Frey), Jennifer Cross (Proxy – Nikki Appelbaum), and Cptn Salah Ahmed.

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

Notes: Qulmie Abdi

#### **10 minutes | Roll Call & Old Business**

*Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair*

- Meeting called to order and a quorum was present.
- Roll call was taken.
- Approval of July, September, and November meeting minutes.
- 2025 Meeting Dates were announced:
  - 3/20, 5/22, 7/24, 10/2, 11/13 (*noting a virtual meeting due to conflicts*).
- Update - Regional County Youth Placement Working Group:
  - A report was provided on the progress of the Regional County Youth Placement initiative, noting strong interest and satisfactory development of a framework for continued care of youth with special needs.
  - Discussion highlighted the importance of inter-county collaboration to improve outcomes.

#### **5 minutes | New Business**

*Lead: Chief Werner, CJCC Co-Chair*

- Use of Force Training Center Experience Date Change:
  - An update was provided regarding efforts to reschedule the training session. The new proposed dates will be confirmed via email.
- Date adjustments aim to accommodate interested committee members.

## **5 minutes | Website Updates**

*Lead: Mary Ellen Heng, CJCC Director*

- The CJCC website has been updated to include only recent initiatives including meeting minutes and agenda files from 2024 and 2025.
- Historical data and files from prior to 2024 have been removed, but archived versions remain accessible upon request.
- Improvements aim to enhance accessibility and usability for members.

## **5 minutes | Data Update**

*Lead: Jackie Braun-Lewis, Head of Analytics, LSJ*

- Questions around definition differences between cleared offenses and charged offenses.
- A discussion centered on whether data should be reclassified or accompanied by clarifying notes to prevent misinterpretation.
- The committee was informed that the data set is intended as an internal committee tool, designed for use within the group rather than as a public-facing metric.
- Additional data discussions were to happen offline with the HCAO, and perhaps the establishment of a data subgroup to explore further data questions.

## **60 minutes | Strategic Planning & Bylaw Amendments**

*Lead: Susan Winterfeld Thompson, Senior Strategic Planning Consultant*

- Bylaw Amendments Discussion:
  - Recap on strategic planning process.
  - A quick overview of some of the Bylaw changes which included:
    - Extending a member vacancy fill time from 30 to 60 days.
    - Allowing alternate members to vote.
    - Emphasizing the importance of RSVP confirmations.
    - CJCC Vision and Mission statements now included in all future agendas.
- Goal Review and Sub-Committee Formation:
  - Goals:
    1. Promote solutions across systems to improve community safety.
    2. Increase system communication and collaboration across member entities.
    3. Reduce disparities and racial inequities within the justice system.
- Subcommittee Planning Focus:
  - Each subcommittee will outline specific short-term actions and long-term strategies to align with the overarching goals.
  - Discussions emphasized defining scope, expected outcomes, and the best practices for cross-collaboration.

- A structured timeline for reporting and assessment will be implemented to track each subcommittee's progress.
- Subcommittee Groups:
  - System-Involved Youth
  - Behavioral Health
  - Data and Information Sharing
  - Corrections Advisory Board (CAB)
- There was robust discussion around ensuring that each subcommittee has the appropriate resources and support to function effectively.
- Concerns were raised about subcommittees coordinating their efforts and maintaining clear communication channels with the larger group.
- A suggestion was subcommittees are to provide quarterly updates, detailing their initiatives, challenges, and proposed solutions.
- Discussed that there are already existing CJCC subcommittees. An example is the Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Leadership Team and the Jail Population Oversight Committee. Members were not aware that these were subcommittees. Leah Kaiser will present an update on the work of the CJBH Leadership Team at the March meeting.
- Examples of successful subcommittees from similar organizations were reviewed, providing a foundation for structuring the current initiatives.
- To increase participation, it was decided that any appointed departmental representative with relevant expertise could contribute to subcommittees, ensuring flexibility in attendance and decision-making.
- Future discussions will focus on refining the bylaws to accommodate the needs of subcommittees while maintaining efficiency and accountability.

## **5 minutes | Wrap-Up & Next Steps**

*Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair*

- Final remarks emphasized that the committee is progressing towards its intended goals.
- Members were encouraged to remain engaged and proactive in their respective roles.
- Next meeting agenda will be distributed via email.