

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** March 20, 2025, | 12-1:30 pm

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

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

Jeffrey Lunde, Chela Guzman-Wiegert, Mary Ellen Heng, Leah Kaiser, Lisa Bayley, Marion Greene, Mike Berger, Mary Moriarty, Michael Rainville, Kerry Meyer, Todd Fellman, Nikki Appelbaum, Joseph Dotseth, Julie Maas-Kusske (remote), David Bernstein (Proxy - Kristyn Anderson), Qannani Omar (Proxy – Robin Wonsley).

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*

- Call the meeting to order
- Roll Call
- January 2025 Meeting Minutes Approved

*Lead: Chief Werner, CJCC Vice-Chair*

- 3/31 and 4/1 Trainings updates
  - Details were shared about the upcoming training sessions scheduled for March 31 and April 1 at the North Metro Regional Public Safety Training Facility, scheduled 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM.

#### **10 minutes | New Business**

*Lead: Lisa Bayley, Director of Safe Communities*

- Regional Working Group Update
  - Director Bayley updated the committee on the regional initiative addressing youth mental health needs, focused on creating a continuum of care for youth experiencing complex mental health challenges.
  - Several counties are collaborating on this initiative and have submitted recommendations for forming a coordinating body.
  - A Legislative bill supporting this initiative is currently in process, with strong bipartisan interest.
  - Topics include the need for licensing reform, relief from moratoriums, and ensuring individuals with lived experience are included in the planning process.
  - Supporting materials are being prepared and will be shared after county board review.

### **30 minutes | Sub-Committee**

*Lead: Leah Kaiser, Director of Behavioral Health*

- Report out on the Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Leadership Group
  - A report was presented on the ongoing criminal justice and behavioral health integration initiative.
  - The presentation included a historical overview of the relationship between incarceration and mental health treatment, noting the systemic shifts that have led to current service gaps.
  - The initiative has used structured models to map key intervention points and identify where services or policies could be improved.
  - Key programs reviewed included:
    - Mental health screenings during jail bookings.
    - Embedded social workers across justice and healthcare systems.
    - A walk-in center offering withdrawal management, crisis stabilization, and outpatient services designed with trauma-informed care in mind.
  - The initiative has shown significant positive outcomes, including reduced rebooking rates and improved care coordination.
  - The approach emphasized building services first and aligning policy changes afterward, with funding and cross-agency collaboration driving long-term success.

### **40 minutes | Strategic Planning**

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

- Sub-committees
  - Discussed ongoing behavioral health efforts through structured updates to the committee and not forming a new subcommittee.
  - A proposal to create a data and information-sharing subcommittee was considered but ultimately not pursued due to concerns around scope, resource demands, and existing parallel efforts. Instead, the group emphasized use of transparent data and improving systemwide understanding through collaborative updates.
  - The oversight group related to jail population management will begin providing periodic updates to the committee to ensure alignment and awareness.
  - Broader discussions were held around enhancing coordination on state and federal policy advocacy.
  - The group expressed interest in creating space during meetings for strategic conversations and alignment rather than launching additional subcommittees.

## **5 minutes | Wrap-up and next steps**

*Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair*

- The meeting concluded with agreement to prioritize strategic updates and collaborative conversations over creating new formal subgroups.
- Emphasis was placed on using existing structures effectively, reducing duplication, and continuing to support cross-agency alignment.
- Members affirmed the importance of shared understanding, trust, and transparency moving forward.