

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** July 31, 2025, | 12-1:30 pm

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

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

Jeff Lunde, Eric Werner, Mary Moriarty, Chela Guzman-Wiegert, Michael Berger, Leah Kaiser, Lisa Bayley, Michael Rainville, Dawanna Witt, Kerry Meyer, Todd Fellman, Hilary Caligiuri, Sara Gonsalves, Nikki Appelbaum, Mary Ellen Heng, Joeseeph Dotseth, David Bernstein (designee), Qannani Omar (designee), Eli Farhat (designee), Deputy Chief Emily Olson (designee).

Staff: Jackie Braun-Lewis, Susan Winterfield Thompson, Liz Mohr, Wanda Cannon.

Notes: Qulmie Abdi

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

*Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair*

- Meeting was called to order.
- Roll call was conducted, and quorum was present.
- May meeting minutes were approved.

#### **20 minutes | Legislative Update**

*Lead: Wanda Cannon, Legislative Coordinator, Hennepin County Intergovernmental Relations*

A legislative overview highlighting the complexities of the current budget process, describing a “three-team” negotiation model between departments was presented.

The 2025 legislative session was marked by:

- A near-even partisan split in the House.
- A slim majority in the Senate.
- A projected \$6 billion deficit.
- The Department of Health and Human Services will face the largest proposed cuts.
- A special session was called by the Governor due to unfinished legislative business.
- Despite these challenges, a bill supported by the CJCC received bipartisan support and legislative hearings.
- The bill aimed to:
  - Develop a new continuum of care for youth with complex needs.
  - Improve ongoing support for justice-involved youth and broader county-connected populations.
  - Address issues of coordination and collaboration among jurisdictions.
  - Ongoing efforts continue for alignment of resources and strategic support across multiple systems.

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

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

Senior Strategic Planning Consultant Winterfeld Thompson, reviewed CJCC strategic planning work over the last year including a review of:

- Initial and external challenges facing the CJCC.
- Clear communication across stakeholder groups.
- The Strategic Framework, reaffirming that members represent key jurisdictions with distinct but complementary roles.

Bylaws were updated, to include:

- A revised mission and vision.
- Clarified membership expectations.
- Formal roles and responsibilities for designees/proxies were defined leading to the ability to vote).

Subcommittee structure was reviewed, with emphasis on:

- Leveraging advisory board participation.
- Bridging existing behavioral health work, led by representatives like Director Kaiser from Behavioral Health.
- Information sharing and proactive agenda planning.
- CJCC group focus.
- Where opportunities exist to move policy “upstream” rather than reacting to crises.
- Voting in a new chair and new vice chair for 2026.

Final comments included:

- Reflection on CJCC’s potential for impact.
- The importance of relationship-building for legislative influence.
- A shared commitment to aligning collective strategies and resources across agencies and disciplines.

### **30 minutes | Open Forum Information Sharing**

*Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair*

The open forum at this meeting focused on juvenile supports for Summer 2025.

- Members shared updates and summer activities across jurisdictions. Topics included juvenile support programs, community engagement initiatives, and collaborative progress throughout the summer.
- A special emphasis was placed on the importance of relationship-building with youth during the summer months.

- Highlights included:
  - **Cross committee collaboration:** Law enforcement members shared about civilian committee members accompanying them on the beat. These experiences provided new perspectives and deepened mutual understanding across disciplines.
  - **University Avenue Safe and Strong initiative update:** Progress update regarding a joint initiative involving law enforcement, social service providers and local prosecutors/courts to address safety and community needs along the University Avenue Corridor in St. Paul.
  - **Jail wait-times:** Law enforcement provided an update on the status of jail processing during the summer.
  - **National recognition:** Law enforcement reported that the youth violence prevention task force received an award in Washington, D.C. The Task Force focused on identifying individuals at risk of involvement in violent cases, either as victims or suspects and providing mitigation strategies.
  - **Committee appreciation:** Officers were thanked for their service and commitment through the summer.
  - **Youth development report:** The committee received an update on initiatives aimed at improving skills through partnerships with multiple community organizations.
  - **Leadership transition:** Jodi Wentland has been appointed as the incoming Hennepin County Administrator succeeding David Hough.
  - **Year-in-review:** A reflection on the CJCC's accomplishments over the past year noted improvements in collaboration and bridge-building efforts.
  - **Hennepin Health Board (HHS) update:** An update was shared on anticipated changes to the HHS board structure. Of particular concern is funding, especially considering the community's commitment to healthcare as a core pillar.
  - **Funding challenges:** Additional County budgetary concerns were expressed, including the removal of funding from law enforcement's terrorist prevention initiatives.
  - The committee discussed the new open forum segment. Members indicated that it was helpful and engaging. All future feedback, comments, and suggestions are to be directed to Director Heng.

## 5 Wrap-up and next steps

*Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair*

- The Chair offered closing remarks and thanked participants.
- Members were encouraged to continue building on collaborative efforts and prepare for ongoing legislative and strategic developments.
- The meeting was adjourned.