

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 22, 2025 | 12-1:30 pm

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

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

Jeff Lunde, Eric Werner, Mary Moriarty, Dawanna Witt, Chela Guzman-Wiegert, Michael Berger, Leah Kaiser, Lisa Bayley, Michael Rainville, Robin Wonsley, Kerry Meyer, Todd Fellman, Hilary Caligiuri, Sara Gonsalves, Nikki Appelbaum, Jason Nelson, Julie Maas-Kusske, Eli Farhat (proxy), Cuddy Harris (proxy), John Freude (proxy), David Bernstein (proxy), Captain Salah Ahmed (proxy), Patrick Enderlein (presenter).

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

Notes: Qulmie Abdi

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

*Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair*

- Meeting was called to order at 12:06pm
- Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present
- March 2025 Meeting Minutes were approved.

#### **20 minutes | Updates**

*Lead: Chief Werner, CJCC Co-Chair*

Chief Werner reviewed the particulars of the Use Of Force Training that was held for committee members in April 2025 and asked for feedback; what worked well and opportunities for improvement. Members commented favorably on their participation at the training. Of note was;

- The philosophy and approach reinforced training
- The video scenarios made for an excellent experience
- Provided well rounded on the ground perspective
- A good representation of Hennepin County departments and a range of other agencies were present at the training.

Opportunities going forward would include evaluating the material for continued relevance and applicability and being able to offer this training opportunity to more partners.

*Lead: Lisa Bayley, Director of Safe Communities*

#### Regional Working Group Update

- Director Bayley shared updates from meetings with community members aimed at identifying common concerns and objectives.
- Feedback from community engagement emphasized the need for persistence in ongoing initiatives, cautioning against losing momentum.
- Moving forward the focus of the work will be on system involved youth, with complex issues.
- To that end, the working group has worked to establish the Regional Youth Services Board, whose aim will be to coordinate services across counties providing a continuum of services for all youth.
- Concerns were raised regarding public misconceptions about justice facilities, with some members noting the importance of inviting elected and legislative officials to tour the facilities to observe firsthand the rehabilitative focus of programs, countering outdated narratives of harsh detention environments.
- Enthusiasm was expressed about showcasing successful local programs to build broader understanding and support.
- The crisis Stabilization Center is slated for a late Summer, early fall opening and partners including legislators will be invited to tour the space before opening. Details were not yet available but will be circulated as construction concludes.
- Members noted that recent governmental changes, including facility closures, had impacted community service capacities.
- A robust discussion around plans for youth activities in Summer 2025 followed.

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

*Presenting: Pat Enderlein, Chief Deputy*

*Chela Guzman-Wiegert, Assistant County Administrator*

*Dawanna Witt, Sheriff*

- The jail population subcommittee was established from a board action hiring external consultants to do a systematic review.
- A historical review of jail populations identified a rise in levels beginning mid-2017, resulting in facilities exceeding functional capacity of 755.
- Members reported previous, disparate documentation systems across departments that hindered data aggregation and analysis.
- The four primary factors influencing jail population were discussed:
  - Bookings
  - Pretrial Release
  - Length of Stay
  - Alternatives to Detention
- The formation of the integrated Public Safety Data Network provided significant improvement towards providing a centralized repository for more informed decision-making.

- Emphasis was placed on evaluating detainees for eligibility for non-custodial penalties and addressing the disproportionate impact of monetary bail on economically disadvantaged individuals.
- In October 2024, the Department of Corrections issued a conditional license order reducing the functional capacity of the jail to 614.
- This reduction in capacity has led the subcommittee in cooperation with partners across the system to relook at reductions that can be made within the jail population.

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

*Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair*

- The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of commitments to:
  - Ongoing monitoring of jail population metrics.
  - Expansion of community-based alternatives to detention.
  - Enhancement of cross-departmental data-sharing protocols.
  - Continued engagement with community stakeholders and legislative partners.

The July meeting agenda will include progress updates and further evaluation of the impact of implemented strategies as well as the Strategic Planning follow up that was not covered at the May meeting due to time constraints.