

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2021, 8-9:30 am

Location: Virtual Meeting in Microsoft Teams

Meeting Called By Jill Hermanutz

Facilitator

Steve Fletcher

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Toddrick Barnette, Tim Busse, Phillipe Cunningham, Irene Fernando, Steve Fletcher, Tamara Garcia, Juan Hoyos, David Hutchinson, Leah Kaiser, Sarah Lindahl-Pfieffer, and Mark Thompson

Staff: Jill Hermanutz

Notes: Cherie Nelson

Agenda Topics

Introduction, updates & approval of meeting minutes

Lead: Vice Chair Steve Fletcher

- Introductions & welcome new members

Steve Fletcher welcomed attendees, noting that Chair Catherine Johnson was unable to attend the meeting.

- Approval of May 2021 meeting minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 2021 meeting was made and seconded. With no objections noted, the minutes were approved.

10 minutes | Future CJCC Meetings; location – hybrid/virtual/in-person discussion

Lead: Vice Chair Steve Fletcher

Steve Fletcher indicated that he hoped future meetings could soon be held in person. Jodie Wierimaa said that County Administration was working on recommendations for return to work, including one regarding group meeting sizes and necessary space that might help inform if this group could return to in person meetings.

It was noted that recent meetings have typically been held at Hennepin County Government Center; historically meetings have moved to alternate locations around the county. Commissioner Fernando suggested future meetings be held on the lowest level possible at the Government Center that had larger space and technology capacity to allow remote attendance / participation.

15 minutes | Juvenile Assessment & Triage Updates/JDC Social Worker Pilot

Lead: Leah Kaiser, Senior Department Administrator, Human Services & Jill Hermanutz, CJCC Director

Jill Hermanutz provided a brief update, noting the seven strategies that had been shared with CJCC last November. Following a year long process to develop a strategic framework with community input, the project was in the implementation planning phase moving forward with a pilot project through the

Juvenile Detention Center. The pilot would focus on children coming into the Juvenile Detention Center repeatedly yet soon to be released per a risk assessment score. Participants would be identified during the intake process through a set of criterion, identifying service needs leading to a referral to Human Services in order to connect with a social worker upon release to the community. Funding was only available through the end of the year through Public Safety Administration and a sustainable funding source was being sought. The program was voluntary and either the child or parent(s) could decide not to participate. The goals and outcomes were to create an access point for high need children to receive access to services and support prior to the court case being resolved. The end goal was for the child not to return to the JDC.

There was robust community engagement framework that helped draft and provide feedback, including the Community Corrections Coalition. Listening sessions were held with youth and adult groups with lived experience.

Judge Hoyos thanked everyone for their effort on this program. Steve Fletcher added his appreciation and mentioned a group that had gone to Denver prior to COVID-19 to learn about their system; he said he was happy to see this moving forward.

20 minutes | Hennepin County response planning – Gun Violence

Lead: Jodie Wierimaa, Public Safety & Justice Business Information Officer

Jodie Wierimaa shared data from the off-ramp project that illustrated the Twin Cities' murder rate from 1990-2020 and non-fatal shootings from 2014-2020. She noted the project was part of the Violence Project in St. Paul and that a wealth of data was available at their website. Use of ARP funds has been made available to counties to address this issue.

Jodie outlined a BAR brought forward in June at the request of Hennepin County Commissioners that was passed and authorized the use of \$5 million in recovery act funding to reduce, mitigate and prevent gun violence. She outlined the planned effort:

- This will be a joint Public Safety, Health and Human Services initiative co-led by Michael Herzing and Jodie Wierimaa, with both short- and long-term strategies.
- It will take a holistic approach, some would say a public health approach, to identify drivers, address risk and protective factors, adopt evidence-based policies and implement effective strategies.
- Efforts will be made to get funds out and working immediately.
- Immediate strategies included funding Hennepin Healthcare's Next Step Program, releasing a competitive process for immediate interventions, and coordinating efforts with the Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention, recognizing that the city has been at this work for years.
- Reports will be shared bi-weekly with the Board and County Administration, with a data lake created to share data across systems.
- Questions / suggestions can be directed to Michael and Jodie.

Mark Thompson added this would be a multi-pronged approach to intervene and interrupt violence, and that additional positions had been requested for the Sheriff's Office. He said there was currently a severe shortage of law enforcement officers and recruiting was difficult. Chief Martin mentioned additional resources needed, including latent print examiners and firearm examiners for the backlog of cases. She added that the Criminal Intelligence Division needs more analysts, not only at the Sheriff's Office, but also at many law enforcement agencies in the county.

35 minutes | 911 Mental Health Task Force Update

Lead: Leah Kaiser, Senior Department Administrator, Human Services & Jill Hermanutz, CJCC Director

Leah Kaiser said that in December 2020 Commissioner Fernando had brought forward a BAR to launch a 911 Mental Health Task Force, bringing experts and involved parties together to review the current system and improve the 911 response for those living with mental health issues. She noted:

- The task force was co-chaired by Leah Kaiser and Jill Hermanutz and reviewed the design of models, possible data improvements, governance, funding, sustainable funding resources.
- Initially a core group of subject matter experts within the system was included from fire, police, 911 dispatch, EMS, Human Services, and public health experts to get started.
- The scope of the project was defined, including what problems were they trying to address, what were deliverables and what was the timetable to achieve.
- The project was divided into specific areas of focus, including the current system, national best practices, community engagement and recommendations.

Jill Hermanutz said the first part of focus for the task force sought a deep understanding of the current system, which was complex with many moving parts. They created a process map outlining actions when someone called 911, from the call to disposition, and mapped out who governed the actions, including federal laws, municipalities, or agency policies. Data was then reviewed to understand where the data was housed, what data was available and who owned the data. Approvals to share data were granted from the Sheriff's Office and (data) moved from CAD to the public safety data lake to analyze at an operation level. This required integration across complex systems to fully understand the system and impact of decisions, to use data to understand what might be possible and understand what the outcomes might be, and to track trends and impact of changes.

Jill reported that in partnership with the Hennepin University Partnership (HUP), an application had been submitted for a National Science Foundation planning grant, along with an implementation grant. The hope would be to change some parts of the 911 systems with augmented intelligence and creation of algorithms to better understand calls for service and send appropriate responders. The task force will be notified if awarded the grant in October.

Leah shared that from understanding the current system, the task force moved on to the national discussion that was occurring and reached out across the country, looking at more than 20 models across 15 cities, how they were funded, what they were achieving and what citizens thought of the system. The task force was interested in developing a closer partnership with Denver where mental health professionals were paired with paramedics. A third area was the variety of scenarios to bring to the community, which is very diverse in Hennepin County. Work began on plans for community engagement with direct and indirect stakeholders. Plans were being developed to survey 911 callers via a text or follow-up email to try and understand if their needs were met and what could have been done to improve the response.

Jill thanked the Sheriff's Office for sharing CAD data and their involvement in refining that data. She said that next steps include identifying gaps and incremental pictures to identify when to deploy a specifically designed behavioral health response team. Commissioner Fernando highlighted that this was multijurisdictional; Jill added that this was complex involving multiple cities with different needs and different deployment resources. Leah noted the governance and policy involved and the need to be innovative at the policy level requiring crossover between Public Safety and Human Services.

Councilmember Fletcher mentioned a recent news article on Minneapolis' program and offered to share links on their pilot program and report back once this has been in the field for a few months.

The meeting adjourned and members were asked to send any future agenda items to Catherine Johnson or Jill Hermanutz.

Check website for updates

Time 9:02 | Agenda topic *Adjournment*

- Next CJCC Meeting is September 23, 2021

Relevant Links or Resources

[Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Website](#)