

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2021, 8-9:30 am

Location: Virtual Meeting in Microsoft Teams

Meeting Called By Jill Hermanutz
Facilitator Catherine Johnson

Committee Members Present:

Toddrick Barnette, Kassius Benson, Matt Clark, Phillippe Cunningham, Irene Fernando, Michael Freeman, Tamara Garcia, Juan Hoyos, Catherine Johnson, Sarah Lindahl-Pfieffer, Jeff Lunde, Julie Maas-Kusske, Jim Rowader, Rolf Sponheim, Mark Thompson, Rolf Sponheim, Steve Fletcher and Eric Werner
Staff: Jill Hermanutz & Diana Chaman Salas
Notes: Cherie Nelson

Agenda Topics

15 minutes | Introduction, updates & approval of meeting minutes

Lead: Chair Catherine Johnson

- Introductions & welcome new members

Catherine Johnson welcomed new members and members in new roles: Kassius Benson, Commissioner Irene Fernando, Commissioner Jeff Lunde, Councilmember Phillippe Cunningham. She also formally welcomed Diana Chaman-Salas in her new role supporting strategic planning and community engagement efforts for the CJCC.

- Recommendations to fill vacant suburban city mayor spot

Catherine Johnson noted the current vacancy on CJCC for a new suburban mayor, which would be appointed by the Hennepin County Board. She asked for recommendations for the opening and the following recommendations were offered:

- Mike Elliott, Mayor of Brooklyn Center
- Tim Busse, Mayor of Bloomington

The recommendations will be referred on to the Board for a decision and formal appointment.

- Brief update: CJCC Steering Committee

Catherine provided an update from the Steering Committee, noting good momentum following the strategic planning meeting with plans to move forward on the goals adopted. She said the

next meeting of the group was planned for February 18 to solidify action items with a return to CJCC to provide a briefing scheduled for the March meeting.

- Approval of November 2020 meeting minutes
Motion to approve the minutes from the November 2020 meeting was made and seconded. With no objections noted, the minutes were approved.
- Check CJCC website for agendas and minutes

75 minutes | Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Initiative Update

Leads: Leah Kaiser, Hennepin County Human Services Department Administrator

Leah Kaiser reviewed the five-year report related to the Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Initiative work that was distributed with the agenda. The report describes accomplishments and plans for next steps. Leah described that the efforts had started through the CJCC as public safety partners began noting the patterns on who they were seeing in jail, the courts and on probation; these were recognized as people living with mental illnesses or substance abuse. This experience of individuals cycling through these venues without seeing the desired outcomes or reduced recidivism was brought to the CJCC.

At the same time, Health & Human Services (HHS) had undertaken a deep dive into what was driving their costs and discovered the same thing; individuals with mental illnesses or substance use disorder were cycling through hospital systems and the department was not seeing the outcomes they hoped to achieve. As a result, a collaboration between HHS and the Public Safety lines of business was initiated, and the Board was engaged in the discussion. It was felt that there were lots of assets in Hennepin County, but they were not being leveraged in a way that maximized resources for the greatest good for residents. Leah noted that she was asked to chair the Behavioral Health Initiative formed to lead this collaboration.

Leah described the intense process at the beginning of the project that brought together senior staff from across many sectors. They first created a complex process map of what the criminal justice system looked like. This was completed in 2014 and identified what was working well and what was not, where there were different touch points and where changes could be made. After research, a national model was adopted, the Sequential Intercept Model developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). This model mapped out five interception points where local jurisdictions could focus energy to advance change. The group found the county's system was fragmented and needed focused attention on early identification and prevention. The group also realized that it would be best and most cost-effective with individuals being better served if not touching the criminal justice system at all. In order to do this, a good deal of capacity building had to be done. A two-prong approach was decided upon, focusing on two main categories: policy level changes and service level changes.

Leah highlighted milestones and noted this was not an area where system reform could be carried out by one agency. More likely this would fail and create more problems for the

individuals the changes sought to help while creating problems for other agencies. She noted key leadership that came together, including from both the Minneapolis City Attorney's Office & Hennepin County Attorney's Office.

It became clear from talking to police officers, that providing an alternative for individuals to the options of jail or hospitals was key, resulting in 1800 Chicago. Individuals can stay up to 10 days with staff working in an integrated way and including mental health and substance abuse practitioners along with medical staff. This was piloted in 2018 and is now fully operational. Currently, usage is not as high as desired. Discussion on how to create better utilization of 1800 Chicago and maximize service ensued. One barrier noted was the limited drop off hours; however, additional resources with associated costs cannot be added to provide 24/7 hours until there is expanded use. It was noted that the medical staff are emergency department providers, including paramedics and advanced practitioners from HCMC's emergency room. A shortcoming in marketing was noted as well. Chief Judge Barnette suggested discussing how to redirect individuals with low level offenses, possibly through a court order. Plans to improve and increase communication with law enforcement was noted as another strategy.

Emergency response and intervention at the point of the 911 call was discussed, with different alignment of services and responses to calls received as possible changes. The challenges of developing countywide response policies were noted and embedded social workers both in 911 and with law enforcement response were discussed.

The group further discussed identifying mental health as a factor, including additional training and changes in intake processes. Leah noted that there is always room for improvement and outlined that HCMC has a medical team at the jail with a screening process conducted by a psychiatric nurse. There is also an embedded social worker in booking and diversion is offered to those who meet set criteria. Efforts are made to avoid switching psychotropic medication that individuals have already been prescribed while they are in custody.

It was noted that developing a task force to create best practices / policies for 911 dispatch in conjunction with the multiple municipalities involved might be the most effective way to move toward a consistent countywide response.

Attendees thanked Leah for all her work as they reflected on all the changes made in the system.

Time 9:27 | Agenda topic Adjournment

- Next CJCC Meeting is March 25, 2021

Relevant Links or Resources

[Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Website](#)