

**MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY-CITY OF LINCOLN JUSTICE COUNCIL
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024 AT 7:30 A.M.
605 S. 10TH STREET, LINCOLN, NE
ROOM 137A**

Advance public notice of the meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board, posted on the Lancaster County, Nebraska website, emailed to the media on January 31, 2024, and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on January 29, 2024.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Condon, County Attorney; Scott Etherton, Mental Health Crisis Center Director; Kristi Egger, Public Defender; Jeff Curry, Chief Probation Officer, Adult Probation; Brad Johnson, Corrections Director; Yohance Christie, City Attorney; Bennie Shobe, City Council Member; Jeff Kilpatrick, Community Corrections Director; Michon Morrow, Lincoln Police Department Acting Chief; Terry Wagner, Sheriff; and Hassan Ramzah, UNL Police Chief

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Rick Vest, County Commissioner; Matt Schulte, County Commissioner; Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director; Thomas Duden, City Council Member; and Mario Scalora, UNL Public Policy Center

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Patrick Kreifels, Region V Systems; Brian Jackson, Lincoln Police Department; Landon Parks, Community Corrections Assistant Director; Tom Randa, Good Neighbor Center Director; Dean Rohwer, Community Corrections Program Manager; Natalya Young, St. Monica's Home Director; David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Lynne Albin, District Court Administrator; Julie Fisher-Erickson, Lutheran Family Services Director; Ed Thornbrugh, The Bridge Director; Jason Witmer and Spike Eickholt, Government Liaisons, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Ken Prey, Jail Administrator; and Maria Hatfield, Corrections Reentry Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT: Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office; Lesley Ahrens, Human Services Quality Assurance Coordinator; Wendy Baumeister, Region V Systems; Judy Kelly, Oscar Sinclair, and Rahel Mulcahy, Justice in Action representatives

Johnson opened the meeting at 7:30 a.m. and announced the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. Copies of meeting materials were made available.

AGENDA ITEM

1) APPROVAL OF JUSTICE COUNCIL MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2023

MOTION: Shobe moved and Curry seconded approval of the November 3, 2023 minutes. Curry, Kilpatrick, Morrow, Egger, Ramzah, Shobe, Wagner, and Johnson voted yes. Christie, Condon, Etherton, Hoyle, Scalora, Alexander, Schulte, and Vest were absent. Motion carried 8-0.

2) CORRECTIONS UPDATE – Brad Johnson, Corrections Director

A. Population Statistics and Charts

Johnson reviewed jail statistics for the quarter (see agenda packet). The average daily population was 681, which was 102.4% of the department's operational capacity. He noted the number of individuals held based on the status of their charges decreased, except for County-sentenced

felonies and City-sentenced misdemeanors. The percentage of blacks at the jail has decreased, though minority populations continue to be overrepresented in the jail.

The current wait time for a bed at the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) is 55 days.

Johnson introduced Maria Hatfield, Jail Administrator, who is working on expanding the jail's reentry work.

3) COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS UPDATE – Jeff Kilpatrick, Community Corrections Director

Kilpatrick gave a PowerPoint presentation (see agenda packet). He discussed the public safety assessment (PSA) tool, noting how it uses data to assist in the prediction of pretrial outcomes for individuals based on their current charges, criminal history, and age. This data is used by the judges in determining pretrial release conditions.

Kilpatrick said Community Corrections plans to conduct an assessment on everyone who is booked into the jail. Parks added he is working with Information Services (IS) and the jail to get the application into the system where the data is stored. The defense attorney, prosecuting attorney, and judge each get a copy of the results.

Christie asked if Probation has a similar risk tool. Curry answered yes, though Probation will not see any of the above individuals until after sentencing, which is not early enough to help with the PSA tool. Parks added other screenings such as a mental health screening and other diversion programs and tools will be used in conjunction with the PSA tool.

4) PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS UPDATE – Landon Parks, Assistant Director, Lancaster County Community Corrections, and Jeff Curry, Chief Probation Officer, State of Nebraska

Parks reviewed the problem-solving court's drug court including graduation numbers, jail remands, drug sanctions, and court sanctions (see agenda packet).

Curry stated the Veterans Court would like to expand the program's eligibility.

DUI Court is currently at capacity with eight upcoming graduates in March.

5) STEPPING UP INITIATIVE – Wendy Baumeister, Stepping Up Coordinator, Region V Systems

Baumeister gave a PowerPoint presentation (Exhibit 1). The initiative looks at all the programs available and identifies if services are adapting and being used correctly.

6) AGENCY AND ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

A. Courts

No report given.

B. City Attorney

No report given.

C. County Attorney

Condon said he is working with the jail, Probation, and Community Corrections to reduce the jail population and get people the services they need.

D. Public Defender

Egger stated the warrant amnesty day in December was a big success. She suggested having the next warrant amnesty day in conjunction with Project Connect. She added having an interpreter for those days would be helpful. Warrant amnesty day is for misdemeanor warrants only.

E. Law Enforcement

Hassan reported the UNL Police Department has a new software program for language translation, which allows the dispatchers to communicate back and forth with the caller. The program also allows individuals to forward photos and to share their Global Positioning System (GPS) location.

Morrow said the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) started an alternate response program with CenterPointe for mental health service calls. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released to find a partner organization to assist with ongoing calls for mental health services.

Wagner discussed the warrant task force and individuals who assist with serving warrants, noting that felony warrants have increased.

Parks asked what percentage of the warrants are for individuals trying to escape court. Wagner answered he thought the warrants served are for individuals actively avoiding law enforcement.

F. Probation

No report given.

G. Service Providers

Fisher-Erickson said Lutheran Family Services is recruiting and filling staffing positions. They have also resumed their open access program for mental health services.

Young reported St. Monica's has a project under construction at the Victory Park campus for long-term treatment beds. The beds are estimated to be open by May 1.

Etherton stated the Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC) had 561 admissions last year. Sixteen individuals were admitted to the LRC and 18 additional individuals were stabilized at the MHCC and released to a lower care level.

Egger asked what the average cost for a person is to stay at the MHCC. Etherton estimated it costs between \$800-850 per day.

Kreifels said Region V will be facilitating a summit concerning the opioid settlement funds received in Nebraska. Anyone interested in attending should contact him to register.

H. Other Community Partners

No report given

7) NEXT MEETING – FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024

Informational only.

8) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Submitted by

Leslie Brestel
County Clerk's Office

STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

Wendy Baumeister, PsyD

STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

The Stepping Up initiative supports local jurisdictions in establishing and reaching measurable goals that demonstrate reduced prevalence of serious mental illness across the justice system. Counties have the freedom to develop goals based upon identified needs.

Approximately 850 counties across the United States have signed a Stepping Up Resolution

Open sharing between counties (Not recreating the wheel)

Networking across the United States

STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

**November 2023-Lancaster County
Commissioners signed resolution with Region V**

Goal is to incorporate the other 15 counties

WHY IS STEPPING UP IMPORTANT

In 2023, 9384 individuals were booked into Lancaster County Jail.

According to a 2017 Department of Justice Report, approximately 37% in prison have a history of mental health struggles. In 2023, preliminary results indicate that approximately 37% of individuals booked into Lancaster County Jail screened positive for a mental health referral

WHY IS STEPPING UP IMPORTANT

Jails were not meant to be treatment facilities

Jail can exacerbate symptoms, increasing stress and symptomology for individuals living with mental illness

Short-term solution to the long-term issue

Increased workload for correction officers

Increased risk for individuals and correctional staff

Resources diverted to safely maintain individuals living with mental illness in the correctional system

FOUR KEY MEASURES

1-Reduce the number of people with mental illnesses booked into jail

Work with law enforcement and community providers to identify and utilize alternatives to an arrest

Mental Health Assessment

Detox

Housing

Therapy/Treatment

Response Teams

Community Resources

FOUR KEY MEASURES

2-Increase connections to treatment

Opportunity to identify needs, build engagement and collaboration

Utilize services within the jail

Smooth transition to community providers

Connect with supports such as housing, transportation, therapy, medication management

FOUR KEY MEASURES

3-Reduce the length of time people with mental illnesses spend in jail

Restorative Mindset

Assessments

Referrals

Alternatives to incarceration

FOUR KEY MEASURES

4-Reduce recidivism

Connect individuals with the right service at the right time and the right place

Identify and decrease barriers to address individual's needs

Increase communication, coordination and collaboration

WHAT WILL STEPPING UP LOOK LIKE FOR REGION V?

Data collection and analysis to determine strengths, needs, gaps and opportunities

Set target goals

Interventions

Assess

Examples

- Enhancing services to existing programs
- Developing a service that is missing
- Improve collaboration and communication
- Streamline processes

Wendy Baumeister, PsyD
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