

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY-CITY OF LINCOLN JUSTICE COUNCIL
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023 AT 7:30 A.M.
605 S. 10TH STREET, LINCOLN, NE
ROOM 137A

Advanced public notice of the meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board, and the Lancaster County, Nebraska website and emailed to media on February 1, 2023, and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on January 30, 2023.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Vest, Matt Schulte, County Commissioners; Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director; Kristi Egger, Public Defender; Pat Condon, County Attorney; Scott Etherton, Mental Health Crisis Center Director; and Jeff Curry, Chief Probation Officer, Adult Probation; Brad Johnson, Corrections Director; Hassan Ramzah, UNL Police Chief; and Bennie Shobe, Lincoln City Council

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Steven Wesley, Youth Services Center Director; Teresa Ewins, Lincoln Police Department Chief; Yohance Christie, City Attorney; Terry Wagner, Sheriff; Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director; Mario Scalora, UNL Public Policy Center

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Spike Eickholt, Government Liaison, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Landon Parks, Community Corrections Assistant Director; Gregg Harre, Youth Services Center Administrator; Jessica Kerkhofs, Chief Assistant City Attorney; Amanda Phillips, District Court Administrator; Patrick Kriefels, Region V Systems; Chris Turner, Deputy County Attorney; Ben Houchin, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Julie Fischer-Erickson, Lutheran Family Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Adam Jorgenson, State of Nebraska Statewide Problem-Solving Court Director; Mindy Millan-Groves, State of Nebraska Problem-Solving Court Coordinator; Dave Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; and Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office

Commissioner Vest opened the meeting at 7:32 a.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. Copies of meeting materials were also available.

AGENDA ITEM

1) APPROVAL OF JUSTICE COUNCIL MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2022

MOTION: Vest moved and K Etherton seconded approval of the November 4, 2022 meeting minutes. Condon, Curry, K Etherton, Johnson, Egger, Ramzah, Shobe, Schulte and Vest voted yes. Christie, Ewins, S Etherton, Hoyle, Scalora, Wagner, and Wesley were absent. Motion carried 9-0.

2) ACTION ITEM: UPDATED BYLAWS

Derbin noted the bylaws need to be amended to include the voting members as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City. Derbin reviewed the proposed changes to the

bylaws (see agenda packet).

MOTION: K Etherton moved and Condon seconded approval of updated bylaws. Condon, Curry, K Etherton, Johnson, Egger, Ramzah, Shobe, Schulte and Vest voted yes. Christie, Ewins, S Etherton, Hoyle, Scalora, Wagner, and Wesley were absent. Motion carried 9-0.

3) ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

MOTION: Shobe moved and K Etherton seconded to nominate Vest as Chair of the Justice Council.

MOTION: Johnson and K Etherton seconded to nominate Schulte as Vice Chair of the Justice Council.

ROLL CALL: Condon, Curry, K Etherton, Johnson, Egger, Ramzah, Shobe, Schulte and Vest voted yes. Christie, Ewins, S Etherton, Hoyle, Scalora, Wagner, and Wesley were absent. Motion carried 9-0.

4) BOARD OF CORRECTIONS – Brad Johnson, Corrections Director

A. POPULATION STATISTICS AND CHARTS

Johnson gave a presentation (see agenda packet).

Johnson noted the average daily population increased 7% from last year, which is 98.7% of the department's operational capacity. He noted the jail population is not dropping as anticipated. The length of stay for individuals is getting longer.

Vest asked Condon if he had any ideas as to why the jail population is as it is. Condon responded he does not know, though it would be interesting to see data on the charges.

Regarding Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) waiting days, Johnson said the average is lower than in previous years. The jail has been working with the LRC to reduce the wait time by hosting meetings, having LRC staff come into the jail and triage individuals. Additionally, Community Corrections works with LRC staff on discharge plans. On average, there are 10 or more individuals at the jail waiting to be admitted to the LRC.

5) COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS UPDATE – Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director

A. NATIONAL NETWORK OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCILS (NNCJCC) MEMBERSHIP

K Etherton reported the NNCJCC application was received and accepted.

B. 2023 NNCJCC ANNUAL MEETING, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, JUNE 14-16, 2023

Those interested in attending the conference should let K Etherton know.

C. CRIMINAL JUSTICE-MENTAL HEALTH LEARNING SITES PROGRAM

K Etherton stated the County Board of Commissioners approved the application for Community Corrections to become a criminal justice mental health learning site.

Parks and K Etherton said the Treatment Diversion program has four individuals graduating on February 8. Treatment Diversion is available to individuals with various Felony IV charges.

6) **VETERANS COURT AND DUI COURT DATA** – Jeff Curry, Chief Probation Officer, and Adam Jorgensen, Statewide Problem-Solving Court Director, State of Nebraska

Curry gave a presentation (Exhibit 1).

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court

Curry stated DUI Court, which is a pilot program, started 20 months ago. Program participants have Felony III or Felony IV charges and spend between 18-24 months in the program. There are currently 34 individuals in the program. Three participants have graduated with five more scheduled to graduate in April. For those who graduate, there is no 15-year driver's license revocation and the charges can be reduced to a misdemeanor. Participants will be drug tested twice daily during the first four phases of the program. Participate costs for the program include a \$27 per month fee, a \$20 initial application fee, and drug testing fee. Financial assistance and incentives are available for program participants. Two participants have been terminated. There is a waiting list for the program.

Shobe inquired how people find out about DUI Court. Curry answered it is posted on websites as well as being spread by word of mouth through attorneys or current program participants.

Johnson said DUI Court participants would be in jail if it were not for the program.

Houchin asked what happens if an individual in the program tests positive for drugs. Curry said the first offense results in a 12 hour stay at the Bridge Behavioral Health. After the first offense, the individual is jailed for up to 48 hours. If an individual fails to report for testing, their jail bond is revoked and a warrant is issued. Community Corrections drug technicians will call individuals with reminders to complete drug testing prior to the close of drug testing.

Veterans Court

Curry reported the program started in June 2017. To date, 20 participants have graduated. There are currently eight individuals in the program, with a program limit of 15 participants at one time. Condon added there is background work being conducted to open up the criteria for program eligibility as currently participants must be fully service connected. Participating in Veterans Court does not affect their veteran benefits.

7) AGENCY AND ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

A. Courts

Phillips stated two individuals made it out of committee to fill former Judge Otte's spot in District Court.

B. City Attorney

Kerkhofs said there needs to be improvements on how Night Court is conducted as Night Court attendance has drastically decreased. Egger agreed and added she would like to see more options for what cases can be conducted during Night Court. A discussion with attorneys and the courts will be held at a later date.

C. County Attorney

Turner reported Richard Weiner, University of Nebraska-Lincoln psychology professor, has been working with juvenile court data and is looking at similar data trends with the adult courts.

D. Public Defender

Egger said her office is focusing on working with the problem-solving courts and treatment programs. She does not intend to overload on serious felony cases which may result in the department sending smaller cases out to contract attorneys.

E. Law Enforcement

Hassan and Houchin discussed continued hiring issues and the value of the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) training.

F. Probation

No updates were given.

G. Service Providers

S Etherton and Kreifels discussed the difficulties of getting individuals admitted to the LRC.

Kreifels said there is a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a crisis stabilization and respite program which will have priority placement for those in law enforcement, the jail, and the Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC). He added there is a reduction of \$10,300,000 in State funds that will impact the Region V budget.

Fisher-Erickson reported Lutheran Family Services is partnering with Sarpy County to apply for a grant for their problem-solving courts. They are also applying for a grant to expand the Sarpy and Douglas County's drug courts.

H. Other Community Partners

No updates were given.

OTHER BUSINESS

K Etherton announced she will be retiring later in February.

8) NEXT MEETING – FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

Informational only.

9) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

Submitted by,

Leslie Brestel
County Clerk's Office

DUI Court

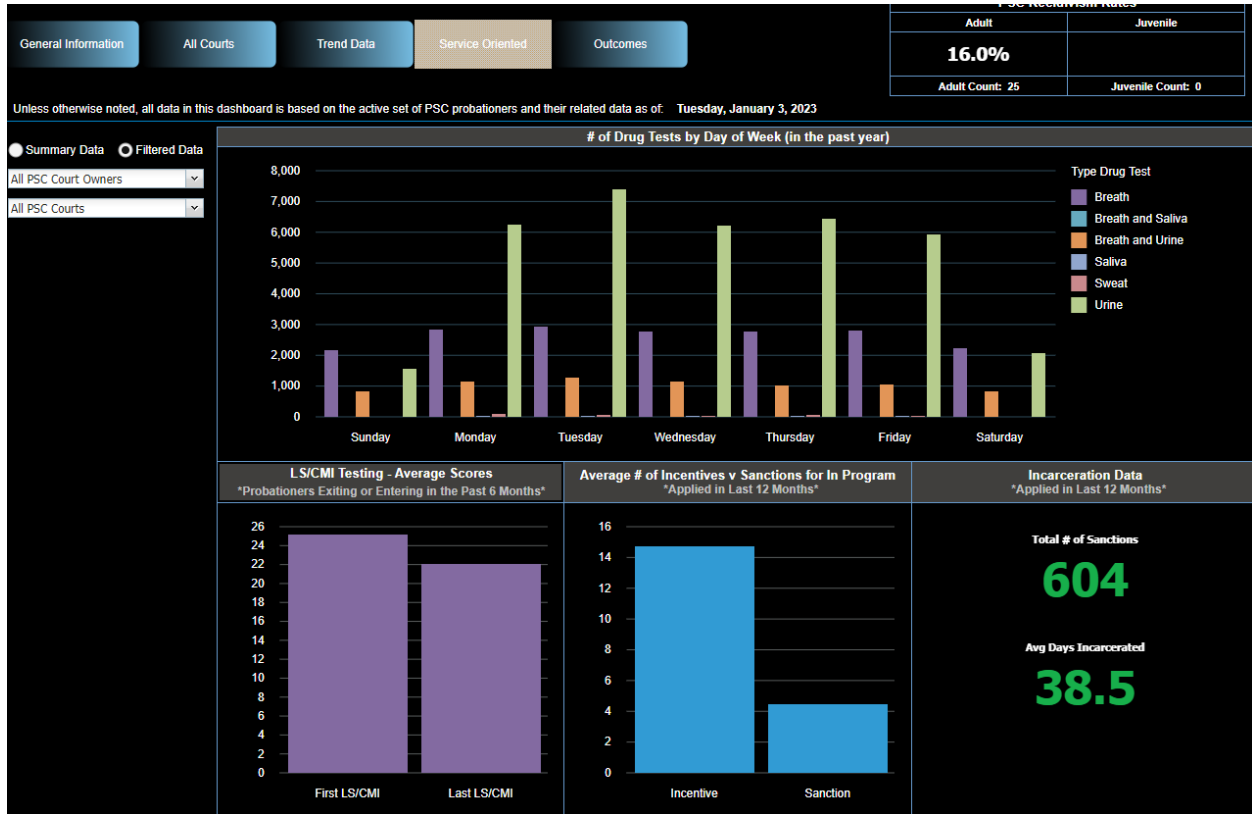
General Information



Trend Data



Service Oriented:



Veterans Court

General Information



Trend Data:



Service Oriented:

