

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY-CITY OF LINCOLN JUSTICE COUNCIL
CITY-COUNTY BUILDING, ROOM 112
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021
7:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

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 May 5, 2021 and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on May 3, 2021.

A copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act was available on the wall at the back of the room.

PRESENT: Rick Vest and Deb Schorr, County Commissioners; Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director; Dave Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Jeff Curry, Chief Probation Officer, Adult Probation; Jeff Reed, Shannon Morgan, Probation Officers, Adult Probation; Joe Nigro, Public Defender; Spike Eickholt, Government Liaison, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Maury Sparger, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police; Brian Jackson, Interim Chief, Lincoln Police Department; Yohance Christie, City Attorney; Jessica Kerkhofs, Chief Assistant City Attorney; Brad Johnson, Corrections Director; Melissa Hood, Youth Services Center Interim Director, Mary Barry-Magsamen, Chief Executive Officer, St. Monica's; Jane Raybould, Lincoln City Council; Bruce Prenda, Chief Deputy County Attorney; Pat Condon, County Attorney; Scott Etherton, Mental Health Crisis Center Director; Landon Parks, Community Corrections; C.J. Johnson, Regional Administrator, Region V Systems; Brenda Fisher, Corrections Programs Director; Tammy Stevenson, Executive Director, The Bridge Behavioral Health; Julie Fisher-Erickson, Associate Vice President of Health and Wellness, Lutheran Family Services of NE, Inc.; and Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office

Commissioner Schorr opened the meeting at 7:30 a.m. Copies of meeting materials were made available.

Introductions were made by those in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM

1) APPROVAL OF JUSTICE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 5, 2021

MOTION: Brad Johnson moved and Kim Etherton seconded approval of the February 5, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Vest entered the meeting at 7:33 a.m.

Etherton reported the reentry program working with 18- to 30-year-old males is going well. Approximately 18 months of data on individuals was used to follow the recidivism rate. Seventeen individuals completed the program. Terminations from the program have been linked to individuals not following the program guidelines. Program participants have access to housing and services such

as case management and treatment, along with education and employment opportunities. She said the program has also now been opened to women. Case management staff is having trouble finding housing for women, so Etherton stated she wants to submit a grant for women's transitional housing. Additionally, there is programming and reentry case management in the jail related to this project.

Regarding individuals being released from the Regional Center, Etherton said Community Corrections staff is assisting jail staff and individuals with case management plans to facilitate better aftercare.

Etherton reported a Treatment Diversion program has been started with the County Attorney's Office. There are currently 10 individuals identified for the program with 5 having started the program. The program provides treatment and case management services to individuals with felonies reduced to misdemeanors that cycle through the system.

3) CORRECTIONS UPDATE – Brad Johnson, Lancaster County Corrections Director

A. Population Statistics and Charts

Brad Johnson reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (see agenda packet). He noted the average daily population numbers are lower than they had been prior to the pandemic. Programming and classes have started but are somewhat limited due to social distancing requirements. Visits are also limited due to space requirements. Johnson said the phone and visitation system contract is being renewed with phone calls being \$.10 per minute and free video visits. As part of the system, inmates will be issued their own tablets.

Regarding the restoration of competency, Brad Johnson said there are 53 individuals waiting to enter the Regional Center. Individuals in Lancaster County are waiting an average of 73 days to be admitted. CJ Johnson added the State issued a Request for Information (RFI) to providers to assist with competency restoration. Providers will need to participate in forensic trainings for competency restoration.

Concerning custodial sanctions and post release supervision, (PRS) Curry noted the number of individuals on PRS has dropped to just under 200 individuals. He stated Felony IIIA offenses have mandatory PRS while it is discretionary on Felony IV offenses.

Brad Johnson reported 150 inmates received their first round of COVID-19 vaccinations. He said with the population being as fluid as it is, he was hopeful the medical staff at the jail would be allowed to give vaccinations in a timelier fashion.

B. State IDs

No update was given.

4) WOMEN ARE SACRED PROGRAM – Mary Barry-Magsamen, Chief Executive Officer, St. Monica's

Barry-Magsamen reviewed the new program at the Indian Center (see agenda packet). It will serve 6 Native American families (women and children under age 10) and will focus on the Native American

culture and values to help build a support system for women in treatment. There will be a licensed childcare center onsite and there will be programming and trauma services for children. The program has a grant through the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children and Family Services that will help support evening and weekend work. Medicaid will be billed for the treatment portion of the program. There will not be outpatient services at this time. Additionally, she said to date 100% of the employees hired are Native American.

5) THE BRIDGE UPDATE – Tammy Stevenson, Executive Director, The Bridge

Stevenson reported the protective custody (detox) program is still reduced due to the pandemic. Currently there are 9 individuals in the program. When the COVID risk dial moves to green, the program will be opened fully. She noted protective custody numbers have been down over the last few years, and felt it is partially attributed to individuals entering the program voluntarily. She also felt the change in interactions between the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) and individuals that could be placed in involuntary protective custody have allowed for more people to enter programs voluntarily.

The voluntary withdrawal and substance use and mental respite programs are operating at full capacity. Medicaid and the Division of Behavioral Health has approved a higher level of service and higher reimbursements will be available. The new contract will allow The Bridge Behavioral Health to provide medicated services to clients with a wider array of medications and labs available for use. A start date for the contract has yet to be determined.

Concerning the COVID-19 vaccinations, Stevenson said many of the IV drug users do not want the vaccine as it is a trigger issue.

Stevenson noted that Medicaid expansion has brought challenging issues with reimbursement rates for clients. Medicaid reimbursement rates are lower than other programs and client fees are being lost due to the regulations. Also, navigating the paperwork and rules of the program has proven to be time consuming and difficult. Additional staff has been hired at The Bridge to be able to assist with the Medicaid program. There has been some issue with Medicaid denying services depending on the program and the company. If a client is eligible for Medicaid, then they must take Medicaid. Curry added if an individual is Medicaid eligible, then Probation cannot issue a program voucher.

When asked if the State could assist in funding lost costs due to the differences in Medicare rates and Probation rates, CJ Johnson said that could be seen as double billing in which case providers could be cited for Medicaid fraud. The Regions were established to be the safety gap for providers, and now there is a pushback due to the expansion not allowing funds to be used. There has been a lot of loss of flexibility. Stevenson added it forces providers to be able to try to fill gaps with less funding.

Condon inquired if there has been a reduction in the service providers. CJ Johnson answered not in Region V, although Regions II and VI have had some providers discontinued. Providers have been able to provide telecare services and outpatient therapy. These methods can be adapted to continue to serve clients in a more efficient manner.

6) LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES UPDATE – Julie Fisher-Erickson, Associate Vice President of Health and Wellness, Lutheran Family Services of NE, Inc.

Fisher-Erickson announced Lutheran Family Services was awarded a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic grant which allowed them to hire a care coordination team including a medical director, program manager and therapists. During the past year, many services have been moved to telehealth programs, which have remained strong. Nurses are still available in office for medication management programs. A grant for substance use treatment has been submitted, and, if awarded, clients will be screened for substance use and directed into programs with the best level of care for their situation. Also, the Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) Substance Use program is beginning and is limited to 100 participants during the first year.

Concerning refugee resettlement, Raybould asked if there is sufficient staff to be able to assist with refugees. Fischer-Erickson stated staff will need to be hired, which has been a problem finding qualified applicants between lack of candidates and salary limitations. Interpreter services have become problematic with expanded Medicaid. She noted there have been times when the interpreters do not appear for the appointments with the clients.

7) AGENCY AND ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

- A. Courts**
- B. City Attorney**

No updates were given.

C. County Attorney

Condon reported the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court will be delayed due to an issue with Probation and the Administrative Office of the Court.

- D. Public Defender**
- E. Law Enforcement**
- F. Probation**
- G. Service Providers**
- H. Other Community Partners**

No updates were given.

8) NEXT MEETING – FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2021

Informational only.

9) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Submitted by Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office