

**MINUTES**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY-CITY OF LINCOLN JUSTICE COUNCIL**  
**575 S. 10TH STREET**  
**JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER**  
**LSO TRAINING ROOMS B & C**  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 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; Shannon Morgan, Probation Officer, Adult Probation; Joe Nigro, Public Defender; Spike Eickholt, Government Liaison, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Hassan Ramzah, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police; Brian Jackson, Interim Chief, Lincoln Police Department; Yohance Christie, City Attorney; Pat Condon, County Attorney; Scott Etherton, Mental Health Crisis Center Director; Landon Parks, Community Corrections; Ken Prey, Jail Administrator; Tommy Trotter, Deputy Sheriff; Terry Wagner, Sheriff; Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director; Bennie Shobe, City Councilmember; C.J. Johnson, Regional Administrator, Region V Systems; Tom Randa, Good Neighbor Community Center Executive Director; Julie Fisher-Erickson, Associate Vice President of Health and Wellness, Lutheran Family Services of NE, Inc.; Mitch, Herian, Soval Solutions; and Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office

Commissioner Schorr opened the meeting at 7:33 a.m. Copies of meeting materials were made available.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1) APPROVAL OF JUSTICE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MAY 7, 2021**

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Kim Etherton seconded approval of the May 7, 2021, meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Etherton stated she has a new case management system and has no access to data.

She reported there is a new Treatment Diversion program for repeat offenders to get them into treatment programs. This population creates over 400 cases in the criminal justice system. The program is a pre-plea program which allows participants to get treatment without having a felony on their record. Condon added there will be more liberal allowance of individuals allowed into the program than in others, such as Pre-Trial Diversion.

All participants in Diversion programs will be using a risk and needs screening tool which will be used to assist in determining the level of care needed to help program participants to succeed.

Schorr reported the County has received \$62,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, of which the County is in the preliminary planning stages for their use. Some uses could include rural broadband, tourism support, and mental health support services. Etherton shared her ideas for fund use to include emergency crisis stabilization option at The Bridge Behavioral Health, a women's reentry program through St. Monica's, a treatment program for women in recovery which would include vocational training, and in-house psychiatric stabilization with priority placements for fund-contributing entities.

Hoyle added Human Services has worked with the City of Lincoln and the County to have one-time funding available for non-profit entities with prioritized services towards basic needs, victim safety, youth and family behavioral health, and racial equity. The application process will include a pre-applicant workshop to review the federal reporting requirements. The application process will be available through June 30, 2026.

### **3) CORRECTIONS UPDATE – Ken Prey, Lancaster County Jail Administrator**

#### **A. Population Statistics and Charts**

Prey reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (see agenda packet). He noted the average daily population numbers are increasing. This week there are 659 individuals in the jail. The highest jail population has been around 670-675. With the increased population, the pandemic cohorts are going to be very difficult to continue as the space within the jail was not designed for a pandemic.

Regarding the racial makeup by custody type, Prey reported these numbers are based on booking information, not lodging information. Condon added the number of individuals charged with crimes in the County pre-trial is 10%. The remaining individuals pre-trial are out on bonds which causes problems for the individuals as they still have problems when they get out. Prey and Jackson agreed stating that distance and time away from one's environment can help deescalate a situation.

Christie felt it would be helpful to track the data as opposed to anecdotal for a targeted approach. Nigro added he would like to see the racial disparity in the jail addressed and a solution found.

Prey discussed the increasing wait time for individuals waiting competency restoration. The Regional Center is not taking individuals due to various reasons including remodeling, COVID, and staffing shortages. The individual from the County that is highest on the Regional Center waiting list is in spot 63. Etherton added there is a list of individuals out on bond, and that list could be used for outpatient treatment to reduce current wait lists.

Johnson reported the State Division of Behavioral Health has secured agencies for outpatient restoration, but they are in hiring and training processes.

Concerning COVID vaccinations, Prey stated the jail is able to provide vaccinations to both inmates and staff.

**4) 2017 YOUNG ADULT REENTRY GRANT PRELIMINARY DATA AND 2019 REENTRY EXPANSION GRANT UPDATE – Kim Etherton; Mitchel Herian**

Etherton reviewed the young adult reentry grant presentation (see agenda packet). She said there is a more culturally sensitive treatment program geared for young adult black men that addresses substance use treatment as it relates to the historical trauma of the population.

Herian presented data of the sentence conversion program (Exhibit 1). While over 70 individuals have been helped through the program, the report focuses on 45 as there is sufficient data for statistical significance. He noted the completion of the program has improved over time.

Wagner asked if there have been efforts to reduce rebooking. Herian responded he did not have any comparison data at this time.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Trotter said LPD and the Sheriff's Office will take part in an active bystandership in law enforcement training. The training will teach officers to intervene on another law enforcement officer's actions. The program is ongoing and requires sponsorship from the community. Two officers will attend the training workshop and then will come back to their departments and train the other officers.

**5) 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 started in July. Treatment Diversion has 16 participants with an additional 12 pending.

**D. Public Defender**

No update was given.

**E. Law Enforcement**

Jackson stated the new Police Chief will be at the November meeting.

**F. Probation**

Morgan reported DUI Court has 4 participants and Veterans Court has 10 participants. Additionally, custodial sanctions have been increasing.

## **G. Service Providers**

Johnson said he felt Etherton's suggestions for ARPA fund use would be helpful to allow service providers to expand their services. Service providers are not able to use their funds for capital construction expenses.

Shobe inquired if the service providers having trouble with staffing. Fisher-Erickson replied there is trouble hiring and retaining employees.

Fisher-Erickson reported Lutheran Family Services is offering their services both in person and by telehealth. Johnson added the alternative service provision for service providers has been extended through the end of December.

## **H. Other Community Partners**

No updates were given.

### **6) NEXT MEETING – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021**

Informational only.

### **7) ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m.

Submitted by Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office