



# POLK COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

---

Date: November 25, 2025

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Polk County Sheriff's Headquarters

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy, Polk County Attorney Kimberly Graham, Polk County Sheriff Kevin Schneider, Director of BHDS Annie Uetz, 5<sup>th</sup> District Director IDOC Darin Cox, Asst. Public Defender Jennifer Larson, Chief U.S. Probation Officer SD/IA Dan Caropreso, DMPD Chief Michael McTaggart, Chief Juvenile Court Services Officer 5<sup>th</sup> District John Hawkins, 5<sup>th</sup> District Chief Judge Michael D. Huppert,

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Polk County Supervisor Jill Altringer, DMPS Liaison Stacie Nessa, Ankeny Police Chief Darius Potts, Citizen Appointee Tracy Gryp.

### ACTIVITY:

1. Meeting called to order by Chair McCoy and a quorum was established.
2. September 16, 2025, CJCC meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Chair McCoy recognized Chief Judge Huppert on his upcoming retirement, and thanked him for his service and contributions to the Polk County CJCC.

### INFORMATION:

4. Jennifer Sleiter and Nikki Romer presented on the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (DEC):

- a. **Mission:** DEC teaches early identification, response, and intervention for children and families affected by substance misuse. It provides resources, training, and technical assistance.
- b. **Vision:** To ensure 100% healthy, safe children, families, and communities free from the negative impact of substance misuse and drug activity.
- c. **Definition of Drug Endangered Children:** Children at risk of harm due to parental or caregiver substance misuse, which affects their ability to provide a safe environment.
- d. **Children at Risk:**
  - o 1 in 4 children live with a parent with a substance use disorder (SUD).
  - o Babies are born every 25 minutes suffering from opioid withdrawal.
  - o Children of parents with SUDs are more likely to face abuse, neglect, and develop substance use problems themselves.

5. **Risks:** Include environmental chaos, lack of supervision, violence, ingestion/exposure to drugs, human trafficking, and prenatal/postnatal effects.
6. **Local Efforts in Iowa:**
  - a. County alliances like Polk County DEC (STAR Center), Jasper County DEC (Open Arms Foundation), and Southwest Iowa DEC (Family Resiliency Center).
  - b. Free trainings, certified trainers, and conferences (Iowa DEC Conference on April 20, 2026, and NADEC Conference on May 5-7, 2026).
7. **Contact Information:**
  - a. Jennifer Sleiter: 515.224.3300, Jennifer.Sleiter@unitypoint.org
  - b. Nikki Romer: nromer@nationaldec.org

For more details, visit [www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org).

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

8. CJCC Coordinator Jerry Evans gave an update on CJCC initiatives:
  - a. **Behavioral Health Subcommittee Leadership Change:** Sgt. Lorna Garcia, Chair of the Behavioral Health Subcommittee, will step down on January 1st as she transitions to a new role with the Des Moines Police Department. She has led the subcommittee for nearly two years.
  - b. **Targeted Opioid Response Team Launch:** The Des Moines Fire Department (DMFD) will launch the Targeted Opioid Response Team in January 2026, funded by Opioid Settlement Funds. The team will follow-up with individuals, county-wide, who experienced opioid-related overdoses within 24-72 hours to connect them to services.
  - c. **Warrant Resolution Clinic:** The Deflection and Diversion Subcommittee continues work on the planning for the Warrant Resolution Clinic scheduled for April 3, 2026.
  - d. **Data Use Agreement:** The Polk County Board of Supervisors will review the Data Use Agreement with the Iowa Department of Management at their December 16, 2025, board meeting. Data mining will begin in January 2026, aiming to establish a County Attorney Dashboard by March or April 2026.
  - e. **Substance Use Evaluations at the Jail:** House of Mercy (HOM) is in the final stages of approval to provide substance use evaluations at the Polk County Jail, benefiting various stakeholders.
  - f. **Bus Service Changes to Polk County Jail:** DART is redesigning routes to remain financially solvent, which includes eliminating the route servicing Polk County Jail. Financial proposals for alternative services are under discussion.
  - g. **Upcoming CJCC Meeting:** The next CJCC meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2026, at River Place. A full schedule for 2026 meetings will be provided at this meeting.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

9. None.

#### **CLOSING:**

10. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m. Next CJCC Meeting: January 13, 2026, Polk County River Place, Conference Room #2, 2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa.