



POLK COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 23, 2024

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Polk County Sheriff's Headquarters, 5995 NE 14th Street, Des Moines

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Tom Hockensmith, Supervisor Angela Connolly, County Attorney Kimberly Graham, Des Moines Police Chief Dana Wingert, Ankeny Police Chief Darius Potts, Polk County Sheriff Designee Chief Frank Marasco, 5th Judicial District Juvenile Court Services Chief John Hawkins, Director of BHDS Annie Uetz, 5th District Director IDOC Michelle Dix, Chief U.S. Probation Officer Daniel Caropreso, Asst. Public Defender Jennifer Larson, Educational Liaison Consultant Des Moines Public Schools Stacie Nessa

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Huppert Chief Judge 5th Judicial District, Citizen Appointment Tracy Gyrp.

ACTIVITY:

1. Meeting called to order by Board Chair Hockensmith and a quorum was established.
2. May 14, 2024, CJCC meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

INFORMATION:

1. CJCC Coordinator Evans updated the Council on the following CJCC activities:
 - a. The CJCC Dashboard is getting close to begin sharing data between the jail and DataLakeHouse.io. Once the Data Use Agreements are finalized, then construction of the criminal justice dashboard will begin. If the Polk County CJCC Webpage is unable to support the dashboard, a link will provide the user the ability to view the dashboard on an outside source page.
2. Gabbie Ruggiero, the Vice Chair of the Behavioral Health CJCC Subcommittee, presented on the topics that came up for discussion during their meetings:

I. Barriers to Behavioral Health Care for Justice-Involved Individuals

In meeting discussions, the Behavioral Health Subcommittee has identified the following as top barriers for justice-involved people with behavioral health conditions like substance use disorders and mental health disorders, the justice system, and behavioral health providers.

a. Medicaid Eligibility

- Medicaid is not available to people considered inmates of public, non-medical institutions, including residents of community-based corrections facilities. This

poses challenges for facilities to provide services for people while they're incarcerated and for people at release trying to get into, or transition to, community-based or inpatient treatment programs.

- Iowa HHS would need to apply for a federal Medicaid waiver for inmates and those in community-based corrections residential facilities, but to date, HHS has not developed a policy nor applied for the federal waiver.

b. Detoxification Programs

- Detoxification Programs (4.0 ASAM level of care) with 24-hour medical monitoring are severely limited. For people who have a long-term addiction, medically monitored detoxification may be critical for their health and successful transition into treatment programs. Sobering services are not stand-ins for this level of care.

- A lack of inpatient treatment beds means individuals are waiting at the jail for placement. There is an opportunity to increase service provision to incarcerated individuals on the wait list from outside providers during this time.

- Youth in Central Iowa with co-occurring disorders may have to travel across the state or go out of state to get treatment—we have less than 40 youth substance use treatment beds in Iowa.

c. Transitional Services at Reentry

- Transitional treatment beds (3.1 ASAM level of care) that offer more clinical support than recovery housing and outpatient programs are limited. Community integration is especially critical for successful reentry of justice-involved people.

- Housing placement for parole and reentry in general is a challenge, especially for people looking for supportive housing (including recovery housing) and those convicted of sex crimes.

3. • The requirements for people in court-ordered treatment make success difficult. For example, many hours of treatment, maintaining employment, family obligations, and justice system appointments are made difficult by not having a car or relying on the bus system. Joseph Johnson, CEO of Change Course, presented on his program.

Change Course is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit formed in 2022 to assist families living in poverty to remove the barriers in their lives (such as inadequate education, poor support network, and inability to navigate the existing programs) that are keeping them from emerging out of poverty and becoming self-sufficient.

It is a six-month program that works with justice involved individuals who are ready, and in need, of making changes in their lives. The program consists of four training modules:

1. Personal Development
2. Career Skills Track
3. Career Launch

4. Graduation and Commission

In 2023, they graduated 20 from their program. By the end of 2024, they project that number to grow to 40 graduates. And, by the end of 2026, their goal is to graduate 100. The average wage for individuals entering their program is \$19,800. The average wage after completion of the six-month program is \$40,800. Plus, 65% of those who graduate find employment that provides full benefits.

Change Course also offer opportunities for their alumni to continue receiving support. In addition, they have also recently introduced programs such as the Alternatives to Violence Project Workshops and Restoration Team Development Training.

All of their funding comes from donations. To help offset their costs, they have started two businesses: 1) Change Course Cleaning; 2) Change Course Auto Detailing. All of the proceeds from these two businesses, minus administrative costs, will go directly to the Change Course non-profit budget.

5. Rachel Adams with Polk County Behavioral Health and Disability Services provided the following updates on the Polk County Life Services Center:

- Construction is moving right along – still on track to open this Fall.
- Behavioral Health Urgent Care (BHUC) & Crisis Observation Center (COC) will relocate from the Broadlawns campus.
- BHUC currently has 4 exam rooms and will expand to 8 exam rooms.
- COC currently has 4 chairs and will expand to 8 chairs.
- Sobering Center (SC) will have 5 chairs with ability to flex up to 10, as needed.
- BHUC will be business hours. COC & SC will be 24/7.
- There will be on-site security 24/7.
- SC will be operated by St. Vincent de Paul.
- They've signed the Medical Director contract with Dr. Rachael Sokol. She's an ED physician at UnityPoint.
- A Site Director was just hired.
- There will also be 2 Community Navigators hired who have lived experience.
- SC triage for entry will be done by a paramedic & the *eye-on* person will be an EMT.

Comments from the Public:

1. There were no comments from the public

Closing:

1. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.