



POLK COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 16, 2025

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Polk County Sheriff's Headquarters

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy, Polk County Supervisor Jill Altringer, Polk County Attorney Kimberly Graham, Polk County Sheriff Designee Cory Williams, Director of BHDS Annie Uetz, 5th District Director IDOC Darin Cox, Asst. Public Defender Jennifer Larson, DMPS Liaison Stacie Nessa, Ankeny Police Chief Darius Potts, Chief U.S. Probation Officer SD/IA Dan Caropreso, DMPD Chief Michael McTaggart, Chief Juvenile Court Services Officer 5th District John Hawkins, 5th District Chief Judge Michael D. Huppert, Citizen Appointee Tracy Gryp.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ACTIVITY:

1. Meeting called to order by Chair McCoy and a quorum was established.
2. July 22, 2025, CJCC meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

INFORMATION:

3. BHDS Program Planner Gabbie Ruggiero gave an update on the Opioid Settlement Funds:
 - The funds were established to ameliorate the harms of the opioid epidemic with specified health interventions like treatment, prevention, harm reduction, and connections to care.
 - Polk County has been paid \$11.5 million, with payments scheduled to run through FY40
 - The funds can be invested towards start-up costs for sustainable programs addressing gaps identified by the community.
 - Funds recently provided to St. Vincent de Paul were used to deploy a reentry coordinator, and a reentry kiosk, at the Polk County Jail. The Polk County Jail typically releases each month approximately 1,000 individuals who have an average length of stay of three (3) days or less. Those being released are referred to the reentry coordinator who assists them by getting them connected with services- with assistance of the reentry kiosk.
 - Gabbie provided two examples of individuals who benefitted from working with newly hired peer supports who's positions were funded as a result of opioid grant funds to Bridges of Iowa and Full Circle Recovery.
 - Other grantees targeting justice-involved individuals included UCS Healthcare which used the funds to provide assessments and counseling services at the Fort Des Moines Correctional Facility; St. Vincent de Paul who began integrating peer supports with reentry services; and Rebel Healthcare

who is developing a treatment curriculum based on the needs of people who are returning to Polk County after serving a term of incarceration.

- Other grantees who used the funds to target prevention, early intervention, and diversion include: FOCUSS who offer youth crisis intervention and peer supports; Friends of Youth Justice Initiative who offer evidence-based curriculum for pre-teens, including those in their truancy diversion program; RISE Recover who offer youth mentorship and peer coaching around employment; Community Youth Concepts who provide evidenced-based programming for youth to reduce high-risk behavior; and Steps of Hope who distribute naloxone and education.
- In FY25, \$1.28 million was awarded through Opioid Settlement Funds. This is on top of the \$1.1 million that was already expended. For FY26, \$2.76 million is available to be expended, and \$500k will go towards existing contracted grants. In both fiscal years, funds cover the cost for a full-time equivalent position.
- Lastly, grant extension and technical assistance was provided to Steps of Hope for overdose prevention education and supplies; and a partnership was established with the Health Department to expand health vending machines.

4. St. Vincent de Paul CEO, Steve Havemann, and BHDS Community Coordinator Rachel Adams, gave updates on the Sobering Center:

- The Sobering Center opened on November 19, 2024. To date, 943 guests have been served.
- The vast majority of guests are referred by law enforcement (314). Last month saw the highest number of law enforcement referrals (52).
- Guests are also commonly referred by mobile crisis teams, as well as by local EMS units.
- Overall, the Sobering Center is averaging five (5) guests per day, which is the number they originally planned for in the beginning. The goal is to increase daily referrals as the center has capacity for up to 10 guests. In the coming months, St. Vincent de Paul will focus on more education and information getting communicated to local law enforcement so they have a better understanding of the services offered through the Sobering Center and the Life Services Center.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. CJCC Coordinator Jerry Evans gave an update on CJCC initiatives:

- The Human Empowerment through Restorative Diversion (HERD) initiative now has a governing body that will report directly to the Caring Hands Outreach Program Board of Directors. Caring hands will oversee all the financial responsibilities related to HERD, and St. Vincent de Paul will oversee the full-time HERD Coordinator position. The HERD governing body is working to finalize the job description for the full-time position, with the goal of having the person hired by November 1st.
- The Warrant Resolution Clinic continues to be worked on with the help of the Deflection and Diversion CJCC Subcommittee. Two dates are being discussed: March 27, 2006, and April 3, 2026. The clinic will be held at River Place in the large conference room.
- The County Attorney Dashboard project continues to make progress. The State of Iowa indicated last week that they could provide the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) necessary to build-out the dashboard. Most likely, the State would not be able to work in earnest on mining the data until

January 1, 2026, as the staff connected with the data mining are tied up on other projects. However, the State said at the first of next year, this project will become a priority and they anticipate having a working County Attorney Dashboard by March 1, 2026.

- Coordinator Evans recently attended the National Network of CJCC Directors and Coordinators Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was hosted by the Clark County, Nevada CJCC and the Justice Management Institute. Approximately 60 different CJCCs were represented at the Conference. A few highlights included:
 - To address the homeless and unhoused population in Las Vegas, Clark County has begun buying distressed hotels through their Social Services Department and converting them to non-congregate shelters and transitional housing. Clark County Social Services also provides wrap around services through their navigation center that provides clothing, food, employment services, and behavioral and substance use treatment to all of the residents in their supportive housing complexes.
 - Clark County is in the process of building what they are calling, A Campus for Hope. The Campus for Hope will provide housing for up to 900 residents, serving up to 4,300 individuals yearly. The campus will provide wrap around services in a trauma-informed environment with the ultimate goal of ending a person's homelessness. The projected cost for construction is estimated at \$200 million dollars. The cost will be evenly split between the State of Nevada and the Las Vegas business community. It is slated to open in the Spring of 2028.
 - Mecklenburg County, North Carolina presented on their supplemental re-entry income pilot program. Essentially, it is for individuals returning to the community after serving a term of incarceration. There are several guidelines that have to be met, but those that qualify receive \$600 each month for one year. Thus far, the pilot program has seen a 37% increase in housing stability as compared to the control group who did not receive the supplemental income. Moreover, the pilot group saw an 12% increase in employment by the end of the pilot. Mecklenburg County CJCC anticipates continuing to fund this program through the next fiscal year.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

6. None.

CLOSING:

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m. Next CJCC Meeting: November 25, 2025, at the Polk County Sheriff's HQ, Community Room 100, 5995 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50313.