



POLK COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

DEFLECTION AND DIVERSION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 22, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Polk County Behavioral Health & Disability Services (River Place)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Johnson (Change Course), Kimberly Graham (Polk County Attorney), John Hawkins (Chief JCS), Darnell Loatman (FOCUSS), Jerry Evans (CJCC)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Drown (Altoona PD), Patrick Johnson (Bridges), Staci Nessa (DMPS), Joy Ihle (Polk County Youth Services), Eric Kool (Polk County Youth Services).

GUESTS: None.

ACTIVITY:

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Joseph Johnson
2. Minutes from the July 14, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

CHECK-IN AND UPDATE ROUND ROBIN:

- Darnell Loatman indicated that FOCUSS purchased a building at 3138 SW 9th Street in Des Moines to serve as their home office. The building will allow them to provide overnight residential space for youth in crisis, provide counseling services, training, etc. The building needs remodeling work completed before they are able to move-in, and FOCUSS is working to secure the funding needed to complete the work. They are targeting November 1st as their move-in date.
- Jerry Evans gave an update on the HERD Youth Program. The governing board of HERD is working on developing a job description that will be posted soon, with the goal of having the position filled by sometime in late October or early November 2025. Until the full-time position is filled, not much else is capable of being completed.

WARRANT RESOLUTION CLINIC DISCUSSION:

- The subcommittee reviewed the checklist for the Warrant Resolution Clinic and members volunteered to take on various tasks.
- It was decided the Clinic would be held on Friday April 3, 2026 at River Place. The Clinic will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Jerry Evans will be responsible for reserving the rooms inside River Place for the Clinic.

- County Attorney Graham will be responsible for coordinating with the Court, the Clerk of Court, the Public Defender's Office, and the County Attorney's Office.
- Joseph Johnson will be responsible for organizing and recruiting community organizations to participate and advertise the Clinic.
- Jerry Evans will be responsible for working with law enforcement and the Department of Transportation regarding their involvement in the Clinic.
- County Attorney Graham and Jerry Evans will be responsible for designing the printed material that will be used to promote the Clinic.

Closing:

3. The subcommittee meeting adjourned at Noon. Next scheduled meeting will be Monday November 10, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at River Place Conference Room #3.