

**Community Corrections Advisory Board
Minutes – October 13, 2022 (In Person & Zoom)**

Members Present: In person: none

Via Zoom: Kevin O'Connor, Kelli Grant, Peter Shay, Aaron Breitenbach (arrived at 8:05), Sandra Clinard-Flanders, Santiago Hungria, Cody Alexander (arrived at 8:10), Dena Lee (arrived at 8:05), Frederick Freeman Jr.

Members Absent: Sean Gates, Michael Birzer, AlmaAnn Jones

Staff: In person: Chase Tipton

Via Zoom: Lori Gibbs, Sasha Teel, Tom Struble, Chris Morales, Steve Stonehouse, Chris Collins-Thoman

Guests: In person: none

Via Zoom: none

This meeting was chaired by Sandra Clinard-Flanders (Vice-Chair) in the absence of Dr. Birzer (Chair). Due to initially not having a quorum, Action Items were moved to later in the meeting.

HOPE Panel Presentation – Sasha and Lori provided information to the board regarding HOPE Panel, an intervention utilized by various staff members when a client has been struggling on supervision/needs additional support or to recognize a client that has been succeeding. Due to technical issues, a video showing a HOPE Panel intervention was unable to be played.

Introductions and Announcements: none.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from the meeting on August 11, 2022 (September meeting was cancelled): A motion to approve the Minutes from the August 11, 2022 meeting was made by Kelli Grant, seconded by Peter Shay.

Program Updates:

Lori updated the board that staffing continues to be a challenge, specifically in filling vacant ISO positions. Despite the increase in wages, the pool of applicants has not grown as expected. DOC staff is attempting to expedite the hiring process as some candidates are seeking employment elsewhere before the hiring decision can be made. Due to the vacancies, two of the specialized units including both the 'high risk team' and the unit working exclusively with gang members has been temporarily dissolved and those clients are spread across all staff. Both the gender specific and the SB123 team will continue to have specialized caseloads. Aaron Breitenbach provided an update that the District Attorney's office intends to file an increase in cases on lower level felony offenders at the beginning of the year. Tom shared a frustration that newer staff are unable to get certified timely in the different risk assessment tools in order to assume a caseload. Thus, an increase in cases will be likely be difficult to manage.

Lori provided an update that the Veteran's Treatment Court will likely be implemented in early 2023. Once the grant award letter is received, Lori will work with Human Resources to post the two positions designated for this project. In the meantime, Lori is seeking out training opportunities that staff may attend and is working towards policy development.

Lori stated that her team will be hosting a meet and greet with Chanel Stroud from the Kansas Department of Corrections in the upcoming week. Chanel will be given the opportunity to tour the ARES facility and engage in conversations with staff regarding the struggles with Athena and getting new staff certified in the various assessment tools.

Lori announced that the Department of Corrections has adopted a 'dress for your day' pilot project based on feedback received from staff including information provided from an environmental scan. The pilot project

allows staff the opportunity to decide what dress attire is appropriate for their specific day. Lori asked for feedback if there are any concerns observed with staff attending court.

Sasha provided an update that the lobby expansion project at the 622 E. Central location is complete. The expansion was necessary to accommodate increased foot traffic from the addition of Drug Court clients in the building.

Sasha announced that due to staff vacancies, the work release and the residential team have been combined into one single team that has been working on cross-training to supervise both populations. Monica Harris facilitated training for staff on collecting UA's to assist drug court staff.

Sasha announced that her managerial team is working on preparing yearly performance evaluations for all their respective staff and holiday planning is underway for various family activities that clients can participate in.

Lori announced that she is working with leadership at Pathway Church to offer a mentoring program to clients starting in December. This was started previously but not fully implemented due to the pandemic.

Tom updated the board that JFS has moved into the Criminal Justice Alternatives (CJA) offices and staff housed in the CJA office space (Drug Court Program and Pretrial Services) have moved to either 622 E. Central or the 905 N. Main location. Tom also reports that Drug Court staff were able to attend a round table discussion in Salina on September 16 to discuss supervision strategies/share resources with other programs across the state.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from the meeting on August 11, 2022 (September meeting was cancelled): *Vote to approve the previously made motion to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2022 meeting by Kelli Grant and seconded by Peter Shay was unanimously approved.*

Steve updated the board that he had the opportunity to recently attend a Director's meeting in Topeka where issues with Athena were discussed. Steve also announced that a new system, Odyssey, is replacing Full Court with training occurring later this month. Steve updated the board that the Kansas Community Corrections Association held a meeting where efforts were made to prioritize issues for the upcoming legislative session. A request was made to the Kansas Department of Corrections for all funding to be given in one lump sum that may be designated as needed. Previous funding was solely earmarked for staff carrying a caseload resulting in large amounts being returned to the state. Also included in the request, was an additional 4.5 million dollars allowing fifty-one ISO positions be added across the state to offset large caseloads and an increase to behavioral health to support the different mental health programs in the community.

Other Business: Cody Alexander requested consideration for professional visitation at the Adult Detention Facility on October 14th, as many staff will be attending the funeral of Deputy Sidnee Carter.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2022.