

Community Corrections Advisory Board Minutes – October 12, 2023 (In Person & Zoom)

Members Present: In person: Michael Birzer, AlmaAnn Jones, and Juanita Ridge

Via Zoom: Benita Chaplin, Samuel Steincamp, Sandra Clinard-Flanders, Santiago Hungria, Tyler Roush, Peter Shay, Aaron Breitenbach,

Members Absent: Capt. Cody Alexander, Dena Lee

Staff: In person: Lesa Lank, Julee Meslin

Via Zoom: Steve Stonehouse, Lori Gibbs, Tom Struble, Chris Morales, and Sasha Teel

Guests: In person: Russell Leeds

Via Zoom: none

Introductions and Announcements: Dr. Birzer provided an update that Juanita Denise Ridge has been appointed to the Board by the City of Wichita on September 12, 2023, and is joining us for the first time today.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from the prior meeting on September 14, 2023: *A motion to approve the Minutes from the September 14 meeting was made by Aaron Breitenbach, seconded by Peter Shay and unanimously approved.*

ACTION ITEM: Review and discuss the SFY24 Behavioral Health Programmatic and Fiscal Adjustments

Lori Gibbs presented information about the current Behavioral Health Funding. This funding supports enhanced services for Community Correction clients. These services include cognitive skills programming, substance abuse and mental health services.

On-going staffing challenges have resulted in prior partnerships with COMCARE and Mental Health Association. These providers are currently unable to staff the positions. In lieu of contracting with an outside entity to provide in-house services, a proposal was presented for the direct hire of two (2) additional ISOs who will serve as mental health navigators. Their focus will be ensuring swift referrals and access to a broad range of services tailored to meet the individual needs of the client. These ISOs will ensure continuity of services from jail to community and will assist clients in maintaining stability throughout the duration of their probation. Individuals with a background in mental health services will be recruited to fill these positions.

The addition of the Batterer's Intervention Programming (BIP) has increased the workload for the Cognitive Skills team. It was proposed that there be an additional program provider to meet the demands of this group to ensure appropriate gender-responsiveness and group size.

In order to effectively address clients with significant substance abuse problems, it was proposed that continued collaboration with Higher Ground, a local treatment provider, will help to facilitate recovery services and provide intensive support. Recovery Specialist/Peer mentors provide case management and work collaboratively with the ISOs. A request was made for two additional Recovery Specialist/Peer Mentors in order to meet the demand of this high-risk domain.

AlmaAnn Jones made the motion to reallocate and adjust the Behavioral Health funding as requested, the motion was seconded by Benita Chaplin and unanimously approved.

Program Updates: Tom Struble shared his team is seeing a 6% increase in completion rate for the Adult Intensive Supervision (AISP) program. The Drug Court program currently has 90 clients with a capacity for 115. The Veterans Court program currently has one client who is doing well.

Tom also provided an update on the QIP Audit stating that additional policy changes are being made and staff audits are being held. The remaining audit changes will take place over the next three months. Lori Gibbs added that an ISO III is holding reviews highlighting the use of EPICS tools and communication styles for more effective coaching.

Sasha Teel reported the ISO reviews are based on audio sessions and will help newer staff who may need development. Sasha also reported the Adult Residential Program has 136 clients and they are currently collaborating with stakeholders such as the Public Defender, District Attorney, and ISOs for tours to highlight the program. Sasha also shared about team members who went to Johnson County for a tour of their Residential/Work Release facility.

Staff at 622 E Central will soon be using PassPoint, an ocular scanner that detects abnormalities indicative of substance abuse. The use of this technology will allow an ISO to request a UA when needed and decrease the need for unnecessary UAs. The

Adult Residential Facility will also be hosting a Family Halloween party on 10/24/23 for the residents in the program to have time with their families.

Lori Gibbs shared that she and Sasha Teel met with the head pastor of Pathway Church. Pathway has been providing services to the Adult Residential clients two times per week for bible study and recently added a Sunday service. Pathway is interested in doing more and discussed holding a Thanksgiving and Christmas service followed by a meal.

Lori also shared that all Sedgwick County Department of Corrections supervisors have been enrolled in a leadership program thru the Kansas Leadership Center. The first class was held on October 10 with remaining in person classes on October 23 and November 7. The focus of the class is to teach tools and strategies for coaching and leading a team.

Other Business:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2023.