

Community Corrections Advisory Board Minutes – July 13, 2023 (In Person & Zoom)

Members Present: In person: Michael Birzer, Becky Springer

Via Zoom: Dena Lee, Benita Chaplin, Samuel Steincamp, AlmaAnn Jones, Sandra Clinard-Flanders (arrived at 8:15), Santiago Hungria, Tyler Roush (arrived at 8:15), Cody Alexander (arrived at 8:03), Peter Shay, Aaron Breitenbach (arrived at 8:03)

Members Absent: None

Staff: In person: Chris Collins-Thoman, Lesa Lank, Nicholl'e Briggs, Sasha Teel

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

Guests: In person: none

Via Zoom: none

Introductions and Announcements: Lori Gibbs provided an update that Benita Chaplin and Samuel Steincamp have both been appointed to the Board by the Sedgwick County Commission on July 11, 2023, and are joining us for the first time today. Everyone present introduced themselves and described their service to the Board.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from the prior meeting on April 6, 2023: *A motion to approve the Minutes from the April 6, 2023 meeting was made by Aaron Breitenbach, seconded by AlmaAnn Jones and unanimously approved.*

ACTION ITEM: Review and discuss the 4th quarter budget adjustment requested and authorize Chairman Birzer to provide signatory approval certifying the Corrections Advisory Board has reviewed and approved the request and authorized submission to the Board of County Commission for review and approval.

Chris Morales provided information to the board regarding the budget adjustment requested for FY23 Adult grants in the amount of \$258,139.63. Because the additional funding provided by the Kansas Department of Corrections in this year's award for salary increases to Intensive Supervision Officers (ISOs) was initially all placed in the Adult Intensive Supervision Program (AISP), most of this adjustment is to cover salary shortfalls in other program areas. Just under \$126,000 will be used for contractals and commodities, leaving about \$82,000 for AISP and about \$44,000 in Adult Residential going into next year.

Lori Gibbs addressed a question from the Board regarding staffing vacancies, reporting that we are very close to full staffing now for the first time in the last two years, with two current ISO vacancies and two supervisory openings at Adult Residential Work Release, and the rest of the line staff positions are now filled.

AlmaAnn Jones motioned, seconded by Aaron Breitenbach and unanimously approved.

Program Updates: Tom Struble shared that his team is currently seeing a lot of overdoses from fentanyl, such that the program has received Narcan doses. After an Adult Residential client who had overdosed was revived when staff administered Narcan, a couple of months ago, all field services staff now have Narcan doses available at their desks. Recently, supervisors responded to an incident in the parking lot, reviving a young man who had overdosed.

In response to a question from the Board, Sasha Teel replied that it is traumatic for staff who have to administer Narcan to clients or visitors, and supportive services are available and offered to staff, such as peer/supervisor support, time off, and EMPAC counseling, as well as debriefing after each event to identify future actions, such as additional training for staff.

Tom reported that program staff have been evaluating program data concerning successful and unsuccessful completion rates, especially focusing on unsuccessful completion due to technical violations. Staff have been receiving training and adapting service models to increase successful completion rates, and current data indicates movement toward reducing technical violations and increasing successful completions.

Lori reiterated that increasing successful completions also reduces caseloads, which allows ISOs more time to spend with the clients in most need of their services, which is also anticipated to have a positive effect on outcome data.

AlmaAnn Jones mentioned a personal experience with a Sober Living house in our community, noting that there was very little supervision for a client she knew was living in that environment. The Board discussed the degree to which judges had sentencing options for various clients, and the degree to which Community Corrections had resources to learn which sober living houses might be more or less effective than others. Steve Stonehouse mentioned some additional community resources which are available for clients and families experiencing substance use issues, and further Board discussion noted that the

clients currently being sent to Community Corrections are those who have significant criminal histories, mental illness, and substance use issues.

Sasha Teel shared that Adult Residential/Work Release facility has a capacity of 165 beds, although prior year concerns due to COVID and staff vacancies have decreased the actual number of clients served such that the population has plateaued around 90, with current census at 89. The female dorm expansion is underway with completion anticipated in August; the behavioral health services available through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) grant, which allowed for two additional mental health therapists and two case managers through Mental Health Association, will not be continued due to the provider's decision not to renew their contract; work is underway to explore the options to continue those behavioral health services through some other provider.

Lori reported that Veterans Treatment Court (VTC), part of the partnership between District Court and Office of Judicial Administration, has now been approved by Board of County Commissioners and is in the final stages of planning for implementation. VTC Staff training is scheduled for earlier August, with referrals anticipated to begin in September.

Lori shared that KDOC staff were on-site for two full days in June conducting review of Field Services and Residential programs. Additionally in June, a group from the National Institute of Justice was on-site to start the assessment process for our organizational coaching model, a project for which our community was one of only three selected for participation. Lori shared that both visits went very well, feedback was on point, complimentary, and constructive.

Other Business: Lori invited the board to attend the Strategic Planning Community Event at WSU Hughes Metroplex this Thursday (see handout in agenda packet) to provide input into the development of the Department of Corrections' five-year strategic plan.

Lori shared that the BOCC authorized a proclamation on Tuesday recognizing next week as National Probation Officer week. Various appreciation activities for probation officers have been planned for the week.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2023.