

## Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

NOTES

DATE 7/28/16

ATTENDEES

**Voting Members**

- Judge James Fleetwood  Judge Jennifer Jones  Judge Jeffrey Goering
- Sheriff Jeff Easter  Chief Gordon Ramsay  District Attorney Marc Bennett
- Commissioner Richard Ranzau  Commissioner Dave Unruh  Marilyn Cook
- City Council Member Lavonta Williams  Sharon Dickgrafe  Mike Scholes
- Glenda Martens  Mark Rudy  Marv Duncan  Vacant SCAC

**Ex Officio Members and Others in Attendance**

- Ann Swegle\*  Steven Stonehouse\*  Jason Scheck\*  Gail Villalovos\*
- Undersheriff Brenda Dietzman\*  Jama Mitchell\*  Capt. Scott Heimerman\*
- Judge William Woolley\*  Judge Ben Burgess  Karen Powell  Renfeng Ma
- Clay Germany  Timothy Rohrig  Tadayoshi Kawawa  Wes Ellington
- Roger Taylor  Melinda Wilson  Stephen Owens  Janice Bradley
- Russ Pataky  Mary Dean  Jennifer Baysinger  Lisa Tipton  Ellen House
- Bill Anderson  Walt Chappell  Dan Soliday  Devin Walt  John Todd
- Courtney Carpenter

\* Voting designee

LOCATION

Detention Facility, 2nd Floor Training Room

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

COMPLETION DATE

None

## Discussion

Public Safety Director Marv Duncan called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. June 23, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.
2. New Business
  - a. Population Report
    - i. There were no comments regarding the population report.
  - b. Time delay for Larned to receive individuals for evaluation
    - i. Undersheriff Brenda Dietzman stated that the issue may be resolving itself, but she wanted to bring it to everyone's attention. In May, the admission process changed and instead of admitting directly to Larned, one must go through the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) in Topeka first. This has caused some delays, but is improving. Since late May, the Sheriff's office has transported 15 people to Larned and currently have 13 people in their facility waiting to be transported and examined. The average wait time as of July 26 was 43.8 days. In May, there were 17 people waiting, the average wait time was 67 days and the longest wait was 128 days. Undersheriff Dietzman took a phone call from the mother of this individual and addressed her concerns. In June, the average wait time was 68 days and the longest wait was 128 days. One inmate will be transported this week or next and the average wait time will drop to 36 days. We will continue to keep an eye on this. The



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issue goes back to the state mental health bed moratorium. There needs to be a way to get them into the system quicker. Judge Fleetwood asked what are the steps that can be taken to address this. Undersheriff Dietzman stated that elected officials must act on this.

- ii. Commissioner Unruh asked about the admission process. District Attorney Marc Bennett explained that when someone is awaiting trial and their attorney believes they may be incompetent, they bring this to the attention of a judge who may then order a competency evaluation. COMCARE performs an evaluation and if they are deemed incompetent, then the judge may order them to be committed. At that point they wait for a bed at a state mental health hospital. Larned serves all 105 counties within the state of Kansas.

### 3. Old Business

#### a. Cancellation of Aug. meeting

- i. Public Safety Director Marv Duncan stated that the next meeting, scheduled for Aug. 25, is the same day that Sedgwick County has a strategic planning retreat, therefore approximately six CJCC members would be unable to attend. He explained that the population report would still be distributed and asked that CJCC next meet at the regularly scheduled time in Sept. Judge Fleetwood agreed that meeting in Aug. may be pointless and asked if anyone had any thoughts or objections. D.A. Bennett stated that there are times of the year when there may be issues that cannot wait, such as during the legislative session, but he sees no such pressing issues coming up in Aug. Judge Fleetwood stated that CJCC will not meet in Aug.

### 4. Other Business

#### a. Community Crisis Center

- i. Commissioner Unruh asked Jason Scheck about the status of the Community Crisis Center. Mr. Scheck stated that the center, located at 635 N Main, is open and in a renovation process. The first phase, which has already been completed, involved the installation of showers for the residential component of the facility. Currently the lobby is being remodeled and will be finished this week. After that, there will only be minor things left such as refacing the main sign and sight windows in doors. These last renovations will not take long and he expects it to be finished in mid Aug. He also said that he believes there will be a press release next week about the nonprofit arm of the organization called COMCARE Community Partners. The Sheriff, D.A. and several others, including some from the business community, have agreed to serve on its board. Sedgwick County Manager Mike Scholes confirmed that it will be Aug. 5.
- ii. D.A. Bennett asked about its capacity. Mr. Scheck said that their goal is to license 15 detox beds. Currently there are 6 at the facility on east Morris and those will be moved to the remodeled facility. They hope to have 6 sobering beds as well. There are also 6 crisis observation beds, for a total of 27 beds. Some of the capacity will depend on the individuals there and how much attention they require. These resources have allowed a reduction of involuntary commitments to state hospitals by approximately 1/3. Commissioner Unruh expressed his appreciation to Mr. Scheck, COMCARE Executive Director Marilyn Cook and the committee for several years of preparation on this project.
- iii. D.A. Bennett asked Mr. Scheck how many people the facility can treat in the course of one year or six months. Mr. Scheck responded that there have been approximately 1,000 admissions per year for the sobering and detox beds. Going forward will depend on the State's definition of sobering. Sobering is a 6-12 hour stay. The goal will be to move them into detox service which will be 3-5



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days. Mr. Scheck anticipates that it will be more than 1,000 admissions in a year. Another detox facility in Wichita, DCCCA, recently reduced their male detox beds to one for the entire community of approximately 500,000 people. Mr. Scheck said that they are in dialogue with the State about expanding their definition of sobering because currently it is a narrow range of BAC. There was a large sobering facility in the community a number of years ago called Parallax which was closed by the State. They have engaged a professional association about sobering, detox and the reasoning behind the narrow definition. Mr. Scheck stated that they commissioned a study a number of years ago from WSU which was helpful and that they have used in some of their grant applications. The study was completed in 2013. A reassessment should be ready in the next few weeks. Mr. Scheck stated that if the group is interested, then the next time he can give more of an update on the Community Crisis Center.

b. Judge shortage

i. Judge Fleetwood stated that they are short one judge at the moment. Since there is no general election, he will ask the governor to swear in the winner of the primary.

c. E-filing

i. Judge Fleetwood stated that mandatory e-filing will begin in Sept. and the transition will be completed by Jan. 1. The D.A. is already switching over and is seeing greater efficiency and a savings of time and personnel. Some people have expressed frustration with the change, but Judge Fleetwood said that they are working on helping them with the transition.

5. Public Comment

a. Janice Bradley of JENI said that she attended a criminal justice forum sponsored by the ACLU, WSU and Kock Industries during a previous week. Similar to this meeting, much of the discussion was about mental health in the criminal justice system. She finds concern for mental health and criminal justice reform from people such as Mark Holden of Koch Ind. hypocritical when they oppose healthcare reform and Medicaid expansion. Judge Fleetwood said that it may be due to concern about where the funding would come from and that Koch Ind. brought up some other points about financing for public defenders.

Adjournment