

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

NOTES

DATE 10/27/16

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 Tom Stolz 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* Tom Golden* Judge Ben Burgess Karen Powell
 Renfeng Ma Clay Germany Timothy Rohrig Tadayoshi Kawawa
 Wes Ellington Roger Taylor Melinda Wilson Tom Struble
 Jared Schechter Stephen Owens Janice Bradley Russ Pataky
 Mary Dean Jennifer Baysinger Lisa Tipton Ellen House Bill Anderson
 Dale Mattern Walt Chappell Dan Soliday Devin Walt John Todd
 Courtney Carpenter Jay Holmes Jared Schechter Doug Ballard
 Djuan Wash George Theoharis Don Hansen

* Voting designee

ATTENDEES

LOCATION

Detention Facility, 2nd Floor Training Room

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

COMPLETION DATE

None

Discussion

Sheriff Jeff Easter, on behalf of Chair Judge James Fleetwood, called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 22, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.
2. New Business
 - a. Population Report
 - i. Sheriff Jeff Easter went over the monthly population report with the Council. He noted that they are beginning to see a reduction in the number of inmates from outside the County. He also noted that some individuals that are being prosecuted for sex crimes by the Attorney General' office are being housed in the County facility. These people, along with some being held for DUI offenses, are being housed in the County for a State issue.
 - ii. The Sheriff discussed slide 27 in the population report, which illustrates average days for journal entry completion. A rise in average days has contributed to a higher jail population. Due to the long waiting list for Osawatomie, some individuals are being released. This is because of state law that prevents the Sheriff from holding them longer. Many of these individuals, some of them



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violent, are then taken to Via Christi. A meeting will be held tomorrow to discuss how to have similar cases evaluated by COMCARE and then sent to Osawatomie, bypassing Via Christi. DA Chief Attorney Ann Swegle said that after the last meeting, her office examined the journal entry process to identify clogs in the system. Outside of some anecdotal reports, there were no issues identified. This indicates that there may be issues outside of the DA's office contributing to the delays, possibly with the implementation of e-filing. The Sheriff acknowledged that they were all expecting some issues with e-filing coming online. District Court Administrator Ellen House said that an issue in the Clerk's office has been resolved. The August numbers were some of the worst that she has seen, but the September numbers are greatly improved.

b. Community Crisis Center Report

- i. COMCARE Director Marilyn Cook informed the Council that they have received the CCC post implementation study from Wichita State University. She began with a discussion about the history of crisis intervention in the community and how the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) came to the conclusion that a "one stop shop" could be beneficial. In 2012, WSU was commissioned to examine cost avoidance to the community through utilizing a more holistic approach. The main finding was the need for an alternative for those with mental illness besides hospitals and jail. One benefit of a community crisis center that was identified was the reallocation of police officer time. The low, high and average cost avoidance estimates from the study were \$3.9 million, \$4.9 million and \$4.4 million, respectively. In late 2014, a grant in the amount of \$1 million was received from KDADS for the CCC.
- ii. COMCARE Director of Outpatient Services Jason Scheck discussed the services available at the CCC. Building on some services that were already available at the center, the CCC currently offers a 24/7 crisis hotline (with a goal of adding "chat" service in 2017), 24/7 walk-in crisis intervention, 23-hour adult outpatient crisis observation, an adult crisis stabilization unit, children's crisis beds, mobile crisis services and sobering/detox services. All of the CCC services have helped to greatly reduce the number of state hospital admissions. The 2016 post implementation study found a low, high and average cost avoidance of \$5.9 million, \$10.2 million and \$8.1 million, respectively. Marilyn Cook characterized the current task as finding a way to maintain this facility. The CCC will need approximately \$1.3 million from KDADS to continue operating. DA Chief Attorney Ann Swegle added that her office has seen dramatic benefits due to the CCC.

c. COMCARE Community Partners

- i. Sheriff Easter asked COMCARE Director Marilyn Cook about the status of the nonprofit COMCARE Community Partners. She responded that their first meeting will most likely be in early November. The board is in place and bylaws have been reviewed by an attorney. The goal of the nonprofit, as a public private partnership, is to promote mental illness and behavioral health awareness as well as to raise funds to sustain and expand programs. One such expansion would be to have a separate facility for children. Sheriff Easter asked her if they were having staffing difficulties. Director Cook answered that they have about 200 case workers and at the entry level their salary is comparable to the income of a worker in fast food. The people that they do find typically have a passion for the work because a person can make \$100,000/year in a private practice, albeit with increased risk. When managed care companies came in during 2013, they hired a large number of community center staff. The VA, which can afford



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higher salaries, caused another exodus of workers within the last two years. This issue is happening across the state, not just in Sedgwick County. Assistant County Manager of Public Safety and Code Enforcement Tom Stolz asked about the financial value that Via Christi sees in the CCC. Director Cook explained the challenges they have had with turnover of behavioral health directors and CEOs as ownership at the hospital has changed. They see a benefit but they are also providing a significant amount of uncompensated care. She went on to mention \$100,000 that SACK (Substance Abuse Center of Kansas) will receive per year for three years from the City liquor tax. However, COMCARE still needs \$1.3 million. She also confirmed that area hospitals have not contributed financial support to the CCC. Director Cook also discussed the fact that recertification for Osawatomie will not be a speedy process. It is a tier 3 process and complaints as well as new certification requests to CMS will take precedence.

3. Old Business

- a. None

4. Other Business

- a. Probation violation hearings

- i. Sheriff Easter announced that Chief Public Defender Mark Rudy has approached the Sheriff's office and the DA's office about resolving some issues with probation violation hearings. Sheriff Easter expressed his gratitude for Mr. Rudy bringing forth the idea and said that it could help expedite the process.

- b. Next meeting

- i. CJCC meetings are typically held on the fourth Thursday of every month. However, the fourth Thursday in November falls on Thanksgiving Day. In light of this, a motion was made to hold the next meeting one week after the regularly scheduled time to December 1st. The motion was seconded and the vote passed.

5. Public Comment

- a. George Theoharis of the Grandview/Meadowlark Neighborhood Association spoke about Parallax. He said that it will be razed and a low income retirement facility with approximately eighteen beds will open in its place. He said that his organization's Treasurer was present with him and that they would be willing to help spread the word about the facility and that they are grateful that this issue is being addressed. Director Cook thanked him and said that she believes the State recognizes that centers like this are the solution. There is a similar one in Johnson County called Rainbow. She also said that it is a sustainability issue in that an organization may receive funding to open a facility, but then may have difficulty continuing to operate it. She finished by saying that she sees a lot of sense in advocating to the State for continued funding.

Adjournment