

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

NOTES

DATE 5/28/15

ATTENDEES

Voting Members

- Judge James Fleetwood Judge Jennifer Jones Judge John Kisner
- Sheriff Jeff Easter Interim Chief Nelson Mosely District Attorney Marc Bennet
- Commissioner Tim Norton Commissioner Dave Unruh Marilyn Cook
- City Council Member Lavonta Williams Sharon Dickgrafe Bill Buchanan
- Mark Masterson Steve Osburn Marv Duncan Mike Alumbaugh

Ex Officio Members and Others in Attendance

- Judge William Woolley* Ann Swegle* Tom Struble* Jason Scheck*
- Gail Villalovos* Col. Richard Powell* Jama Mitchell*
- Capt. Scott Heimerman* Ron Holt* Jan Jarman* Hazel Clothier Jerry Clothier Janice Bradley Brenda Jansen Kim Voth Treva Lichti Gerry Lichti Joyce Sholander Melinda Wilson Courtney Carpenter Tim Kaufman Jason Van Sickle Alan Brumbaugh Rosie Hacker Margaret Blad Barbara Robertson Fonzy Robertson Micala Teetzen Norma Ciskowski Jay Lachs Dorthy Haren Ayrton Lewallen Dan Soliday Mary Shannon Chris Chronis Kamme Carlsten Karen Powell Mitch Kolf

43 People in attendance

* Voting designee

LOCATION

Detention Facility, 2nd Floor Training Room

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	COMPLETION DATE
Lavonta Williams requested information on how many 911 calls the Crisis Intervention Team get sent out on.	Marv Duncan	6/25/15
Ask Dr. Rohrig of the Regional Forensic Science Center to speak about how CJCC and the RFSC overlap.	Marv Duncan	
Draft a Policy Statement to be given to the BoCC	Judge Fleetwood	6/9/15

Discussion

Judge Fleetwood called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. April 23, 2015 minutes approved.
2. New Business
 - a. Population Report
 - i. No comments.
 - b. COMCARE Presentation
 - i. Overview of privatization options (Kamme Carlsten, Chris Chronis, Tim Kaufman)



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1. Staff reviewed CMHC's from around the state with different business models to compare with COMCARE's governance structure. The findings and how they differ from COMCARE were presented by Kamme Carlsten.
2. Chris Chronis presented COMCARE divestiture financial options. The County Commission had asked for what their choices were for providing mental health services. The conceptual options were overviewed. Forms of governance were described including the county itself or a non-profit that the county designates. The financial ramifications for changing governance structures were also reviewed. Options reviewed included BoCC as Mental Health governing board + COMCARE Department as service provider, Designate nonprofit entity as CMHC + New CMHC as service provider, BoCC as governing body + contract for services (COMCARE as contract admin only), Designate nonprofit entity as CMCH + contract for services. The four major options differed in governance (nonprofit or BoCC run) and methods of service delivery (entity as a service provider or entity as a contract administrator).
3. Tim Kaufmann reviewed a possible timeline for transitioning COMCARE to a nonprofit entity.
4. Questions and comments- Sheriff Easter asked about current staffing levels. Marilyn Cook said they do have high turnover within their Case Manager positions. Easter- From the law enforcement perspective I would have to reach out to the counties that have mental health services run by nonprofits to see how it effects law enforcement. Right now we have a very good service with COMCARE. I would need to research how privatization effects police service.
5. Fleetwood- Would have to also interview judges in counties with privatized mental health to see how it effects services, with assisting the jail and controlling population. I also want to know how the cooperation is with the courts, right now we have good relations, how do you keep a private CEO accountable to providing certain services? Have these questions been asked yet of the other entities? Have the court system or police been talked to?
6. Marilyn Cook- Point for the sheriff, CMHCs were formed in the 1960's they all started as nonprofits, we became part of the county in 1986 when there was concern about the level of mental health services. They didn't all change to nonprofit, some have always been nonprofits.
7. Sheriff Easter- Still, anytime you have to enter into contracts you might not get services because what you need isn't in the contract. With COMCARE we don't have to worry about contracts or MOUs etc. That is what concerns me.
8. Fleetwood- I don't think it's entirely fair to compare what we have here with other CMHCs. Transitioning is going to have costs that are unanticipated. I don't like comparing functioning systems across counties when they have all evolved in different ways. I am very concerned.
9. Commissioner Unruh- What is the starting point of this discussion? Is this because service delivery has been criticized? To save money? There is a problem with cooperation? Why are we doing this?
10. Manager Bill Buchanan- Several years ago it was suggested to the BoCC that maybe we could do work easier if COMCARE was a nonprofit. In my opinion this is about smaller government.
11. Commissioner Unruh- Well I don't know where to begin with this if we don't have a problem.



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12. Fleetwood- So it is not a problem we are trying to fix it is about political philosophy.
 13. Easter- The improvement of services and cooperation with COMCARE has grown, and become a tremendous asset to law enforcement
 14. Capt. Scott Heimerman- If our level of service decreases, incarceration level will increase and Wichita Police budget will have to increase.
 15. Easter- That is the debate. We will decrease costs for COMCARE but increase costs for the police and sheriff. It is just transferring costs. Those are some concerns I have.
 16. DA Marc Bennett- The county really only spends a small amount of taxpayer dollars on this, and there is huge benefit. The 4 million dollars buys a lot. We aren't going to get anymore help from the state, it will fall more and more back on the locals.
 17. Fleetwood- Has this presentation been made to BoCC? Bill- Yes, the next conversation will be made on the 9th.
 18. Commissioner Norton- Things to think about. Board Governance, I take this responsibility seriously, I don't think we should offload that to the private side. Johnson county's patient load is only about half of ours and the budget is very similar, we are being very efficient with our funds. Our last audit found zero problems with our system. We already have a private-public delivery mix, we have a history of being good at these things. The payer mix is important, private entities have to make a profit to keep themselves running, folks with no insurance or payer source is where we fill in the gap as the county. Do you think we would have a mental health pod, SCOAP, etc if we were all private? I don't, and those help keep the jail population down. COMCARE gets to take advantage of our administrative work and overhead, if they move that will hurt them too. I think we have shown that we do this well.
 19. Fleetwood- This gets back again to asking, what problem are we solving? And it hasn't been pointed out to me yet. I am very concerned. I have never heard a complaint from judges about COMCARE, I have no complaints. COMCARE is reliable.
- ii. COMCARE touch points with Criminal Justice system (Jason Scheck)
1. Jason Scheck- presented a report on how COMCARE interacts with the criminal justice system. Both entities have safety in mind, and there is a lot of overlap between the two populations. In 2005 62% of jail population had been COMCARE patients, in 2011 after hard work that was down to 32%. Mental health is a factor in recidivism. 18 specific "touch points" and the many programs that factor into each "touch point" with the criminal justice system were briefly talked about.
 2. Comment- DA Marc Bennett, we also serve many people from Western Kansas etc. People are drawn to this jurisdiction for many reasons. We have to prosecute them. My office works very well with COMCARE and we rely on their services when we have to prosecute cases. They save us money.
 3. Sheriff Easter- I have one other question for both of the Commissioners. Have you reached out to Shawnee or Wyandotte to see how it operates for them? Unruh- we have not, because we are not the ones initiating this discussion. Easter- The only reason I ask is because Shawnee is unique. Their jail is privatized, and the Sheriff doesn't work with them. I am not sure it is even comparable.



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4. Lavonta Williams- As we look at crisis intervention team can we document how many calls go to 911 where we send someone from this team? Marv Duncan- I can check with 911. Easter- you can track the calls that come out as mental crisis, but I don't know if you can track how many CIT officers responded. Marv will bring some information next time.
5. Mark Masterson- with this uncertainty how is this effecting your ability to hire or retain people? Marilyn Cook- it has had some effect, we are trying to raise funding for a community crisis center too. I have concerns about this dragging on
6. Commissioner Unruh- Are we going to arrive at a recommendation for the BoCC? DA Marc Bennett- I think the conversation was that there will not be a recommendation, but we would voice our concerns individually. Unruh- This is an important group, I think it would be influential and appropriate to say something. Fleetwood, I could assist as long as the discussion was about how it effects to court. Unruh- anything that lets the BoCC know it's been discussed. Easter- I think if you could notify the CJCC board members when COMCARE is going to be discussed in staff meeting, we can come and discuss all the aspects of COMCARE and all our issues need to be addressed before we move forward. Fleetwood- What I understand you are asking is if the CJCC could present a letter on a position to the BoCC. DA Bennett- I think we should present the facts, I don't think a policy statement is relevant, I think we can talk about how it fiscally effects the jail, sheriff, DA, WPD, Corrections etc. I think that is more helpful than thumbs up and down. Fleetwood- a statement letter could be prepared, it would have to happen quickly. Karen Powell- if you wanted to formulate the statement now and vote on it here that would work. Fleetwood- Ok what would such a statement say? We would reference the efficiency of COMCARE as a service provider in coordinating with other agencies like the Sheriff, Court, etc. The present structure of COMCARE has resulted in long standing operations. That have resulted in licensing audits that have found excellent service/no deficiencies. Capt. Heimerman- There are just some things you can't quantify in numbers, quality of life has greatly improved. Fleetwood- we have some generic statements here that I think allow for us to expand on. Is there a motion? Unruh and second by Easter, all in favor of a board statement to the terms brought up- motion passed. Fleetwood- as the chair I will initiate the process and call on you to help with the drafting. DA Bennett- If further discussion is to be had someone needs to get into the weeds on the 18 services Jason identified and specifically look at the organizations at this table and try to put a cost on each line item. Fleetwood- are we anticipating a vote at the next meeting? Bill- no vote, but they may move forward with an RFP.

3. Old Business

- a. None.

4. Other Business

- a. Upcoming educational opportunities or information to share
 - i. Marv Duncan, would like to have Dr. Rohrig come next week and have him present on how he touches CJCC? He is invited to come.

5. Public Comment

- a. Question about unduplicated number of services- we do really well on that. Also I like the interaction between the police and COMCARE. If it's not broke why fix.



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- b. Jerry Lichti- I represent NAMI, my role is community organization coordinator, I have been involved with the development of the CIT program and the community crisis center. We have a number of members here today. We are very concerned that the community crisis center get off the board. I want to reinforce that in the last few years we have had a number of community orgs working together in ways that have never happened before with COMCARE, LE, Via Cristi, etc. we have been able to pull together these particular program. Mental Health pod, court, programs. Those are all important. We are concerned about the maintenance and quality of service, and COMCARE does a good job of that. Those who have mental health problems don't ask for it, and a reliable treatment source is crucial to them. We are facing significant issues and I participate the participation by Commissioners Unruh and Norton and are in full agreement with comments today.
- c. Kim Voth- Guidance Counselor at East High- COMCARE works with schools too. This year alone we took 35 students to COMCARE who would have hurt themselves. We work with COMCARE to keep them out of jail. One of the girls who graduated a few weeks ago is off to college because of the help she received from COMCARE. That is just 1 high school for one year. We appreciate your services.

Adjournment