

**Community Corrections Advisory Board
Minutes – August 12, 2021 (In Person & Zoom)**

Members Present: In-person: Janet Federico Via Zoom- Richard Vargas, Michael Birzer, Kevin O’Connor, Kelli Grant, Brent Allred, Patricia Houston, Peter Shay, Ann Swegle, James Convey, Sandra Flanders, AlmaAnn Jones

Members Absent: Sean Gates

Staff: In person: Brenda Gutierrez, Glenda Martens, Chris Morales
Via Zoom: Lori Gibbs

Introductions and Announcements: Brenda introduced new members Janet Federico and Patrice Houston, each member was given a few minutes to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes from the meeting on July 8, 2021: *A motion to approve the Minutes from the July 8, 2021 meeting was made by AlmaAnn Jones, seconded by Michael Birzer and unanimously approved.*

SFY 2022 Behavioral Health Carryover Budget – Approve the budget plan, any technical modifications, and authorize the Chair to sign. Brenda reviewed the carryover budget and was available for questions. A motion to approve *SFY 2022 Behavioral Health Carryover Budget – Approve the budget plan, any technical modifications, and authorize the Chair to sign by Kelli Grant, seconded by Michael Birzer and unanimously approved.*

Program Updates:

Lori: DOC had four staff exit employment and move to Court Services. DOC expects Court Services to complete a second round of interviews at the beginning of 2022. This is a concern since Court Service Officers (CSO) have a higher starting wage. The County Manger presented a budget that will re-class several positions for DOC, including Intensive Supervision Officer (ISO) positions. However, even with the re-class that will take place on January 1, 2022 ISOs will still make about \$4.50 an hour less than a CSOs. After a year, a CSO could make up to \$6.76 more than an ISO.

Adult services has seen an increase in positive COVID cases. As a result, masks are required to be used while in the building. Programs will remain open and no changes to supervisor have been made.

A contract for liaison services for the Batterers Intervention Program (BIP) has been approved between the Mental Health Association (MHA) and DOC. MHA is an approved BIP provider and will serve as DOC’s coordinator allowing trained staff to begin conducting groups.

The mental health services contract between MHA and DOC is completing the approval process. MHA will provide mental health services to JRI clients under the Behavioral Health Grant.

DOC drug court staff, judge, and attorney are attending a national conference. This is the first opportunity for attendance since COVID.

Glenda: There is a new Drug Diversion program starting. An MOU between the District Attorney’s Office and DOC is with legal for review. Additional funds from ARPA will help assist in funding positions, two new positions for this program.

DOC is assessing the possibility of a mental health court. Lori, Commissioner Cruz and Glenda are going to view the City of Wichita’s mental health court. Additionally, a veteran’s court is in the discussion phase.

An ISO position was approved through ARPA funding, this position will help with the back log of cases as courts start to resume operations. DOC also received approval to add an additional female dorm (8 beds), to the program. This approval also included two additional Correction Worker positions to help manage the new dorm.

Across the board Sedgwick County is having a hard time filling positions, critical pay was approved to target these hard to fill positions. This money will help assist in the retention of current staff. ARPA premium pay will be submitted to finance by DOC on Friday. DOC is hoping to get staff additional pay for all the work they did during COVID.

CCAC members are getting ready to draft the legislative platform for the state. Legislators will be invited to visit Sedgwick County to talk specifically about the needs that Community Corrections currently has and the assistance they can provide in order to increase funding.

Lori: Residential/Work Release continues to see low referral numbers, which is an indicator that court has not fully resumed operations. The program has recently seen significant AWOL numbers in the Work Release population. Data will continue to be monitored. COVID quarantine protocols, which require clients to isolate from the rest of the population for 10 days, has slowed down the number of clients that can enter the program. Maintaining available space for quarantine and any clients that test positive limits the program's capacity.

Parenting classes have resumed. Staff working are on the development of a new DOC database called e-corrections.

Next meeting will be September 9, 2021