

Community Corrections Advisory Board
Minutes – February 10, 2022 (In Person & Zoom)

Members Present: In person: none

Via Zoom- Michael Birzer, Kelli Grant, Sandra Clinard-Flanders, Kevin O' Connor, Patricia Houston, Peter Shay, Aaron Breitenbach, AlmaAnn Jones, Janet Federico, Cody Alexander, Richard Vargas

Members Absent: Sean Gates, Brent Allred

Staff: In person: Abigail Lessman, Chris Collins-Thoman, Lori Gibbs

Via Zoom: Tom Struble, Sasha Teel

Guests: In person: Judy Reusser, Lauren Soliday, John Cruz

Via Zoom: Brandon Johnson, Peter Meitzner, Jessica Watson

Introductions and Announcements: Abigail Lessman introduced Cody Alexander as a new member as the Sheriff's designee. Also announced that interviews would be taking place for positions currently held by Michael Birzer, Patricia Houston, and Richard Vargas as each of their terms will be expiring.

Approval of Minutes from the meeting on January 13, 2022: *A motion to approve the Minutes from the January 13, 2022 meeting was made by Peter Shay, seconded by Kevin O' Connor and unanimously approved.*

Approval of FY21 Year End Outcome Report Summary: Lori Gibbs gave an overview of the Year End Outcome Report Summary and was available for questions from the board. *A motion to approve the FY21 Year End Outcome Report Summary and authorize the Chair to sign was made by AlmaAnn Jones, seconded by Patricia Houston and unanimously approved.*

NexStep Unlocked Presentation: Judy Reusser, (staff) Lauren Soliday, (staff) and John Cruz (participant) delivered a presentation on NexStep Unlocked, a partnership between Goodwill Industries of Kansas and WSU Tech, for those who are involved in the criminal justice system. Participants attend classes to earn a technical certificate at the college level and/or complete their high school diploma in an effort to reduce recidivism. Services within the program include: life skills classes, career exploration, learning soft skills, drug/alcohol/trauma counseling, and scholarship assistance. NexStep Unlocked employs three full-time staff members who serve approximately 25 students per year. NexStep Unlocked was available for questions from the board.

Department of Corrections overview presentation: Tom Struble gave an overview presentation highlighting the differences between adult programs available within Sedgwick County Department of Corrections including Pre-Trial Services, Drug Court, the Intensive Supervision Program, and the Adult Residential/Work Release Program and was available for questions from the board.

Sasha Teel gave a presentation on the assessment tools used to evaluate risk along with the different evidence based cognitive based interventions used by staff to reduce recidivism. She also shared information about some of the different resources that are accessible to clients, and was available for questions from the board.

Program Updates:

Lori Gibbs: Lori stated she continues to speak with Legislators about funding concerns and salary disparities to better address staff vacancies.

Sasha reported that if Covid cases remain stable, she anticipates that Adult Residential/Work Release will be able to accept a larger population of clients in the near future.

Other Business: None

Next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2022.