

Community Corrections Advisory Board Minutes – January 12, 2023 (In Person & Zoom)

Members Present: In person: Michael Birzer, Tyler Roush (left at 8:40)

Via Zoom: Sandra Clinard-Flanders, Dena Lee, Cody Alexander, Kelli Grant, Peter Shay, Santiago Hungria, Aaron Breitenbach (left at 8:42)

Members Absent: Sean Gates, AlmaAnn Jones, Frederick Freeman Jr.

Staff: In person: Chase Tipton, Tom Struble

Via Zoom: Lori Gibbs, Steve Stonehouse, Chris Morales, Chris Collins-Thoman, Sasha Teel

Guests: In person: none

Via Zoom: Shelley Anderson, Workforce Alliance

Introductions and Announcements: Chase Tipton provided an update that Judge Kevin O'Connor has resigned from CAB. Chief Judge Goering has appointed Judge Tyler Roush to fill the Judiciary board member position. Judge Roush was given an opportunity for introductions.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from the meeting on December 8, 2022: *A motion to approve the Minutes from the December 8, 2022 meeting was made by Kelli Grant, seconded by Peter Shay and unanimously approved.*

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Annual Summary Report Submission: *A motion to approve the Annual Summary Report was made by Aaron Breitenbach, seconded by Sandra Clinard-Flanders and unanimously approved.*

ACTION ITEM: Approval of CAB letter of support: *A motion to approve the CAB letter of support was made by Sandra Clinard-Flanders, seconded by Aaron Breitenbach and unanimously approved.*

Workforce Alliance Presentation – Shelley Anderson presented on the different employment services available to clients and was available for questions from the board. A supplemental handout was sent to all board members by email after the meeting.

Program Updates: Lori Gibbs reviewed departmental goals within the Comprehensive Plan of reducing recidivism/having a 75% successful completion rate. Lori stated that during COVID, revocation numbers improved but was attributed to less frequent drug testing and in-person visits. Currently, the successful completion rate is at 49%, an all-time low. To help address this, Lori and her team are focusing on staff training and utilizing community resources. Aaron Breitenbach reminded board members that during COVID, many low level felony offenses were not formally charged, however, the district attorney's office intends to start filing charges in the near future. A supplemental handout showing quarterly completion rates was sent to all board members by email after the meeting.

Lori provided an update that a Memorandum of Understanding is close to be finalized for the Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC). Once finalized and approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), Lori will work with Human Resources to post the two positions. In the meantime, Lori has been meeting with community stakeholders and is planning a site visit with Johnson County to observe their VTC in order to help with implementation.

Lori provided an update that the raises that many corrections staff received in the beginning of the year has had a significant impact on reducing vacancies and the increasing of qualified candidates. However, Lori noted that not all positions received a raise which caused compression issues. Sedgwick County has contracted with an outside agency to study current compensation rates and make recommendations to the BoCC.

Sasha Teel provided an update that there are currently 80 clients in the Adult Residential/Work Release (ARES) facility. In order to increase the population back to a pre-COVID rate, ARES will expand their intakes to accommodate larger groups with the goal of returning to full capacity of 165 clients. Sasha also discussed plans of expanding the female dorm and the hiring of several ISO staff that will begin training over the next month.

Sasha provided an update regarding the holiday celebrations that took place during the month of December. A supplemental document highlighting the celebrations was sent out to all board members by email after the meeting.

Tom Struble provided an update that he plans to meet with both judges and attorneys to remind them of the different alternative to detention programs that are available in lieu of incarceration.

Other Business: Steve Stonehouse thanked board members for their continued support in approving the letter requesting the restoration and increase in grant funding.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2023.