**Community Corrections Advisory Board**

**Minutes – March 6, 2025 (In Person & Zoom)**

**Members Present:** In person: Aaron Breitenbach

Via Zoom: Chad Beard, Pastor Pamela Hughes Mason, Cody Alexander, Benita Chaplin, Peter Shay, Juanita Denise Ridge, and Michael Birzer.

**Members Absent:** Tyler Roush, Christopher Haney, Sandra Clinard-Flanders, and Samuel Steincamp (Becky Springer due to being sworn in after the meeting on 3/12/25)

**Staff:** Tom Struble, Sasha Teel, Monica Harris, Samantha Mount, Christina Schrage, Lesa Lank, and Julee Meslin

Via Zoom: Chris Morales and Jessica Christian

**Guests**: None

**Introductions and Announcements:** None

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from the prior meeting on January 9, 2025.**

**A motion to approve the Minutes from the January 9 meeting was made by Chad Beard, seconded by Peter Shay, and unanimously approved.**

**ACTION ITEM: Review and approval or SFY2026 Adult Comprehensive Plan. A motion to approve the SFY2026 Adult Comprehensive Plan was made by Peter Shay, seconded by Dr. Michael Birzer, and unanimously approved.**

Tom Struble initiated the discussion by highlighting that KDOC work on the proposed funding formula is ongoing, and the SFY2026 Adult Comprehensive Plan has been prepared based on the information we have received to date. With the funding formula set to be implemented for SFY2026, there are discrepancies in how each County determines when a case is successfully closed, but our statistics have been compiled and represent a slight increase over the prior reported year. Monica Harris noted another area where Sedgwick County differs from other districts concern the social and economic demographics in Sedgwick County, which are often less prevalent in more rural areas, which could make the establishment of new metrics particularly difficult.

Sasha Teel noted the high number of transfer cases accepted by the Sedgwick County Department of Corrections may contribute to increased crime in Sedgwick County. However, some of the originating counties are closing client files on their end, marking them as successfully completed despite the existence of new charges. Tom also mentioned that the department is managing budget cuts by keeping the Intensive Supervision Officer positions vacant; currently, there are six such positions open. The plan is that if a client supervision position becomes available, it will remain unfilled as long as budget reductions are in effect. These cuts are expected to affect both the COG and BIP programs for clients.

The Sedgwick County Department of Corrections is currently in the second year of a five-year plan in collaboration with WSU Public and Policy Management to enhance community involvement, create a better work environment, ensure that facilities and services meet clients' needs, and improve social media outreach. However, anticipated budget cuts could hinder the execution of these objectives. Lastly, the SFY2026 Adult Comprehensive Plan is due to be submitted to the state by August 15.

**COPE Presentation:**

Jessica Christian introduced an upcoming simulated learning event that will be open to the community, titled the Cost of Poverty Experience. This event aims to explore the realities of poverty through the perspectives of real families. It is scheduled for April 7, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Sedgwick County Extension Office—4-H Hall. The handout included in the meeting packet, as well as presented during the meeting, contained the registration details.

**Program Updates:**

**Adult Intensive Supervision Program—reported by Tom Struble:**

Annual policy reviews are currently in progress. Tom also highlighted the training initiative for the ISO IIs, aimed at preparing them to train the ISO Is, which will help prevent the training delays that can sometimes extend to nine months before new staff receive necessary certification.

**Adult Residential and Work Release – Reported by Sasha Teel:**

Kansas Children's Service League has experienced changes to their grant funding, resulting in the cessation of on-site services for clients. However, a new partnership with Recovery Hub is now providing recovery resources for the community, including support for clients. This collaboration aims to engage clients in resources prior to their release. Currently, the Residential and Work Release population stands at approximately 100, with the facility's capacity set at 165. Efforts are being made to increase the population, including a review of the criteria for placement in the facility. Additionally, strategies are being explored to boost revenue. One proposal under consideration is a potential increase in client rent, which currently is $15.00 per day or $462.00 per month. This rate has remained unchanged for several years, but an adjustment may be necessary to accommodate the rising operational costs of the facility.

**Specialty Courts Update – Reported by Monica Harris:**

Specialty courts have initiated collaboration with Residential to utilize beds for clients of the Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court who require additional structure. This arrangement is expected to reduce costs associated with sober living. A new District Court judge will be joining Specialty Courts; however, the appointment of the incoming judge is still pending. Additionally, a new defense counsel for the Veterans Treatment Court has commenced work with the clients, supporting efforts to increase program participation. After many years, Drug Court is finalizing its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The revisions will enhance criteria such as severity levels while ensuring community safety.

**Other Business**:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025.