

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary

Date: September 28, 2023 | 8-9:30 am

Location: Teams

Committee Members/Representatives Present

David Bernstein for Kristyn Anderson, Michael Berger, Tim Busse, Matt Clark, Jared Jeffries for Jacob Frey, Elie Farhat for Marion Greene, Chela Guzmán-Wiegert, Sara Gonsalves, Jeffrey Lunde, Mark Kappelhoff, Mary Moriarty, Jason Nelson, Michael Rainville, Eric Werner, Dawanna Witt Staff: Mary Ellen Heng, Jackie Braun-Lewis
Notes: Roberta Groening

Agenda Topics

10 Minutes Roll Call and Introductions | Approval of Meeting Minutes (July)

Lead: Chief Matt Clark, CJCC Chair

- Call the meeting to order
- Roll Call
- Approval of meeting minutes – found on CJCC Website

Chief Clark called the meeting to order, and roll call was taken. Chief Clark welcomed the group and moved right into the presentation. A motion to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2023, meeting was made and seconded. With no objections noted, the minutes were approved.

5-10 minutes | Data presentation

Lead: Jackie Braun-Lewis, Head of Analytics, LSJ

Jackie Braun-Lewis presented summer data for in custody populations at the three facilities, for years 2019 to 2023. With the group's agreement the data models can be placed on the public facing website.

A full quarter of data was not available because the meeting took place mid quarter.

- Adult Corrections Facility's numbers are far below its functional capacity. The working assumption is the facility is not staffed to handle over 400 people.
- Juvenile Detention – numbers have been consistent at about 70 individuals.
- Adult Detention Center – was at the line of reaching functional capacity at approximately 755 individuals. The facility has reached pre-pandemic numbers.

Several questions were asked:

- Why is the adult workhouse not being used at the same levels as in the past?
DOCCR Director Johnson, noted the following: congregate living changed to mitigate numbers during the COVID pandemic and secondly, the numbers have not rebounded to 2019 levels possibly due to changing sentencing practices, or a combination of other factors such as a focus on violent crimes and the decline of DWI numbers or the decrease in staffing levels for law enforcement.
- Chief Deputy Martin observed the following:
The jail is not staffed to deal with the increasing population. Recruitment and retention have been really challenging. The Sheriff's office has seen an increase of assaults on staff. Staff have not been available to work. Leadership has had to get creative with how to recruit more staff. These factors have contributed to the stress faced by jail staff.
- Sheriff Witt contributed that we may need to be looking at the entire system, and get more data on what is happening to individuals, when it comes to sentencing, where are they going?
- The data should focus on state level demographics.
- Jackie will contact Department of Corrections to determine best approach. The results may be considered for the November presentation, (Department of Corrections and Court coordination required).

15-20 minutes | Subcommittee updates/recommendations

Lead: Chief Matt Clark, CJCC Chair

Chief Clark indicated that there has been a lot of good discussion at the last two CJCC meetings. CJCC membership needs to consider items that could be expounded on to ramp up for next year including supporting with voice and funding and personnel. Some of the initiatives being considered for further development and expansion are:

- Youth Programming
 - Support the work being done by Safe Communities
Lisa Bayley offered a high-level overview of the programming in the community including mentoring, using adults in culturally responsive manner; offering advice and assistance through lived experience, by meeting with youth multiple meetings per week, exposure trips for employment opportunities, arts, music sports, after school programs in the libraries and athletic grants including partnering with a not for profit.

- Look at developing late night options, to include expanded use of the Youth Connection Center (YCC).
This program is focused on targeting programs that redirect youth.
- Council member Rainville reviewed the successful programs around the Warehouse District this previous summer, which focused on programs that ramp up around midnight and include events on First Avenue with restroom availability, basketball, pinball machines, sing a-longs. The program has been successful.
- Additionally, instituting no parking in front of night clubs to help curb quick accessibility to guns along with enhanced electronic monitoring in the area.
- Hiring Somali elders to walk the Stone Arch bridge and Dinkytown to work as violence interrupters – this has been very successful. Hoping to secure funding to put this in place next May 2024 when summer activities ramp up again.
- Engaging professional sports teams for events/opportunities, the CJCC as a group, has been behind on these activities and less coordinated.
- Community Engagement
 - Questions
 - Sheriff's office has a lot of contacts with sports teams, Sheriff Witt has been having great conversations with the local sports teams, and the Boys and Girls club. Sheriff's office is looking to start a youth advisory group whose responsibility would be to give input and ideas on how to help with these issues that the city is currently experiencing downtown.
 - Sheriff – thinking of a more holistic approach and participate in collaborations to help prevent crime. Build a multi-disciplinary team, to collaborate with public safety and police.
 - The committee will be looking to add some of these conversations in the next subcommittee meetings and hope to put these programs in place before next spring.
- Pre-trial Work
 - Support the work being done by our justice partners – HCAO, Courts, DOCCR for example.
Judge Kappelhoff updated the group on the success of having Lutheran Social Services (LSS) in the courtroom; able to meet with parents and youth right away, (a warm handoff), has made the program so successful.

One of the obstacles is the program does take a lot of time. Great credit to DOCCR for launching the program. It has made a tremendous difference. Big thank you to CJ and team.

- Discussion about adding schools as an official member of the CJCC took place.
 - Would the focus be on just Minneapolis schools, Hennepin Schools, what does that look like? Open question to the larger group.
 - Schools programming would complement the work that CJCC is doing.
 - Commissioner Lunde indicated that CJCC should consider using the model currently in use, with nominating a member one each from suburban and city schools.
 - ACA Chela Guzmán-Wiegert indicated that amending bylaws would be required. CJCC members would need to consider who else should be added to the group? Several individuals who participate in the CJCC and are non-voting members.Review other partners that should be included, including the strong endorsement to include schools.
 - Chief Werner – agreed with the inclusion of schools, and indicated CJCC as a group would need to be intentional about what is needed in additional members.
- Post-Trial Work
 - Support the work and recommendations of the Working Group on Youth Interventions

15 minutes I Working Group on Youth Interventions - update

Lead: Commissioner Jeff Lunde, Vice-Chair & Mary Ellen Heng, Director CJCC

- Commissioner Lunde provided an update. The working group has been meeting every three weeks. First meetings have started off well. The membership agrees on the data needed to move forward. The working group is currently outlining what data is missing. There is clarity within the group and additional work is being done between meetings to prepare. The concern for many commissioners is how do the agencies rehabilitate and restore juveniles who are wards of the state?
- Director Heng indicated that the working group is honing in on the top three questions. The group is looking at best practices and data gathering, doing survey work, and looking at the items the numbers don't show.
- Members of CJCC can subscribe to receive notifications about the working group. Meetings are open (though only members of the working group can participate and ask questions) Available meetings can be found online. Members of the CJCC and public can come in person to observe. Director Heng encouraged CJCC members to use the web link and keep up to date on the working group activities.

- The working group meetings follow the statewide rules and best practices, all available information can be found on the website. More conversations to come.
- Sheriff Witt has been appointed to the working group, Law enforcement is happy to have her representing them. Working Group Leadership is listed on the website.

15-20 minutes I Youth Interventions Working Group update

Lead: Commissioner Jeff Lunde, Vice-Chair & Mary Ellen Heng, Director CJCC

- Website: [Working Group on Youth Interventions \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mn.gov/working-group-on-youth-interventions)
- Meeting dates 10 am to noon:
 - Oct. 4th
 - Oct. 25th
 - Nov. 15th
 - Dec. 13th
 - Jan. 3rd
 - Jan. 31st
 - Feb. 14th

Wrap-up and next steps

Lead: Chief Matt Clark, CJCC Chair

Next steps, Director Heng invited members interested in participating in the smaller group meetings to talk about CJCC membership, bylaws and other issues. If the members are interested, email Mary Ellen, CJCC' across the country have different membership structures. Council member Rainville would like to add for next discussion, the use of fireworks as an intimidation tool against law enforcement and citizens.

Time 8:50am | Adjournment

- Next CJCC Meeting is November 16, 2023

Relevant Links or Resources

[Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Website](https://www.cjcc.org/)

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