**Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee**

**Meeting Summary**

January 27, 2022 | 12 – 1:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting in Microsoft Teams

**Committee Members/Representatives Present**

Toddrick Barnette, Kassius Benson, Tim Busse, Matt Clark, Irene Fernando, Daniel Mabley for Michael Freeman, Jacob Frey, Tamara Garcia, Chela Guzmán-Wiegert, Juan Hoyos, Amelia Huffman, Tracey Martin for David Hutchinson, Deebaa Sirdar for Andrea Jenkins, Catherine Johnson, Leah Kaiser, Sara Gonsalves for Sarah Lindahl-Pfieffer, Jeffrey Lunde, Julie-Maas-Kusske, Jason Nelson, Rolf Sponheim and Eric Werner.

**Committee Members Not Present or Represented**

Michael Rainville, Jim Rowader

Staff: Carrie Scardigli Notes: Cherie Nelson

*Agenda Topics*

**Roll call & approval of meeting minutes**

*Lead: CJ*

* Catherine Johnson called the meeting to order and committee members were introduced.
* Motion to approve the minutes from the November 2021 meeting was made and seconded. The motion was carried by the committee.

**Appointment of new CJCC Chair and Vice Chair for 2022 - 2023**

*Lead: CJ*

Catherine Johnson said it had been a pleasure serving as CJCC Chair for the past two years and she was happy to have had the opportunity to do so. She called for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for 2022-2023:

* Motion to nominate Matt Clark as CJCC Chair for 2022-2023 was made and seconded.
* Motion to nominate Irene Fernando as CJCC Vice Chair for 2022-2023 was made and seconded.

The motions to appoint Matt Clark as CJCC Chair and Commissioner Fernando as CJCC Vice Chair for 2022-2023 were passed unanimously by the committee.

**Welcome remarks from new CJCC Chair and Vice Chair**

*Lead: Incoming Chair and Vice Chair*

Chief Clark said he appreciated being elected to serve as the 2022-2023 CJCC Chair; he felt it was an honor to be part of the organization. He thanked Catherine Johnson and Jill Hermanutz for all the leadership and efforts they had provided for the CJCC, and that he was glad to have Carrie Scardigli serving as the current CJCC Director. He said that understanding and working collaboratively were the most important things that CJCC members could do and encouraged everyone to be very clear in providing information to the group and also encouraged communicating successes as the public is hearing a lot of information right now and may not realize how much has been accomplished. He added that CJCC leadership would be doing their best to develop a data dashboard and members would be surveyed to determine what information should be included.

Commissioner Fernando said she was grateful to have had the overlap between Human Services and Public Safety last year, a direction that the county had taken over the last several years. She said she hoped the forum of CJCC meetings could be a table for conversation and a place to disagree well, which had been easier to do in person than the virtual word, and result in solutions that don’t dwell in one jurisdiction.

New appointees to the CJCC were welcomed.

**Mayors Association Meeting Recap & System-wide Feedback**

*Lead: Mayor Tim Busse*

Mayor Tim Busse provided an update on the January 10 meeting of city mayors, police chiefs and staff with Hennepin County Attorney Michael Freeman. The original core group included the cities of Maple Grove, New Hope, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, Plymouth, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, but at least 40 mayors had joined the meeting. Speakers included Mayor Frey, Michael Freeman, Ramsey County Attorney John Choi, Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell, and Sheriff David Hutchinson. There was agreement that there had been a good discussion, with frank back and forth conversation on concerns and current perceptions of public safety. There was also agreement that better collaboration and communication was needed, along with continued support of law enforcement officers and that everyone needed to work together – “this isn’t suburban versus urban.” He added that he hoped to see many of the ideas discussed taken up for further consideration / action by the CJCC. Next steps were noted as a letter being drafted by the small core group of mayors to outline the outcome of the meeting and hopes for what could be accomplished in the future.

**Violence Prevention Discussion | Forecasting and Planning for the Future**

*Lead: Chief Clark*

Chief Matt Clark indicated that a questionnaire would be sent out to CJCC members seeking input on top issues and prioritizing work on that list. He introduced Captain Spencer Bakke, Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office.

Captain Bakke provided a presentation on Hennepin County crime statistics, highlighting the following:

* The number of homicides in 2021 increased drastically from 2018 from 48 compared to 122; the previous high of 105 had occurred in 1995. The murder rate, considering increased population, was 9.52 per 100,000 residents in 2021 compared to 9.98 in 1995.
* In other violent crimes, robbery has seen the highest increase. Motor vehicle theft increased steadily, consistent with national trends, while burglaries have decreased since 2020 in large part due to the pandemic and less opportunity to burglarize residences.
* Major takeaways included: murder increased 171% since 2018; robbery increased 102%; and motor vehicle theft increased 86%. Hennepin County had not experienced the typical reprieve from crime during cold weather months that has historically happened.
* Since 2019, carjackings in Minneapolis have increased 540% with many incidents involving juveniles.
* Fewer juvenile offenders were being booked and housed in the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC); this trend was mirrored in adult cases and was again in part due to the pandemic, although the trend had started prior to the pandemic.
* The number of firearms recovered increased, mirroring a national trend. The data presented was preliminary and only included Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office and the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD).
* The reduction in proactive policing and statewide staffing decline was noted.

Ensuing discussion noted:

* There was an opportunity to develop recommendations regarding juveniles and facility needs overall and lobby the legislature for resource needs and other legislative changes.
* Catherine Johnson clarified information from the JDC data; declines in admission were due to multiple reasons including limiting booking youth into JDC that should be there due to violent activity viewed through a public safety lens.
* There was a need for a data dashboard for CJCC to be used in identifying trends, developing recommendations, and implementing solutions. Further discussion added that data would need to be complete and consistent. CJCC members were asked to consider what should be included on the dashboard and will be sent a survey.
* Daniel Mabley briefed the group on the MN HEALS 2.0, Minnesota Hope, Education and Law and Safety, announced by Michael Freeman at the meeting. He said the process or forum would be much like the CJCC with one main difference; MN HEALS 2.0 would include private entities, businesses, faith representatives, community organizations and more so that efforts can go beyond government. This might also bring in additional resources and funding which could initiate or expand possible programs. He asked that anyone interested in participating or nominating someone to participate contact him or Michael Freeman. Irene Fernando noted the importance of including people with lived experience, while being sensitive to not retraumatize any participants.
* Catherine Johnson provided background on proposed improvements to Juvenile Assessment & Triage:

1. Solicit on-going community input to help shape juvenile assessment & triage improvements

2. Create the ability to identify high-need juveniles & seamlessly share information between agencies

3. Review for physical space improvements

4. Implement early assessment focusing on drivers of behavior, offer direct connection to culturally specific programming

5. Expand pre-trial case management services & reduce barriers to successful participation

6. Offer pre-trial incentives for juveniles participating in voluntary and/or mandatory case management services

7. Transform one cottage at the County Home School to include emergency shelter beds

She noted Jill Hermanutz’ s key role in this project. This had been driven by auto theft at that time and identified a gap aspect; youth did not need to be in the JDC, but the Youth Connection Center (YCC) did not provide enough intervention. The goal was to prevent kids from becoming repeat offenders while reducing the number of victimizations.

* Gun violence and the need to take guns off the street was noted, particularly guns that had been modified or were in the hands of those who shouldn’t have them. The need for resources to accomplish this was noted, including not just more officers on the street, but also the need for more investigators, analysts, and forensic scientists. It was added that MPD has lost 100 investigators over the last 20 months and that those can’t be replaced by backfilling from within the department.
* It was pointed out that the criminal justice system is made up of many components; law enforcement officers would be the front door if the criminal justice system was a house. They need help now and need to be built up, but there can’t be a front door with no house to attach it to and that includes prosecutors, defense attorneys and the bench. And the house would not be complete and secure if the back door was falling off the hinges, and that is corrections – we all need to work together for the system to be successful. Another key component would be to share data.
* Comments noted that the group would really need to work together and have direct, open conversations, while avoiding finger pointing and developing a proactive approach to working with People of Color, who are most affected, but least likely to report issues.

## Time 1:33 | Agenda topic Adjournment

* Next CJCC Meeting is March 24, 2022

# Relevant Links or Resources

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