

# Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2020 | 8:00 AM | Online via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Called By Jill Hermanutz  
Facilitator Catherine Johnson

## Committee Members/Representatives Present

Councilmember Lisa Bender, Councilmember Steve Fletcher, Michael Freeman, Judge Tamara Garcia, Commissioner Marion Greene, Judge Juan Hoyos, Sheriff David Hutchinson, Catherine Johnson, Commissioner Jeff Johnson, Sarah Lindahl-Pfieffer, Mayor Jeff Lunde, Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske, Chief Michael Risvold, Jim Rowader, Rolf Sponheim, Mark Thompson, Chief Eric Werner, Chief Matt Clark, Chief Medaria Arradondo  
Guest Facilitators: Diana Chaman Salas, Erin Lewis

Guests: Wanda Cannon, Jon Collins, Commissioner Irene Fernando, Chela Guzman, Mary Ellen Heng, Leah Kaiser, Karen Kuglar, Andy LeFevour, Alex Lewison, Chief Deputy Tracey Martin, Judge Kerry Meyer, Kareem Murphy, Marcy Podkopacz, Shawn Sorrell, Amy Valerius, Jennifer White & Jodie Wierimaa.

Staff: Jill Hermanutz

Notes: Cherie Nelson

## AGENDA TOPICS

*Time allotted 8:00-8:10 | Agenda topic: Welcome* Introductions, Announcements, and Approval of Meeting Minutes | *Presenter:* Catherine Johnson

- Catherine Johnson welcomed new member:
  - Jim Rowader, City Attorney for the City of Minneapolis.
- Check CJCC website for agendas and minutes

*Time allotted | 8:10-9:30 | Agenda topic: Facilitated Committee Conversation*  
*Lead: Diana Chaman Salas, Erin Lewis*

Catherine Johnson introduced Diana Chaman Salas, Manager for the No Wrong Door Program, and Erin Lewis, Project Manager/Strategist for Public Safety & Justice. They led a facilitated discussion to define success for the CJCC and create overarching goals. The focus was how to make the best use of the CJCC forum in challenging times and find ways to take action. The group was asked four open-ended questions to guide discussion.

*Define success as a member, what would you like to see as the core purpose of the group?*

Diana noted another way of framing the question was how do members envision the purpose of the group?

Responses were outlined as:

- *Need to come together as a system, not just law enforcement that needs to change, work together to serve society*
- *Increase our communication with the general public, engage communities to raise awareness and seek input*
  - *Echoed - communication to public and in general*
- *The criminal justice system is the end of a long equation → need to get on the other side of the equation in trying to change*
- *Law enforcement reform has been an ongoing process for a century plus--let's learn from and build on what we're already doing*
- *The best solutions to our biggest challenges require us to work together (e.g. recent work on support for juveniles who come into contact with the criminal justice system, mental health response)*
- *Need to use different tools than law enforcement to solve some of these challenges*
- *Can't forget the victims of crime--need to balance the pendulum as we seek to address underlying issues (e.g. behavioral health)*
- *Need to continue measuring success in how we are doing in creating/increasing public safety, as well as how we measure the success of addressing some of the underlying challenges that can impact public safety*
- *Does it still make sense to scope our purpose to criminal justice? Or do we need to broaden that?*
- *Make progress on disparate impact of the criminal justice system -- fundamental to building trust, addressing the underlying sources of civil unrest*

Comments included:

- The profession of law enforcement, like it or not, is facing a number of issues and we need to come together as a criminal justice system to improve the justice system including the Bench, attorneys, etc. We need to work together to come together for the common good. Law enforcement was catching the brunt of this but having a better relationship with the other wheels of the criminal justice system is beneficial to criminal justice partners and society.
- Communication with the general public should be improved; an example was police reform discussion this summer where people really did not know what the police department did. We need to create a better understanding mechanism for the public so they can guide what work that law enforcement should and should not be doing.
- Once a person interfaces with the criminal justice system at what could be the end of a long series of challenges including lack of opportunities, the criminal justice system is blamed.
- The original purpose of the group was to share information and collaborate; now the group needs to broaden communication and seek input from others, including communities represented and provide the opportunity to share more information and receive input on things we should be doing together.
- We should not forget crime victims in our discussion – they are a key component.
- Mental health problems are faced in Minneapolis and the suburbs; need to actively collaborate to solve these problems.

*What are the commonalities?*

- *Need for communication*
- *Community engagement*
- *Building public trust*
- *Learn from each other, support each other*
- *Collaboration and communication within the system*
- *Commitment to racial equity*
- *Expose ourselves to best practices from other jurisdictions*

Comments included:

- We have to have community involvement in the justice system – we all work for the public.
- There also needs to be a deep commitment to racial equity in our outcomes.

- We need to continue to look at best practices and exposing ourselves to the latest research and discussions about what other jurisdictions are doing that is working and that we might to adopt

The group then was asked to dig deeper into what these things mean. Catherine Johnson mentioned themes she had noticed in her one-on-one conversations with CJCC members.

#### *Themes from one-on-one conversations*

- *System unity*
- *Meaningful communication*
- *Engaging suburban members and issues*
- *Public safety/human services integration*

*Do those themes fit as our overarching goals? (system unity, meaningful communication, engaging suburban members/issues, public safety/human services integration)*

- *Actual goal of public safety and keeping people safe*
- *More timely / clear communication across jurisdictional boundaries*
- *Learn from innovations across jurisdictions. Ex. Pilot: Embed social workers at PDs → creates collaboration with Health and Human Servicers*
- *Integration between Public Safety and Human / Health Services. Ex: COVID19 response. Mental health issues among served residents. Need for mental health services partnering in collaboration with Public Safety.*
- *Capture measures/indicators to reoffend. Ex: Bail*
- *Expansion of 1800 Chicago → Increasing utilization (provision of direct services)*
- *Pivot to social services support and evaluation process. In conjunction with Law Enforcement. Learn from successful pilots from suburban PDs. Ex: Bloomington, Minnetonka, Etc.*
- *Standardize successful models.*
- *Determine outcomes with the aim of promoting system unity, better communication, being more effective. Ex: Racial equity transversal to successful measures.*
- *Treating victims with compassion*
- *Racial Equity*
- *Matching right service to particular needs then treating victims with compassion*
- *Serving perpetrators*
- *Reducing crime → the main purpose of Public Safety*

Comments included:

- Suburban members have expressed a desire for increased, timely communication; an example was sign and release warrants.
- Would like to see more integration between Public Safety and Human Services with different ways to improve service to people suffering mental health crises. COVID-19 has only added more pressure to this. More than half of calls to Nicollet appear to be as a result of a person with mental health problems. Would like to incorporate countywide pairing of a mental health professional with law enforcement.
- Interest in additional collaboration on changing the current bail system was expressed since it does not seem to measure the risk to reoffend and does not work for clients.
- The suggested expansion of services hours at 1800 Chicago to be more useful to law enforcement and the individuals who could be brought there and avoid being taken to jail or HCMC.
- Goals / themes were discussed including the desire to have outcomes with racial equity, a system that treats victims with compassion, the ability to match the right service to the need when 911 calls are received and serving perpetrators with better outcomes.
- At the top of the list of goals should be the goal of public safety and keeping citizens safe.

Erin indicated they would work to condense to more concrete statements and bring back to next meeting of the group.

### *Find ways to take action*

*How can we start taking action to support each other's change efforts right now?*

*What initiatives are you working on that align with CJCC's goals? How could the group support you?*

- *An initial need to increase collaboration is to better understand what our different agencies do, the actual work*
- *Better and deeper understanding of each other's work is a precursor to different system partners critiquing each other's work → seek to understand before giving input on areas that are not your area of expertise*
- *Also need to promote deeper understanding among communities about how the system works and what it does*
- *Countywide model of social worker embedded in 911 response -- find ways to share resources between municipalities to enable us to expand this model*
- *Continuing community engagement during the pandemic by using social media, creating videos that can be shared rather than everything in person*
- *Community outreach starting with personal communications -- example of National Night Out as a catalyst for a year-round connection with community*
- *The Sheriff's Office offered to provide guidance and support to others on community outreach*
- *This includes communicating the resources that are available in order to support one another*
- *Expanding who is classified as emergency response, and what equipment and authorities come with that*
- *Expanding citizens' academy presentations -- e.g. District Court would be happy to expand beyond the courts with collaboration from this group*
- *Ensure communication of changes that agencies make that will impact other parts of the system, support each other in creating a unified front*
- *This group is an opportunity to say yes to supporting what other agencies are doing*

Comments included:

- *The group noted that while they are experts in their own areas, they may not know the daily workings and nuances of other areas of criminal justice and cannot speak for a different area. It was felt that members should refrain from easy criticism of other parts of the system until we understand what is going on – undue criticism can harm public trust.*
- *The group discussed community involvement and outreach; noting the need to break down misperceptions and get accurate information out to the community. There is a lack of understanding of the system.*
- *The need for embedded social workers was mentioned; some communities do not have the capacity or volume for a social worker, and it would be helpful to have shared resources in a countywide effort.*

Erin continued with two more aspects for discussion: how best to make use of time together in this space together and what were ways to support each other and work together. She noted that she had heard in the discussion the importance of sharing specifics along with policies and practices was impactful.

### *Find ways to take action*

*What makes it a good use of your time to sit in this (virtual) room?*

- *Information sharing towards action, monitoring and evaluation. Ex: Determine metrics / indicators.*
  - *Continue with facilitation style*
- *Create some structure in order to organize initiatives across the system. Ex: "Buddies" across systems. Small group to talk on a regular basis to better understand the criminal justice system.*
- *Expand / nurture relationships. Connect more regularly. Do so in a more intentional way.*
- *Formalizing themes. Ex: Mental Health, Juvenile, etc. Coordinate proactively to de-escalate potential conflict.*
- *Build trust among each other and being intentional with how we interact with one another, as well as with those outside the system.*
- *Formalizing themes into groups. But keep teams flexible enough to secure participation.*

Comments included:

- It was noted that the group could really use each other's expertise and that it would be helpful to have a judge, attorney or buddy in the other areas of the criminal justice system as a resource. It was suggested that members call each other when there was an issue.
- There was interest in adding formal subcommittees to work on specific topics

Chair Catherine Johnson thanked the facilitators for leading the robust and helpful conversation. She said they would be meeting to solidify discussion and hoped to move forward on clear action items. She noted that at the November meeting, the group would hear about the juvenile assessment & triage improvements resulting in feedback from the CJCC Project Work Group & Corrections Community Coalition.

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Time 9:28 | Agenda topic *Adjournment*

- Next CJCC Meeting is November 19, 2020

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## RELEVANT LINKS OR RESOURCES

[Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Website](#)