

Community Corrections Advisory Board Minutes – April 6, 2023 (In Person & Zoom)

Members Present: In person: Michael Birzer, Dena Lee, Becky Springer

Via Zoom: Cody Alexander (arrived at 8:03), Tyler Roush (left at 8:55), Sandra Clinard-Flanders, Peter Shay, Santiago Hungria, Aaron Breitenbach (arrived at 8:03), AlmaAnn Jones

Members Absent: Sean Gates, Kelli Grant

Staff: In person: Chase Tipton, Sasha Teel, Patricia McBee

Via Zoom: Steve Stonehouse, Lori Gibbs, Tom Struble, Chris Morales, Chris Collins-Thoman

Guests: In person: none

Via Zoom: none

Introductions and Announcements: Chase Tipton provided an update that Frederick Freeman Jr. has accepted a position with the Sedgwick County Department of Corrections (SCDOC) and therefore, resigned from the advisory board. Chase also provided an update that Kelli Grant's term on CAB would expire as of 4/6/23. Kelli had notified the SCDOC that she would not be pursuing another term. Kelli had been serving as the Vice Chair and a new election would take place later in the meeting. Both Frederick Freeman Jr. and Kelli Grant were thanked for their service to the board.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from the meeting on March 9, 2023: A motion to approve the Minutes from the March 9, 2023 meeting was made by AlmaAnn Jones, seconded by Peter Shay and unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEM: Review and Approve the SFY2024 Comprehensive Plan grant application (inclusive of the JRI/Behavioral Health Grant) and funding plan for submission to Sedgwick County BoCC for additional required approval, submission to KDOC and authorize the Chair to sign with additional approval for any technical modifications.

Lori Gibbs provided information to the board that due to COVID, SCDOC was unable to fully utilize the Adult Residential/Work Release facility which likely affected revocation rates. Also during this time, many clients were being supervised remotely which has greatly impacted data as drug tests were collected less frequently.

Lori shared that many staff received a significant increase in salary but onboarding continues to be a struggle as staff are not able to become certified to conduct risk assessments for typically 6-9 months after hire.

Lori shared that their Batterer's Intervention Program (BIP) was implemented in January 2022 and is now offering gender specific groups.

Lori reported that the Adult Intensive Supervision Program (AISP) will work towards meeting the following outcome for SFY24: A 75% successful completion rate or 3% improvement from the previous year. Lori noted that the 75% successful completion rate has never previously been met, but there was an 'artificial' increase in the success rate during COVID. It is anticipated that successful completions will decrease over the next year as clients have returned to reporting in person and providing UA's regularly.

Lori addressed a question from the board regarding revocation rates, both Lori and Tom Struble shared that referrals to Drug Court remain low. Aaron Breitenbach reminded board members that many low level felony offenses were not criminally charged during COVID which impacted referral rates.

Lori shared that due to the relocation of both Drug Court and Pre-Trial, office space is at full capacity and unable to accommodate any further growth and will likely need to be addressed in the near future by county management. Lori also shared that the SCDOC has assembled a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) team that will complete skill building with both case managers and direct care staff.

Lori updated the board that the application to be submitted to the KDOC will request that they continue to fund positions responsible for providing substance abuse, mental health, and cognitive based services.

Chris Morales shared information regarding the SFY24 budget including the request of County General Funds to cover anticipated shortfalls in grant funding received from the KDOC. Chris also shared that for this budget cycle, senior managers assisted in the planning process.

Aaron Breitenbach motioned, seconded by AlmaAnn Jones and unanimously approved.

Call for Nominations: Chase reminded the board that Sedgwick County's Legal Department had advised that in order to be in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, all voting should be 'on record.' Members were asked to verbally vote for their candidate of choice and asked to submit a written ballot reflective of their vote.

Vice Chair – Members were asked for 'on the floor' nominations, no additional nominations were made.

Aaron Breitenbach received votes from: Michael Birzer, Dena Lee, Becky Springer, Cody Alexander, Tyler Roush, Sandra Clinard-Flanders, Peter Shay, Santiago Hungria, and AlmaAnn Jones. Aaron Breitenbach abstained from voting.

Announcing of the 2023 Vice Chair – Aaron Breitenbach was named the Vice Chair.

Female Team Presentation – Jennifer Blomster and Sarah Herrman delivered a presentation and were available to address questions from the board. Included in the presentation was information on the unique challenges that women face while on supervision, the sharing of community resources, and the efforts being taken to better understand trauma and how that affects women. Lori shared case closure and revocation data amongst females on supervision over the past three years and updated the board on the female dorm expansion at the Adult Residential/Work Release facility.

Program Updates: Tom Struble shared that his team is currently preparing for an audit to take place in May by the KDOC where they will look at the department's grant funded programs. The audit will consist of staff interviews, reviewing policies and procedures, and quality assurance by direct observation of office and group contacts.

Sasha Teel shared that the population of the Adult Residential/Work Release facility is right around 100 clients and they are in the need of additional referrals in order to get the population to Pre-COVID numbers. Sasha also shared that Pathway Church recently helped facilitate baptisms for 14 different individuals and their staff are beginning to prepare activities and recognition for National Correction Officer's Week.

Lori shared that progress continues to be made towards the implementation of a Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC). Steve Stonehouse recently completed a Walk the Halls with the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) with an anticipated approval from the BoCC as of April 19th. Once approved, the SCDOC will proceed with the posting of two new positions.

Other Business: Steve thanked board members for participating in the Strategic Planning Focus Group during the March meeting. Cody Alexander asked if any SCDOC staff had any issues related to accessing the new Jail Management System (JMS) with no issues reported.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2023.