**Community Corrections Advisory Board**

**Minutes – November 9, 2023 (In Person & Zoom)**

**Members Present:** In person: Michael Birzer

Via Zoom: Benita Chaplin, Samuel Steincamp, Sandra Clinard-Flanders, Santiago Hungria, Tyler Roush, Peter Shay, Aaron Breitenbach, Juanita Ridge, Becky Springer, AlmaAnn Jones

**Members Absent:** Capt. Cody Alexander, Dena Lee

**Staff:** In person: Lesa Lank, Julee Meslin, Andrea Drinnen, Barrett Ancelet

Via Zoom: Lori Gibbs, Tom Struble, Chris Morales, Sasha Teel, Jessica Christian

**Guests**: none

Via Zoom: Brad Palmer from Pathway Church

**Introductions and Announcements: Staff introductions held including new staff Barrett Ancelet, Fiscal Analyst and Jessica Christian, Continuous Quality Control Administrator**

**Lesa Lank announced that nominations were now open for Advisory Board Officers. She reviewed the Bylaws regarding the election process, shared who the current officers were and asked for all nominations to be sent in by November 22, 2023. The Board will vote on new officers at the December 9 meeting.**

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from the prior meeting on October 12, 2023: *A motion to approve the Minutes from the September 14 meeting was made by AlmaAnn Jones seconded by Aaron Breitenbach and unanimously approved.***

**ACTION ITEM: Review the proposed 2024 meeting schedule. *Sandra Clinard-Flanders made the motion to approve the meeting schedule, the motion was seconded by Peter Shay and unanimously approved.***

**Lori Gibbs** introduced Brad Palmer from Pathway Church to the Board. Pathway Church has partnered with Adult Services to provide a spiritual component to the current programs. Lori invited Brad Palmer to share his personal story. Pathway currently holds 2 bible studies each Tuesday at 622 E. Central. Recently, they started a Sunday service creating a new “satellite church” to provide a Sunday service to clients on location. Dr. Birzer thanked Brad and Pathway Church for their support and opened the floor for any questions.

Lori Gibbs shared that last year, Pathway held a short service and brought the adult residential and work release clients a holiday meal. Pathway has also been the first outside source to support the program staff. Lori will be going before the Board of County Commissioners to accept a donation from Pathway meant specifically to support the correction officers. She went on to say that Pathway has been a tremendous partner for both clients and staff. The presence of Pathway will help to foster pro-social contacts that could lead to mentor relationships and support in the community.

**Program Updates:** Tom Struble shared that KDOC requires a 75% program completion rate or a 3% increase over the last year. In 2023 the rate has increased from 52.3% to 57.6%. His team is working to transfer clients owing only restitution over to Court Services for the remainder of their program. Judge Tyler Roush has been instrumental in this transition by creating a Journal Entry for clients who meet that criteria.

Sasha Teel shared the positive feedback she has heard from the Pathway interaction, from clients and staff.

Sasha went on to say that the PassPoint machine is up and will be running by the end of the month. PassPoint is an ocular scanner that detects abnormalities indicative of substance use. The use of this technology will allow an ISO to request a UA when needed and decrease the need for unnecessary UAs.

OnSite staff paid a visit to 622 E. Central to begin writing programs for the E-Corrections database.

Sasha shared that the Public Defender’s office came to tour the facility during the month of October. These site visits by the Public Defender’s office and other interested parties have resulted in an increase in program referrals. Commissioner Sarah Lopez shadowed Adult Programs for a full day. Additionally, she wanted to learn more about Drug Court proceedings the following day.

All DOC supervisors attended the 3rd session of the Kansas Leadership Center’s supervisory program. This program will help supervisors to improve their communication and provide a new coaching model. Three peer group coaching sessions will happen in the next two months.

The Adult Residential clients had a Halloween party on October 24 with eight clients and 30 family members attending. The kids were encouraged to come in costume and the clients were able to enjoy a meal, BINGO and time with their families.

One of the female ISOs has initiated a culinary Life Skills class where each week, the female clients shop for and prepare a meal for the other clients and staff.

Lori Gibbs shared that Next Step Unlocked is interested in designing a program for Adult Residential/Work Release clients to work with them on developing basic digital skills to assist in job searching. This would be a 4-6 week program held in the employment lab within the facility.

Lori also met with Drs. Bannister, Craig-Moreland and Castro from Wichita State University to discuss what WSU can do for educational support for offenders in the system. This brainstorming session included talking to Next Step Unlocked clients. There will be a follow up session on November 20 to talk more about how clients could earn college credit and receive guidance and financial support to further their education.

Sasha Teel shared that the BOCC approved the Behavioral Health Budget reallocation approved by CAB during the October meeting.

Aaron Breitenbach asked if anyone was having more challenges with Odyssey being down. Lori Gibbs said the current work arounds were going well. Aaron said that the internal calendar system would soon be available for checking court dates until the issues with Odyssey are fixed.

**Other Business**:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2023.