**Community Corrections Advisory Board**

**Minutes – February 8, 2024 (In Person & Zoom)**

**Members Present:** In person: none

Via Zoom: Sandra Clinard-Flanders, Santiago Hungria, Peter Shay, Aaron Breitenbach, AlmaAnn Jones, Capt. Cody Alexander, Dr. Michael Birzer, Becky Springer

**Members Absent:** Juanita Ridge, Benita Chaplin, Samuel Steincamp, Tyler Roush, Dena Lee

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

Via Zoom: Lori Gibbs, Tom Struble, Monica Harris, Sasha Teel, Steven Stonehouse, Jessica Christian

**Guests**: Cody Palmer and Drew Coleman with Phoenix Gym

**Introductions and Announcements: Sandra Clinard-Flanders requested confirmation on the numbers needed for a quorum.**

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from the prior meeting on January 11, 2024: *A motion to approve the Minutes from the January 11 meeting was made by AlmaAnn Jones, seconded by Dr. Michael Birzer and unanimously approved.***

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of revised meeting schedule to move April 11 meeting to April 4, 2024. *Peter Shay made the motion to approve the revised meeting schedule, the motion was seconded by Capt. Cody Alexander and unanimously approved.***

**GUEST SPEAKERS: Drew Coleman and Cody Palmer from the Phoenix Gym**

Phoenix Gym is a national non-profit gym located at 1st Street and Washington that first opened during Covid. Phoenix became a DOC partner providing community resources during the shutdown. Since then, the partnership has grown. Phoenix offers an open gym on Sunday mornings, which has become very popular with ARES/WR clients, often hosting up to 40 people. Phoenix hosts a variety of events such as cross-fit, movie night, skate night, Super Bowl party and a St. Patrick’s Day party. The gym is a support system for those in recovery, their families, and first responders. The gym is free and open to anyone with 48 hours of sobriety.

**Program Updates:** Tom Struble shared that ISO staffing is affecting the current caseload. In the last couple of months, one ISO III has retired; her caseload shifted to an ISO II. Another ISO III and an ISO II transferred to the Continuous Quality Improvement Team; two ISO IIs were promoted into the open III positions leaving openings for ISO IIs. Tom announced that the promotions from within create openings for ISO Is and that two ISO I’s will be joining the team on February 26. Tom shared that there has been an increase in the intake of clients from 70-75 in the last few months to 96 in the month of January. Aaron Breitenbach said that the DA’s office has increased their charging of cases now that Odyssey is functional. The DA’s office is utilizing a Resolution Docket process to resolve cases earlier in the process. Individuals who accept responsibility early have the opportunity for community services. This has resulted in a higher intake level for Adult Community Corrections. Aaron believes that intakes will level out in the second quarter. Aaron reported that the DA’s office is also experiencing staffing shortages and that they will be experimenting with new ways to move forward with fewer attorneys.

Sasha Teel sent out an attachment of the Phoenix Gym’s February schedule of events and encouraged anyone who was interested to go and visit the facility. Sasha reported that the Adult Residential/Work Release population is up to 100 clients and they have seen an increase in referrals as well. Adult Residential/Work Release staff are testing a new uniform piece that will allow them to carry Narcan/Naloxone at all times. Having Narcan readily available will increase response time and reduce the risk of potential Fentanyl overdoses. Sasha shared that Adult Residential/Work Release has supervisory staff vacancies. They have no ISO IIs, and interviews are scheduled this week. Military leave and deployments have reduced the number of staff and there are efforts to immediately fill those gaps.

Monica Harris reported that the ISO III for Drug Court is out on long-term leave and that the Veterans Treatment Court ISO II has stepped up to take an active role to cover that absence. There is currently one client in Veterans Treatment Court. Drug Court has 95 clients and has been receiving several referrals, although violent offenders are being dismissed for eligibility. Three employees will be sent to the national conference in May. Best Practice Standards will be the focus of the training. The BoCC met this week and approved the resolution establishing a $360 program fee for Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court and decreasing AISP supervision fees to $450. Additional fee reduction will be utilized as an incentive to clients. Monica stated that there have been challenges with Specialty Court regarding warrants and the bonding process. Many clients are able to bond out quickly and then abscond.

Lori Gibbs provided updates regarding the KDOC audit and feedback on the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). The improvements were submitted to KDOC two weeks ago and the audit was stamped complete. The next immediate project is the KDOC Comprehensive FY25 Plan. There is a short turnaround from application to plan. Lori has engaged the NIJ Group to work along with the team to have a draft of the plan to present to the board in April. Dr. Lovins and his team from NIJ will be onsite in March for a 3-day visit. They will be observing and learning more about Community Corrections in Sedgwick County.

Lori asked for input from the board regarding what programs/topics they would like to know more about. Some proposed suggestions included Batterers Intervention Group graduates, CQI implementation and staff development, Drug Court graduation, NexStep Unlocked and Kansas Children’s Service League parenting classes. AlmaAnn Jones indicated she would like to see success stories from the adult programs regarding post-release testimony.

Steve Stonehouse shared the legislative process is underway and KDOC recommended an additional $5 million for Corrections for 2025, but it appears that state budget will likely include a flat funding allocation for KDOC, or $2.5M. Steve encouraged everyone to reach out to the legislature and lobby for the release of the additional funds, noting that flat funding is, in effect, a budget cut that will result in a decreased level of programs and services.

**Other Business**:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2024.