

# Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

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November 18, 2020 | 8:00 AM | Online via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Called By Jill Hermanutz  
Facilitator Catherine Johnson

## Committee Members Present

Catherine Johnson, Steve Fletcher, Michael Freeman, Marion Greene, David Hutchinson, Mark Thompson, Mary Moriarty, Jacob Frey, Medaria Arradondo, Lisa Bender, Jim Rowader, Toddrick Barnette, Juan Hoyos, Tamara Garcia, Rolf Sponheim, Matt Clark, Jeff Lunde, Eric Werner, Julie Maas-Kusske  
Guest: Joe Diefenbach  
Guest Presenter: Danette Buskovich, Mary Ellen Heng, Diana Chaman Salas  
Staff: Jill Hermanutz  
*\*Full attendee list available upon request.*

## AGENDA TOPICS

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*Time allotted 8:00-8:05 | Agenda topic: Welcome* Introduction and approval of prior meeting minutes /  
*Presenter: Catherine Johnson*

- Motion to approve the minutes from the July and September 2020 meetings was made and second. The motion was carried by the committee.
- Check CJCC website for agendas and minutes

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*Time allotted | 8:05-8:20 | Agenda topic: DOCCR Interim CCA plan*  
*Lead: Danette Buskovich, DOCCR Area Director*

Danette Buskovich, Acting Area Director, provided highlights from the Community Corrections Act (CCA) 2021 Interim Plan that had been distributed with the agenda prior to the CJCC Meeting. She noted that Hennepin County had been participating in CCA since 1978 and receives a subsidy in return for providing all correctional services in the county with the exception of long-term prison incarceration. Hennepin County is required by statute to complete CCA plans, with a 2-year comprehensive plan providing information on how services are provided and an interim plan in the off years. Required contents include an organizational chart, budget, FTEs, salary roster, programmatic changes and annual process for strategic planning. The plan, once reviewed by the CJCC, will be forwarded to the Hennepin County Board and, once approved there, to the Department of Corrections. Danette outlined programmatic changes, which were not routine in 2021, and included efforts to socially distance clients at the Adult Correctional Facility (ACF), adapt to stay-at-home orders while meeting clients' needs and continuing Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM) and bail evaluation processes without interruption. Danette concluded with a summary of strategic planning progress.

Catherine Johnson said that the Interim Plan would be brought to the Public Safety Committee on December 1 and acknowledged the assistance provided by Commissioner Johnson, Chair of the Public Safety Committee. She congratulated Mayor Lunde on his election victory to the County Board. A motion was made (Michael Freeman) and seconded (Julie Maas-Kusske) to move the CCA 2021 Interim Plan forward to the Hennepin County Board for their consideration. No objections were noted, and the motion was approved.

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*Time allotted | 8:20-8:40 | Agenda topic: Restorative Court Update*

*Lead: Mary Ellen Heng, Minneapolis City Attorney's Office*

Mary Ellen Heng, Criminal Deputy for the Minneapolis City Attorney's Office, reported on the successful collaboration of Restorative Court which includes partnerships between Minneapolis City Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Human Services and District Court. The Court focuses on individuals charged with low level, livability offenses who have high needs, but low risk, and often cycle through the system. This court was derived from other nationally studied models focusing on using social workers to support underlying issues while restoring individuals in the community in order to avoid those repeat behaviors.

Mary Ellen highlighted results from the Restorative Court:

- A total of 144 individuals participated and completed the program in 2019
- Of these 100 individuals had no new charges for a 69% reduction in recidivism
- Forty-four individuals have either an open case or new conviction since their end date, for a 31% recidivism rate
  - Eleven individuals have open felony cases (25%)
- Among the participants who were successful in the program, 59 had their cases dismissed and 27 had their cases continued for dismissal.

There are plans to expand the program in January to include a second half day on Tuesdays, using the AM Pretrial calendar. Other cities, including Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, St. Louis Park and Hopkins, have expressed an interest in the program.

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*Time allotted | 8:40-9:00 | Agenda topic: CJCC Vision & Planning*

*Lead: Diana Chaman-Salas, No Wrong Door Manager*

Diana Chaman-Salas facilitated group discussion reviewing the results from the CJCC strategic planning from a previous meeting incorporated into a one-page summary.

Further feedback included:

- While key initiatives under goal 2 support community-oriented policing efforts, which is appreciated, perhaps this goal should be thought about more broadly as public safety efforts with innovative responses.
- A different approach in the county should be considered; on Friday nights, available resources are full by 7:00 p.m. and the county does not have the needed resources available to address mental illnesses. Social workers are being embedded in various police departments around the county
- Policing is a part of public safety – law enforcement is an important key to ensuring public safety. We need to modernize policing, with improved and increased technology, while perhaps adding social workers. Policing should not be forgotten but improved.
- Feedback suggested that Goal 1 should be amended, or another bullet point added to capture the spectrum of responses and proactive services.

Diana said she would take this input and move into a more defined action plan. Catherine added that a steering committee / workgroup would be created to continue this work, and anyone interested in participating or designating a participant should contact her. This workgroup would then finalize a logic framework and action plan to bring back to the CJCC in March 2021.

**Propose key improvements related to juvenile assessment & triage based on insights from the stakeholder project work group & community.**

Catherine Johnson noted that this project began after pointed conversations regarding the need to do something different for the juveniles cycling through the justice system. She noted the process included an environmental scan with local data and review of national best practices models, adding that in the future the Minneapolis Public Schools would be included in these endeavors. A small group including Councilmember Fletcher, Jerald Moore, Karen Kuglar and Jill Hermanutz conducted a site visit to Denver prior to the start of the pandemic and viewed how they handle juvenile assessment and triage. Community meetings were held along with stakeholder meetings.

Jill Hermanutz reviewed the Juvenile Assessment & Triage Improvement Project Work 2020 that had been distributed prior to the meeting, outlining the desired outcomes including improving juvenile pretrial pathways and the provision of juvenile and family services while reducing auto theft and robberies. She briefly outlined the strategic framework.

1. *Community engagement to help shape juvenile improvements* – Identify avenues for community to be involved in the on-going definition of programs and policies as they relate to juvenile assessment & triage services.
2. *Data information sharing* – Build a method of data transparency to identify and share information related to high-need juveniles involved with the JSC, JDC, law enforcement, probation, court and schools.
3. *Physical space improvements* – Explore options for staff-secured environment at the Juvenile Supervision Center. Denver and other locations have use similar physical and staffing improvements to help guide kids back into the assessment center environment which proved productive.
4. *Early assessment, intervention & culturally specific programming* – there are four major areas including mental health, chemical health, school and trauma. A focus on early assessment and providing direct connection to community based and culturally specific services either housed within the location where the child is located at the time of contact or a with a warm handoff by a case manager to those services.
5. *Pre-trial case management services* – need to be more intentional with case management with increased data sharing and early assessment through the pretrial phase to provide guidance on drivers of behavior.
6. *Pre-trial incentives* – offer incentives to juveniles participating in voluntary and / or mandatory case management services.
7. *Emergency shelter beds* – transform one cottage at the County Home School to provide emergency shelter beds for kids who are challenging to place in shelters. This was brought up in stakeholder & community conversations as a way to improve triage for these kids.

Discussion noted:

- Physical space /environment has not been determined; this will be up to departments providing services to vet and define the need for further physical space improvements.
- There are constitutional limits on how to deal with kids and it is a real challenge to know who to hold. Car theft has evolved into carjacking, bringing a level of physical assault to neighborhoods who have not experienced this before. The Minneapolis Police Department has arrested 32 kids for carjacking and charged 30; out-of-home placements are not appropriate for all; this needs to be worked through and alternatives considered. Concern was noted regarding individual juvenile rights being considered all the way through the process such as offering incentives when an individual has not been charged or might not be charged.
- The new facilities in Minneapolis's new building might help in terms of security and for the Link to be able to encourage kids to stay for assessment and obtain services; the JDC is cramped and not as conducive for this.
- It was emphasized how important this work is right now – constituents are expressing concern daily about auto thefts and robberies committed by very young kids; our system needs to figure out how to serve families

while working to keep the community safe. It is not acceptable for people going to their homes or businesses to not feel safe.

- In response to a question, Judge Kappelhoff provided a brief update on a recent pilot in Juvenile Court that modified the Risk Assessment Instrument for juveniles and processed cases more quickly with positive results.
- There are more car thefts and with new policies on pursuit, which are most dangerous, individuals are not only more emboldened to steal vehicles, but to flee police as well.

Catherine Johnson outlined next steps, noting these are recommendations and that it is hoped partners would be able to take these and implement moving forward. The possibility of continuing this group or an implementation committee was suggested. Jill Hermanutz will be following up directly with key stakeholders as to next steps.

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Time 9:34 | Agenda topic *Adjournment*

- Next CJCC Meeting is January 28, 2021

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## RELEVANT LINKS OR RESOURCES

[Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Website](#)