

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, February 2, 2023**

**MINUTES**

The Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 11:00 am at the Shaw Center for the Arts.

Directors in attendance were Chair Honorable Judge Yvette M. Alexander with Baton Rouge City Court, Major Anthony Ponton with the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, Deputy Chief Myron Daniels with the Baton Rouge Police Department, Margaret Lagattuta with the East Baton Rouge Parish Public Defender's Office, John Spain with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Leslie Chambers with the Mayor-President's Office, Chief Judge Donald Johnson with the 19<sup>th</sup> JDC, Brandi Lawrence with Baton Rouge City Court, and Dianna Payton with the YWCA, Jennifer Carwile with Together Baton Rouge.

Additional attendees were Christopher Csonka, Niles Haymer, Lisa Burns, and Brianna Jeansonne with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Judge Alexander called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

**FOR APPROVAL**

Mr. Csonka reported that budget projections were met for 2022 and proposed the board to motion approval to pass the money that was saved from the data repository that was unable to be implemented.

Ms. Carwile motioned to approve, and Ms. Chambers seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion carries.

**DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Judge Alexander called upon Chris Csonka to deliver Director Updates.

Mr. Csonka reported that in addition to the funds being received from the MacArthur Foundation, CJCC staff have been working to secure other avenues of funding. Mr. Csonka announced that the funds secured from the Wilson Foundation will be used to fund a Case Navigator to assist defendants at the jail during call out.

Mr. Csonka announced plans to use costs saved from the decrease in the jail population to be funneled into sustaining the CJCC.

Mr. Csonka excused himself as the Board of Directors went into Executive session for ten minutes to discuss the annual evaluation of the executive director.

Upon Mr. Csonka's return, Ms. Payton motioned to create a CJCC Finance Subcommittee that will meet to identify resources to financially sustain the CJCC long-term that will meet monthly and feed information to the board during regularly scheduled CJCC Board meetings. Mr. Spain seconded the motion, and, with no opposition, the motion passes and Mr. Spain will serve as chair for the Finance Subcommittee.

Mr. Csonka reported about the Lights On! unveiling, which is a program sponsored by the CJCC to partner with BRPD and EBRSO that allows law enforcement to issue a \$250 voucher to drivers pulled over for faulty light equipment. Mr. Csonka stated the goal of this program is to repair and strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and community members.

Mr. Csonka then stated that JMI conducted a report at no cost to the CJCC that was conducted to assess the 19<sup>th</sup> JDC's readiness to implement a Pretrial Services Unit with a validated risk assessment tool.

Next, Mr. Csonka reported that the CJCC was formally accepted to be a part of the National Network of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (NNCJCC), which is comprised of 40 CJCCs across the nation. Mr. Csonka pointed out one of the benefits of NNCJCC involvement will give our jurisdiction the opportunity to access more evidence-based practices as it relates to criminal justice improvement efforts.

Mr. Csonka further expanded on the Job Description of the Case Navigator, which the CJCC received funds from the Wilson Foundation. The goal of hiring a Case Navigator will act similarly to the previous Client Advocates under the Public Defender's Office, which no longer provide services to defendants at the jail. The Case Navigator will be housed under the CJCC through the Pre-Trial Diversion & Recovery Program and connect defendants to resources that will reduce their likelihood to recidivate. To that end, Mr. Csonka stated that data will be collected regularly to inform the work of the CJCC.

Lastly, Mr. Csonka reported to the Board that the 2023 strategic goals have been finalized for this year and reminded the Board that the CJCC will focus efforts on increasing public safety and reducing violent crime more closely. Mr. Csonka reported that these initiatives will act as a blueprint to guide initiatives of the CJCC and partners alike.

Mr. Csonka reminded the Board of the upcoming CJCC Board of Directors Meeting that will be held on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

With no further comments or questions, Mr. Csonka concluded the Director Updates

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Christopher Csonka  
Executive Director, CJCC  
February 2, 2023