

**EBR Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**MINUTES**

The Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council held its scheduled meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 am at the Shaw Center for the Arts.

Directors in attendance were Mr. John Spain from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Ms. Lisa Parker with the Public Defender's Office, Warden Dennis Grimes with the Sheriff's Office, Mr. Mike Mitchell with the Louisiana Public Defender's, and Mr. Darryl Gissel with the Mayor's Office.

Mr. Niles Haymer participated for Ms. Brandi Lawrence with the Baton Rouge City Court, Deputy Chief Myron Daniels participated for Chief Murphy Paul with the Baton Rouge Police Department, Judge Fred Crifasi participated for Judge Wilson Fields with the 19<sup>th</sup> JDC, and Jermaine Guillory participated for Mr. Hillar Moore with the District Attorney's Office.

Additional attendees were Ms. Lauren Crapanzano Jumonville and Ms. Sarah Gardner with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Mr. Hunter Thomas with the Public Defender's Office, Ms. Margaret Lagatutta with the Public Defender's Office, Mr. Elzie Alford with the Baton Rouge City Court, Ms. Leslie Chambers with the Mayor's Office, Mr. Chris Csonka and Ms. Brianna Jeansonne with the CJCC.

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 11:47 am.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Csonka reviewed the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting held on November 16, 2021. **On a motion by Chief Deputy Daniels and a second by Mr. Jermaine Guillory, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on November 16, 2021.**

**PROGRAM/AGENCY UPDATES**

Mr. Csonka called on each agency representative to provide an update.

**BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Deputy Daniels reported progress on a strategic plan for the entire Parish and Operation Red Stick, a partnership with local, state, and federal partners to address violent crime in East Baton Rouge Parish.

## **PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE**

Ms. Parker reported phase one of city hall upgrades are underway and their office will meet with the City Parish on Monday to discuss phase two of city hall upgrades.

## **19<sup>th</sup> JDC**

Judge Crifasi reported out on behalf of the 19<sup>th</sup> JDC. Judge Crifasi stated there will be an election to replace the late Judge Dassau. Additionally, the 19<sup>th</sup> JDC began weekend callouts with a test run beginning this coming Saturday by Judge Rose-Johnson. Staff is working to resolve technological issues to make it easier for remote weekend callouts.

Ms. Lisa Parker said the test run will allow them to determine issues with staffing and will work out staff accommodations for those who must come in on Saturday call out.

## **EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH PRISON**

Warden Grimes reported out on the Parish Prison. The prison is still maintaining below 1,000 inmates with four positive COVID cases, which are new intakes. The prison will hold another round of vaccinations next Friday, including boosters and initial vaccinations. The vaccines offered are Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J boosters. Roughly 100 held in the facility opted to receive boosters. Warden Grimes additionally reported plans to lift restrictions and open back up for visitors next week. The kiosks within the facility are up and running, which includes video calls, email capabilities, and paperless request forms to staff members. Warden Grimes also reported the new healthcare provider, Turn Key, is up and running. Lastly, Warden Grimes reported the new intakes are more violent in nature and an increase of mentally unstable intakes.

## **BATON ROUGE CITY COURT**

Mr. Elzie Alford reported on behalf of the City Court. Mr. Alford reported the court upgrades are complete and discussion around standing up another specialty court in addition to the case management system being implemented. Mr. Alford reported his office is in discussion with the library branches to implement kiosks which increase service accessibility and alleviate the need to physically come to the courthouse. Lastly, Mr. Alford stated each library will contain differing kiosk services, which will have video capabilities once they are finalized.

## **LOUISIANA STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S BOARD**

Mr. Mike Mitchell reported plans to potentially provide more resources for the Public Defender's office and to anyone arrested pre-trial, specifically to the 19<sup>th</sup> JDC and potentially every other district in the court. Mr. Mitchell stated their in-house database is complete and extensive, but they are unable to assign a tech to this committee.

## **JAIL POPULATION PROJECTION REPORT**

Ms. Lauren Crapanzano Jumonville reported out on the JFA Report on projected jail population. Ms. Jumonville stated the adult jail population report is complete and plans for JFA to return to Baton Rouge to finalize the juvenile report. To that end, Ms. Jumonville informed the board of the increase in the juvenile detention facility over the past 12 to 18 months.

## **EAST BATON ROUGE MAYOR'S OFFICE**

Ms. Leslie Chambers reported on a crime reduction initiative where the Mayor, Chief Paul, Sheriff Gautreaux, and Mr. Hillar Moore are working with federal law enforcement to create a strategy to combat crime and violence in the area. The team has been attending strategy meetings and are finalizing plans to establish long and short-term outcomes. Ms. Chambers additionally reported a strategy to achieve and maintain decrease in crime and violence which potentially could involve the courts and schools to close gaps and more efficiently coordinate services.

### **RAPID CASE ASSESSMENT TEAM (RCAT)**

Mr. Niles Haymer updated the Board on the status of the Rapid Case Assessment Team (RCAT) program since grant funds ended in December of 2021. Mr. Haymer reported there are different prosecutors each week handling callout and noted the program held more meaningful impact when there was a dedicated prosecutor. Lastly, Mr. Haymer advised the Board of efforts to hire an attorney to conduct jail callout on Saturdays.

### **PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION AND RECOVERY PROGRAM**

Mr. Csonka reported out on behalf of Ms. Lisa Burns on the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program. The program currently has nine active participants, which is a decrease due to the surgency of the Omicron variant. Mr. Csonka reported two participants will be picked up from the jail and enter the program this week, putting the overall participants to 11 in the program. A status hearing will be held tomorrow with no participants slated to graduate.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Mr. Csonka reviewed Board Retreat notes and announced plans to continue having annual Board retreats. Mr. Csonka then stated the four key objectives/takeaways from the board retreat:

1. Create a centralized justice data warehouse to guide recommendations for policy and procedural changes
2. Process Improvement
3. Community Engagement
4. Continued relationship building within the CJCC.

Additional areas of focus for 2022 goals include revisiting pretrial risk assessment tool and tying in pretrial services unit with consideration to expand specialty courts. To that end, Mr. Csonka reported efforts to implement a Veteran's Treatment Court under the 19<sup>th</sup> JDC and create a specialty court subcommittee of those programs with the goal of meeting once monthly for sharing information and streamline resources.

Mr. Csonka then reported out on community engagement efforts and reminded the board of the CJCC Engage group, which consists of faith-based, advocacy, and social justice groups. The CJCC Engage group has held regular monthly meetings since April of 2021. Mr. Csonka expressed interest in engaging with more community-based service providers to get involved with CJCC Engage. Key Performance Indicators of CJCC Engage include measuring success by individual meetings with Board members to maintain mutual understanding and meeting wants and needs.

Mr. Csonka expressed a desire to increase collaboration amongst board members, especially following COVID. Additionally, he expressed efforts to increase transparency as it relates to data

sharing and community representation on the CJCC Board. The formation and convening of a data subcommittee will give way to initial planning steps with the goal of releasing a public-facing dashboard at the start of 2023. A consensus of the courts, under those initiatives, is key to addressing and implementing process improvements.

Mr. Csonka then presented the final budget for 2021 and the proposed budget for 2022.

Mr. Gissel asked Mr. Csonka how long the CJCC would be receiving MacArthur grant funds. Mr. Csonka responded that the CJCC is on its second year of second grant round, with plans to submit to extend grant funds for two more years. Mr. Csonka explained the transition to becoming a sustainability site comes with a lower funding amount from MacArthur with intention to become sustainable past beyond MacArthur funds. Funding for the years 2023 and 2024 are yet to be seen, Mr. Jermaine Guillory recommended a revision for sustainability to be a priority strategic goal for 2022.

Mr. Csonka asked for a motion to accept CJCC 2022 proposed budget. **With a motion from Ms. Parker and a second from Mr. Mitchell, the motion passed.**

Mr. Csonka asked the Board to review a draft job description for a CJCC Deputy Director and for guidance on the searching process. Mr. Csonka reminded the board of how crucial their input will be in finding and selecting the CJCC Deputy Director position.

Lastly, Mr. Csonka informed the Board of the four Board applications CJCC Engage submitted and asked the Board to agree on two applicants to represent both CJCC Engage and the CJCC Board of Directors. Mr. Csonka asked the Board to make their selections. After discussion and consideration, **Judge Crifasi moved to that Dianna Payton and Jennifer Carwile be appointment to be CJCC Board members, the motion was seconded by Mr. Guillory. With none opposed, the motion to passed.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Csonka reminded the Board to submit headshots and bios to upload to the with no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 pm.

Christopher Csonka  
Executive Director, CJCC  
February 10, 2022