

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, March 24, 2022, 11:30 am**

**MINUTES**

The Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on March 24, 2022, in the Josef Sternberg Conference Room at the Shaw Center for the Arts.

Board members in attendance were John Spain from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Chief Deputy Myron Daniels from the Baton Rouge Police Department, Brandi C. Lawrence from Baton Rouge City Court, Mike Mitchell from Louisiana State Public Defender Board, Judge Adam Haney from the Juvenile Court, Major Cathy Fontenot from the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office, Chief Public Defender Lisa Parker, Leslie Chambers with the Mayor's Office, Jennifer Carwile with CJCC Engage, and Jermaine Guillory with the East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office

Additional attendees were Chris Csonka and Brianna Jeansonne from the East Baton Rouge CJCC, Sarah Gardner and Lauren Crapanzano-Jumonville from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Lisa Burns from the Pre-Trial Diversion & Recovery Program, Hunter Thomas with the East Baton Rouge Public Defender Office, and Elzie Alford with the Baton Rouge City Court.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 11:34 am.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Csonka reviewed the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held February 10, 2022. On a motion by Mike Mitchell and a second by Chief Deputy Daniels, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on February 10, 2022.

**PROGRAM/AGENCY UPDATES**

**BATON ROUGE CITY COURT**

Mr. Csonka called upon Ms. Lawrence to deliver the Baton Rouge City Court Report.

Ms. Lawrence reported they are continuing the practices of the Rapid Case Assessment Team (RCAT) by having a prosecutor and public defender both present during callout. She stated though there is a rotating prosecutor present at callout, they are still seeing continued success with

resolving cases efficiently. Ms. Lawrence finally stated that they are seeing an uptick in domestic violence cases.

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Lawrence concluded the Baton Rouge City Court report.

### **BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Csonka called upon Chief Deputy Daniels to deliver the Baton Rouge Police Department Report.

Chief Deputy Daniels reported that Operation Red Stick Joint taskforce, a taskforce involving state, local, federal, and schoolboard partners, has made a positive impact on keeping offenders out of the community where violent crimes have occurred. To conclude, Chief Deputy Daniels reported the cruciality of amassing data from the different partnered agencies will further the success of this crime prevention initiative.

With no further questions or comments, Chief Deputy Daniels concluded the Baton Rouge Police Department Report.

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

Mr. Csonka called upon Lisa Burns to deliver the Pre-Trial Diversion & Recovery Report.

Ms. Burns reported that there are 13 active participants currently in the program. She stated since the beginning of 2022 that nine individuals have been assessed, six individuals admitted, and fourteen individuals denied. Mr. Csonka pointed out the lower number of participants is due to more summons in lieu of arrests and stated the importance of identifying individuals who currently have charges but aren't incarcerated.

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Burns concluded the Pre-Trial Diversion & Recovery Report.

### **EAST BATON ROUGE PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

Mr. Csonka called upon Lisa Parker to deliver the East Baton Rouge Public Defender Office report.

Ms. Parker reported the office is in the process of waiting for computers to get updated. Ms. Parker also reported that attorneys may now see their clients in person as the jail, which greatly benefits client to staff interaction. Lastly, Ms. Parker reported plans to meet with the Pre-Trial Diversion & Recovery Team next Friday in efforts to raise awareness of program service to the rest of the staff.

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Parker concluded the East Baton Rouge Public Defender Office report.

## **EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH PRISON**

Mr. Csonka called upon Major Fontenot to deliver the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison report.

Major Fontenot reported their office is continuing to experience intakes involving violent crimes. Major Fontenot also reported efforts to restructure the facilities to mitigate temperature control issues they have been experiencing due to the antiquated heating and cooling system. She states the inability to properly heat or cool certain wings of the facility affects the ability to recruit and properly train staff and they consider this issue a priority to address for the wellbeing of staff and those detained in the facility. To that end, Major Fontenot stated the structure of the facility does not reflect a rehabilitative environment for those incarcerated. She stated the need for an on-site medical facility to accommodate those incarcerated to eliminate the need for transferring inmates off site. Additionally, Major Fontenot reported zero COVID cases in the facility and staff continues to use rapid COVID tests for new intakes. Lastly, Major Fontenot stated they launched a re-entry program, including a staff member who is a returning citizen from Angola, where 20 DOC inmates work their way through a work release program or are given resources they need for successful re-entry into their communities.

With no further questions or comments, Major Fontenot concluded the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison report.

## **EAST BATON ROUGE JUVENILE COURT**

Mr. Csonka called upon Judge Adam Haney to deliver the East Baton Rouge Parish Juvenile Court Report.

Judge Haney reported a recent increase in juvenile detention along with murder charges involving guns. Judge Haney expressed concern over long-term detainees and the inability to give them the proper resources these youth need to serve them. Additionally, Judge Haney reported work towards revising probation conditions, which haven't been reviewed for roughly 20 years. Lastly, Judge Haney reported success with community involvement with their court, including schools around the area.

Ms. Jumonville reminded the Board about the jail population projection report, conducted by JFA consultants, and plans to bring the consultants back to Baton Rouge to revisit the facilities and finalize data.

With no further questions or comments, Judge Haney concluded the East Baton Rouge Juvenile Court report.

## **MAYOR'S OFFICE**

Mr. Csonka called upon Leslie Chambers to deliver the Mayor's Office Report.

Ms. Chambers reported Operation Red Stick received ARPA funds and the Mayor has pledged \$14.2 million dedicated to community violence intervention initiatives. Additionally, Ms. Chambers said East Baton Rouge has received high praise from President Biden on how our Parish is utilizing the ARPA funds.

## **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Mr. Csonka called upon Jermaine Guillory to deliver the District Attorney's Office report.

Mr. Guillory reported their office has been working on focused prosecution and deep diving into their case numbers because of backlog from COVID. Mr. Guillory emphasized the complicated and more violent cases that have been recently coming in account for roughly 37% of cases. Their office is amid an office assessment to address the recent uptick in dangerous trends and should be complete by June. To conclude, Mr. Jermaine told the board there is action to identify funding at the local level aiming to alleviate some of the back log.

Mr. Mitchell stated his office, Louisiana Board of Public Defender, are heavily supporting House Bill 477, which will add state funding for six additional prosecutors.

With no further questions or comments, Mr. Guillory concluded the District Attorney's Office report.

## **CJCC Engage**

Mr. Csonka called upon Jennifer Carwile to deliver the CJCC Engage report.

Ms. Carwile introduced herself to the board as one of the new CJCC Engage leaders, which is the community engagement subcommittee of the CJCC. Ms. Carwile reported CJCC Engage efforts to establish the group's mission statement, vision statement, and pillars are underway. Additionally, Ms. Carwile reported

## **DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Mr. Csonka reported progress to identify candidates to fill the Deputy Director position. Mr. Csonka stated the candidates have been narrowed down and an offer will be made within the next few weeks. Mr. Csonka reported the Data Subcommittee convened for the first time on April 11, 2022 and established primary and secondary data elements that will work as a template for data collection from each agency moving forward. Additionally, Mr. Csonka reported progress on finalizing a data use agreement draft. To conclude, Mr. Csonka asked the board to unanimously decide on the upcoming CJCC Board of Directors meeting to accommodate Memorial Day vacations. On a motion by Mr. Guillory to hold the upcoming CJCC Board of Directors meeting on May 19, 2022 and a second by Myron Daniels, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the upcoming CJCC Board of Directors meeting on May 19, 2022.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Christopher Csonka  
Executive Director, CJCC  
November 20, 2020