

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, May 19th, 2022**

MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council held its scheduled meeting on May 19, 2022 at 11:30 am at the Shaw Center for the Arts.

Directors in attendance were John Spain with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Brandi Lawrence with the City Prosecutor's Office, Margaret Lagattuta with the Public Defender's Office, Warden Dennis Grimes with the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, Jennifer Carwile with Together Baton Rouge, Mike Mitchell with the Board of Public Defenders, Jermaine Guillory with the District Attorney's Office, Chief Deputy Myron Daniels from Baton Rouge Police Department, and Judge Kelli Terrel Temple with Baton Rouge City Court.

Additional attendees were Christopher Csonka with the CJCC, Niles Haymer with the CJCC, Brianna Jeansonne from the CJCC, Lauren Crapanzano Jumonville with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Lisa Burns with the Pre-Trial Diversion & Recovery Program, Sarah Gardner with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Hunter Thomas from the Public Defender's Office, Judge Trudy White and Judge Donald Johnson with the 19th Judicial District, and Judge Carson Marcantile with Baton Rouge City Court,

CALL TO ORDER

Members from The Bail Project presented to the CJCC Board of Directors about their organization's work to reduce the harm done to individuals in jail who are negatively impacted by the money bail system. The Bail Project aims to end cash bail to provide a more equitable and human pretrial system in East Baton Rouge Parish.

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

MINUTES

Mr. Csonka reviewed the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held March 24, 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 May 19, 2022.

PROGRAM/AGENCY UPDATES

BATON ROUGE CITY COURT

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

Ms. Lawrence reported continued focus around prosecutors being assigned to judges despite varying case numbers during jail callout. Ultimately, the benefit of having a consistent prosecutor

during callout allows the assigned Prosecutor to be more meaningfully involved in a defendant's cases to provide more opportunities to transfer and refer resources.

Lastly, Ms. Lawrence reported the goal for the next fiscal year is to have funds for a dedicated prosecutor.

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

19th JDC

Mr. Csonka called upon Judge Donald Johnson to deliver the 19th JDC Report.

Judge Johnson reported he has requested funds to reform specialty courts and stand up a Veteran's Court in the 19th JDC. Additionally, the Judge reported discussions with other stakeholders about standing up a Domestic Violence Court in partnership with the District Attorney's Office.

With no further questions or comments, Judge Johnson concluded the 19th JDC Report.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Mr. Csonka called upon Ms. Lagattuta to deliver the Public Defender's Office Report.

Ms. Lagattuta reported the Public Defender's Office is seeking more funding to maintain programs and staffing. Ms. Lagattuta reported there is still an attorney present for daily callouts for City Court and stated two more commissioners would allow a more efficient process given the uptick in case numbers. Lastly, Ms. Lagattuta expressed the office's issue with retaining lawyers because of high marketplace competition and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce order to increase the office's minimum wage.

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Lagattuta concluded the Public Defender's Office report.

Parish Prison

Mr. Csonka called upon Warden Grimes to deliver the Parish Prison's Report.

Warden Grimes reported a slow increase of newly arrested individuals with the current inmate population around 1,000. Additionally, Warden Grimes reported an uptick of violent and more mentally unstable individuals, further straining the facility due to staff shortages. Warden Grimes stated the Parish Prison has adjusted inside the jail by moving inmates and staff around to accommodate the situation at hand. Warden Grimes stated COVID cases are less prevalent, although positive new intakes are posing an issue with the staff shortages and monitoring COVID positive individuals during their quarantine period. Warden Grimes reported the jail is working to prioritize resources, programs, mental health, and detox as it relates to a new jail, emphasizing focus on treatment rather than dorm space.

With no further questions or comments, Warden Grimes concluded the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison Report.

PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION AND RECOVERY PROGRAM

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

Ms. Burns reported the program is seeing more potential participants with the program's current number at a total of eight participants. Ms. Burns reported program staff has been working with the Public Defender District Attorney's offices to show the benefits of referring qualified individuals to the pre-trial program.

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

CJCC ENGAGE

Mr. Csonka called upon Ms. Carwile to deliver the CJCC Engage Report.

Ms. Carwile reported the recent Engage meeting consisted of a jail population study and the group's desire to explore opportunities to spend more on pre-trial reform efforts and lower the projected jail population. Additionally, Ms. Carwile expressed the importance on reshaping the narrative on legislative level reframing justice reinvestment and push back on misperception that an increase in crime is directly correlated to justice reform.

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Carwile concluded the CJCC Engage Report.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm.

Christopher Csonka
Executive Director, CJCC
May 19, 2022