

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, September 23rd at 12:00pm**

MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on September 23rd at 12:00 pm via teleconference and in-person attendance.

Directors in attendance were Chair Honorable Judge Yvette M. Alexander, Chief Murphy J. Paul Jr., Lt. Col. Dennis Grimes, Brandi C. Lawrence, Michael Mitchell, Lisa Parker, and Judge Gail Grover. Sheriff Sid Gautreaux and Judge Wilson Fields did not attend.

John Spain participated for John Davies, Jermaine Guillory participated for Hillar C. Moore, and Darryl Gissel participated for Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome.

Niles Haymer from Baton Rouge City Court, Lauren Crapanzano Jumonville from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Sarah Gardner from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Lisa Burns from the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program, Elzie Alford from Baton Rouge City Court, Janeen Buckley from the Urban Institute, Azhar Gulaid from the Urban Institute attended as guests.

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Judge Alexander reviewed the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held August 22nd.

On a motion by John Spain and a second by Jermaine Guillory, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on July 22nd, 2021.

PROGRAM/AGENCY UPDATES

I. PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION AND RECOVERY PROGRAM REPORT

Judge Alexander called upon Lisa Burns to deliver the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program report.

Ms. Burns reported nine active program participants, three of which of Veterans. This year there have been fifteen program graduates and Ms. Burns projected 19 in total by the end of this year. Additionally, Ms. Burns reported plans for program staff to go to the jail twice a week to identify potential participants and complete more assessments.

Mr. Csonka reminded the group of the recently hardened population that is entering the jail, which contributes to less than usual program participants.

Ms. Burns also reported success with individuals who face a probation hold or are on probation in the program. Mr. Csonka additionally reminded the Board that a dedicated Public Defender is one of the key factors to success of the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program. To that end, Ms. Parker reported her office is in the process of hiring a dedicated Public Defender to be at the jail to support the program, as well as a back-up section Public Defenders.

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

II. EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH PRISON REPORT

Judge Alexander called upon Warden Grimes to deliver the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison report.

Warden Grimes reported a continued decline in the individuals being brought to the Parish Prison and have maintained a number under a thousand since last month's report. Warden Grimes reported a decrease in COVID-19 cases in the jail and reported no positive cases among the female population and six positive cases among the male population. The six positive cases are new intakes that have not been exposed to the rest of the population.

Warden Grimes reported COVID-19 vaccinations have been rescheduled to October due to a Louisiana Department of Health cancellation for this month.

Warden Grimes additionally reported plans to resume volunteer programs on October 5th.

Mr. Csonka asked if there are plans to educate the public on how the kiosk will function. Warden Grimes said they will place information on their main webpage to explain how kiosks will be used. Additionally, Warden Grimes informed the Board that the kiosks will be free of charge to the inmates, though a cost will be incurred to the person communicating with the inmate.

Ms. Parker asked if the kiosk will be available to attorneys, to which Warden Grimes said they will be and that those specific calls will be flagged as to not be recorded to ensure privacy.

Mr. Csonka asked the total number COVID-19 vaccinations inmates have received so far to which Warden Grimes responded around 400.

Warden Grimes reported staff shortages due to displacement from Hurricane Ida and reported that an academy is underway which concludes in December.

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

III. RAPID CASE ASSESSMENT TEAM REPORT

Judge Alexander called upon Niles Haymer to deliver the Rapid Case Assessment Team report.

Mr. Haymer reported the need for a dedicated Public Defender to increase case resolution to maintain resource allocation and case referrals. Mr. Haymer reported that Public Defenders Jasmine Journet and Emily Lubin have handled filling in for a dedicated Public Defender.

Mr. Haymer also reported a case resolution of 67% due to the overall reduced jail population and the nature of the crimes. The increase of individuals with mental health concerns has created more opportunities to refer these cases to programs such as the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program.

Ms. Lawrence reported that securing City-Parish funds for the program prosecutor for 2022 is underway.

With no further questions or comments, Mr. Haymer concluded the Rapid Case Assessment Team Report.

IV. JFA Jail Population Study

Judge Alexander called upon Ms. Jumonville to give the JFA Jail Population report.

Ms. Jumonville reminded the Board of JFA's study to forecast a projected jail population number. Ms. Jumonville reported a 1,360-bed recommendation if current programs and practices remain in place. If the average case processing time can be reduced by 14 days, a facility with 1,069 beds is recommended.

Ms. Jumonville reported progress to gather case-level data among average length of stay and average daily population numbers by gender over the past several years in the juvenile detention facility. The population has remained steady until this summer when it began to increase. Ms. Jumonville reported plans to initiate policy recommendations that could potentially impact the numbers of juveniles in the facility.

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Jumonville concluded the JFA Jail Population report.

V. CJCC Engage

Judge Alexander called upon Chris Csonka to deliver the CJCC Engage report.

Mr. Csonka reminded the Board that the CJCC Engage has been working to create a unified vision for the group. The goal for CJCC Engage is to identify leaders within the group to serve as community representatives on the CJCC Board.

Mr. Csonka reported that the last CJCC Engage meeting was led by a professional leadership consultant to guide the group through a SWOT analysis. Key items resulting from this meeting:

- CJCC Engage is seeking direct involvement with the CJCC Board of Directors

- Access to CJCC Board's by-laws to gain a better understanding to construct themselves and more closely interact with the CJCC Board
- Opportunity for CJCC Engage members to listen in on CJCC Board meetings

Mr. Csonka asked the Board for input on creating elected community positions that represent economic/business development, education, and other areas of community initiatives.

Mr. Guillory recommended implementing a document that outlines roles and responsibilities of CJCC Engage membership to begin steps for more collaborative interaction with the CJCC Board.

Mr. Csonka reported a recent MacArthur Foundation grant opportunity is available to provide funds to community organizations who aid with disaster relief, COVID-19 mitigation efforts, and social justice.

With no further questions or comments, Mr. Csonka concluded the CJCC Engage report.

VI. ADDITIONAL AGENCY UPDATES

Finally, Judge Alexander asked if any additional agencies had information to report to the Board.

Judge Alexander called on Mr. Alford to report on Baton Rouge City Court. Mr. Alford reported approval from the Metro Council to enter a contract with Tyler Technologies to implement a new case management system for City Court. The implementation and training phase is projected to last a year and a half and will streamline case processes. In addition to outdoor kiosk, Mr. Alford reported plans to install additional kiosks for the public to have easier accessibility to the court.

Judge Alexander called upon Chief Paul to report on the Baton Rouge Police Department. Chief Paul reported his office is experiencing an increase in retirements. Academy class is currently underway and as well as the hiring process for the 88th Academy in December. Chief Paul additionally reported an increase in property crime and decrease in overall violent crime.

Judge Alexander called upon Judge Grover to report on the Juvenile Court and Detention Facility. Judge Grover reported 31 youth are currently housed in the juvenile detention facility, which five are transferrable cases. Judge Grover also reported that support and collaboration from other community programs have made a positive impact on the juvenile population.

With no further comments or questions, Judge Alexander concluded the additional agency updates.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Judge Alexander called upon Chris Csonka to deliver Director Updates.

Mr. Csonka reported plans are underway to set up free phone line from the jail to the public defender.

Mr. Csonka additionally reported discussions with the Center for Courts Innovation to potentially pilot a community court in East Baton Rouge Parish. The group will review data from the Baton Rouge Police Department and determine next steps within the coming weeks.

Mr. Csonka announced plans to transition accounting and payroll services from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to the accounting firm Postlethwaite & Netterville at the start of 2022. He also reported that he has been looking at potential office space for the CJCC to move to by the beginning of 2022.

Mr. Csonka reported plans to create a Specialty Court subcommittee under the CJCC. The goal will be to include the various specialty court coordinators in an effort to consolidate resources and eliminate redundancies between specialty courts that serve East Baton Rouge.

Finally, Mr. Csonka reported plans to hold the CJCC Board Retreat in November in lieu of a CJCC Board meeting. Mr. Csonka told the Board of Directors a poll will be sent out to select a date in November.

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

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Judge Alexander asked if the Board had any further questions or comments. Hearing none, the meeting moved to adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Christopher Csonka
Executive Director, CJCC
September 24, 2021