

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:00pm**

MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on November 19th, 2020 at 12:00pm via teleconference and in-person attendance.

Board members in attendance were Honorable Judge Yvette Alexander, Chief Public Defender Michael A. Mitchell, Chief Murphy J. Paul Jr., John M. Spain, Brand C. Lawrence, Warden Dennis Grimes, and Judge Fred Crifasi. Participating as board member designees were Lindsay Blouin from the Public Defender's Office and Jermaine Guillory from the District Attorney's Office.

Absent board members were Hillar C. Moore, Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, and 19th JDC Chief Judge Wilson Fields.

Additional attendees were Chris Csonka and Brianna Jeansonne from the EBR CJCC, Sarah Gardner from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Niles Haymer from the East Baton Rouge Parish City Court, Chuck Toney from the 19th JDC, Alaina Boothe from the Public Defender's Office, and Commissioner Nicole Robinson from the 19th JDC.

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Alexander called the meeting to order at 12:12 pm.

MINUTES

Mr. Csonka reviewed the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held September 19, 2020. On a motion by Mike Mitchell and a second by Jermaine Guillory, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on September 19, 2020.

PROGRAM/COVID UPDATES

Mr. Csonka reported the City Parish Budget for 2021 listed funding at the same amount for the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program. Mr. Csonka reported that the program currently has 20 participants due to the COVID constraints.

Ms. Burns reported continuing efforts of interviewing potential clients despite her self-quarantine per her exposure to COVID at her visit to O'Brien House.

Mr. Haymer reported Rapid Case Assessment Team (RCAT) data on behalf of City Court. Mr. Haymer reported outstanding traffic matters and misdemeanor rates have not changed since July this year and first appearance case resolution rates maintain about 83%. Additionally, Mr. Haymer reported the spike in domestic violence cases that are unable to be resolved at first appearance, therefore their preexisting 19th JDC court matters inhibit case resolution. Mr. Haymer stated that RCAT continues to increase case-processing efficiencies.

Judge Alexander reported RCAT noted that the program has resulted in a faster and smoother callout.

Mr. Csonka called on Mr. Guillory to provide RCAT updates. Mr. Guillory reported the benefit of having all criminal justice partners at the first appearance. Ms. Dauzat reported that RCAT has provided the opportunity to flag individuals with substance abuse who are then diverted to the pretrial program. Overall, the program has resulted in expedited billing, bond relief, and diversion to existing programs for many defendants.

Chief Paul reported on the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Foundation. He reported that initial grants will be made to LSU and Southern University to study criminal justice leadership and community engagement, respectively.

Warden Grimes reported that the jail has seen an increase in bookings as more people are being arrested on violent charges.

Ms. Blouin reported their office is monitoring the increase in COVID-19 numbers in the area. Jail and courthouse staff have been working with them to transport clients as needed. Next, Ms. Blouin introduced Alaina Boothe as director of inclusivity and ethnicity in the Public Defender's Office. This full-time position will monitor issues of implicit bias and work with other stakeholders to identify opportunities for improvement in diversity efforts. Ms. Boothe is also the Social Justice Chair for the NAACP.

Judge Crifasi reported that COVID-19 measures implemented to transport defendants and maintain both civil and criminal dockets has been working well.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Mr. Csonka reported a slight uptick in the Average Daily Population (ADP) for the month of October. He reiterated that the CJCC and its partners will work to mitigate any rebound in the jail population. Mr. Csonka also reported that the city-parish budget for 2021 includes a demonstration of cost savings associated with the lower jail population.

Mr. Csonka reported that the Average Length of Stay (ALOS) has increased significantly as the jail population has transitioned to one that includes individuals with more severe charges. Mr. Csonka noted the racial disparity in the ALOS and stated the CJCC must look at all points in the system to reduce that disparity.

Next, Mr. Csonka reported that the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has indicated the CJCC will receive an \$800,000 commitment over the next two years. This funding will support salaries for a public defender at City Court, a prosecutor at City Court, and a case investigator. All department heads have committed to making RCAT function long term.

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

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

Christopher Csonka
Executive Director, CJCC
November 20, 2020