

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, March 16, 2023**

MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 11:00 am at the Shaw Center for the Arts.

Directors in attendance were Chair Honorable Judge Yvette M. Alexander and Brandi Lawrence with Baton Rouge City Court, Jennifer Carwile with Together Baton Rouge, John Spain with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Warden Dennis Grimes with the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison, Deputy Chief Myron Daniels with the Baton Rouge Police Department, Jermaine Guillory with the District Attorney's Office, Leslie Chambers with the Mayor-President's Office, and Margaret Lagattuta with the Public Defender's Office.

Additional attendees were Christopher Csonka, Niles Haymer, Lisa Burns, and Brianna Jeansonne with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), Diana Gibbens with the 19th JDC, Dr. Laurie Garduque and NeAngela Dixon with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Jesse Jannetta and Azhar Gulaid with the Urban Institute, and Elzie Alford with Baton Rouge City Court.

CALL TO ORDER

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

FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Spain moved to approve the meeting minutes from the previous meeting on February 2, 2023. Ms. Lawrence seconded the motion and the previous meeting minutes was moved without opposition.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Judge Alexander called upon the guests to introduce themselves before the director updates.

Dr. Garduque stated that they serve as funders and technical assistance providers since 2019 to support in addressing the misuse and overuse of jails as a driver of over incarceration and address racial disparities in the system. Another stated purpose of their visit is to begin shifting resources to keep the CJCC sustainable and continue building work on the solid foundation achieved thus far.

After comments from guests concluded, Mr. Csonka moved to the first agenda item.

Mr. Csonka reported involvement with SafeBR, which is a coalition of business, community leaders, and law enforcement working together to create a safer Baton Rouge. Mr. Csonka reported he serves as an advisor on the executive committee of SafeBR to ensure philanthropic funds are

used in a meaningful way to advance the coalition's efforts. Mr. Csonka additionally reported he travelled with the group to conferences to sharpen the focus of bringing criminal justice reform to Baton Rouge. Mr. Csonka reported that one of the trips focused on a road mapping academy hosted by Cities United where the Mayor's Safe Hopeful Healthy initiative originated from. The Mayor's staff never completed this process, so the group focused on community violence interruption to reinvest in community-based alternatives to reducing violence.

Mr. Csonka called on Mr. Haymer to provide an update of the Justice Management Institute (JMI) pre-trial services report.

Mr. Haymer informed the board that JMI conducted an assessment of the 19th JDC at the end of 2022 that outlines recommendations of a pre-trial services unit and implementation of a risk assessment tool that the judges can use. Mr. Haymer stated that JMI representatives will visit 19th JDC stakeholders to further explain necessary steps to successfully implement a pre-trial services unit with the use of a risk assessment tool. Mr. Csonka stated that the supreme court has passed approval for the implementation of a pre-trial services unit at the 19th JDC and details will be finalized in the forthcoming months.

Mr. Haymer explained to the board that the use of a validated risk assessment tool at the moment of an individual's booking will assist judges and commissioners in making more informed decisions.

Mr. Jannetta reported that Urban Institute is in coordination with JMI to establish a Louisiana Network, which will be a network of likeminded individuals across the state that are working towards the same goals and provide an opportunity for peer sharing and support. This network will provide a platform for system leaders to gain insight from others in the state as they work to address common challenges and concerns in relation to policy changes that have to be implemented locally or at the state level. Lastly, Mr. Jannetta stated that East Baton Rouge Parish will hold a virtual convening with Orleans Parish to level set before holding an in-person meeting with other parishes later in the year.

Mr. Csonka then updated the board on the newly opened job position for a case navigator. Mr. Csonka stated that the CJCC applied for and received funding from the Wilson Foundation that will cover the salary for the case navigator over the course of three years. Mr. Csonka stated that the purpose of the case navigator will be to connect with individuals in jail during call out and conduct interviews to determine resources for the individual. Lastly, Mr. Csonka stated that the case navigator will conduct follow-up with individuals referred to resources to ensure they are utilizing the resources advantageously and avoid returning to the jail.

Mr. Csonka then reminded the board of the upcoming SJC Convening in St. Louis. He stated these convenings are meant to bring together other SJC sites across the nation and hold plenaries relevant to the work of the SJC and highlight initiatives of fellow SJC sites. Mr. Csonka stated that East Baton Rouge Parish can bring nine delegates to attend the convening.

Mr. Haymer reported the community engagement update. He reported that Everyday Democracy is assisting the community engagement subcommittee, CJCC Engage, are working to map out a sustainable plan to engage the community. CJCC Engage. Ms. Carwile stated that the group

discussed hopes, goals, and concerns during the previous Engage meeting and the group also wants to have the monthly meetings in different locations throughout Baton Rouge.

Mr. Csonka then updated the board on Lights On! progress. He stated that there was an official launch with BRPD and the Sheriff's Office a month ago and it has sparked great media coverage. Deputy Chief Daniels reported that 57 vouchers have been issued to date, one was damaged and voided, and one citizen refused to receive the voucher.

Warden Grimes reported the average daily population (ADP) as 852 in parish and 447 out of parish.

Mr. Csonka reminded the Board of the upcoming CJCC Board of Directors Meeting that will be held on Thursday, May 25th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

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

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Christopher Csonka
Executive Director, CJCC
March 16, 2023