

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, July 22, 2021 12:00pm**

MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, No 22, 2021 at 12:00 pm at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation offices.

Directors in attendance were Chief Murphy J. Paul Jr., Lt. Col. Dennis Grimes, and Lindsay Blouin.

Jermaine Guillory participated for Hillar C. Moore, Lauren Crapanzano Jumonville participated for John Davies, and Niles B. Haymer for Brandi C. Lawrence.

Board members not participating were Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, Judge Yvette M. Alexander, Michael Mitchell, Wilson Fields, and Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome.

Additional attendees were Lacie Dautat with the Public Defender's Office, Niles Haymer with the City Prosecutor's Office, Janeen Buck with Urban Institute, Chuck Toney with the 19th Judicial District Court, Lisa Burns with the Pretrial Diversion and Recovery Program, Lisa Parker with the East Baton Rouge Public Defender's Office, and Judge Gail Grover with East Baton Rouge Parish Juvenile Court.

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chief Murphy Paul called the meeting to order at 12:22 pm.

MINUTES

Chris Csonka reviewed the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held May 27, 2021. **On a motion by Jermaine Guillory and a second by Warden Dennis Grimes, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on May 27, 2021.**

Next, Mr. Csonka asked the Board of Directors to amend Article 4.3a of the CJCC bylaws. The proposed amendment would add a designated seat for a juvenile court representative as well as ensure consistency in language for all designated seats and delegates. **On a motion by Lauren Crapanzano Jumonville and a second by Brandi Lawrence, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the proposed amendment to Article 4.3a of the CJCC bylaws.**

Mr. Csonka then asked the Board of Directors for a motion to appoint Judge Gail Grover to the CJCC board as the designated juvenile court representative. Ms. Jumonville asked that the Board also formally appoint Lisa Parker to the Board of Directors in her new capacity as Chief Public Defender for East Baton Rouge Parish. **On a motion by Ms. Lawrence and a second by Mr.**

Grimes, the Board of Directors unanimously approved appointing Judge Gail Grover and Lisa Parker to the CJCC Board of Directors.

PROGRAM/AGENCY UPDATES

I. PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION AND RECOVERY PROGRAM REPORT

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

Ms. Burns reported that the program currently has 13 active participants. In 2021, 10 participants have graduated from the program. Two of these participants have had relapses, but no participants have been rearrested. Ms. Burns also reported that the Rapid Case Assessment Team has been a helpful source of referrals and that the broader criteria have enabled more participants to qualify for the program.

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

II. EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH PRISON REPORT

Chris Csonka called upon Warden Grimes to deliver the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison report.

Warden Grimes reported that the individuals currently housed in the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison are arrested on more violent charges and suffer from behavioral health challenges. Warden Grimes reported that 940 individuals are currently housed in the Parish Prison and 120 individuals are being housed out of parish. Warden Grimes also reported that 16 inmates are currently positive for COVID-19 in the jail; all 16 are new intakes who have not exposed the rest of the prison population.

Warden Grimes reported the jail has resumed limited, no-contact visitations and anticipates resuming volunteer programs on August 19th. Additionally, Warden Grimes reported 174 individuals housed in the jail will receive a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination by week-end.

Finally, Warden Grimes reported that the installation of kiosks in the prison dormitories is underway.

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

III. RAPID CASE ASSESSMENT TEAM REPORT

Chris Csonka called upon Niles Haymer to deliver the Rapid Case Assessment Team (RCAT) report.

Mr. Haymer reported that the 80% case resolution initially seen with the program has dropped down to 65%. The decreased case resolution rate can largely be attributed to the hardened population at the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. However, RCAT is still able to assess the needs of the defendant during first appearance, refer appropriate individuals to diversionary and treatment programs, and agree on a more just path forward.

Lastly, Mr. Haymer reported that he is compiling outcomes from the first year of RCAT implementation which will be included in a report detailing the first year of RCAT operations and outcomes.

With no further questions or comments, Mr. Haymer concluded his report.

IV. CJCC ENGAGE REPORT

Chris Csonka called upon Brianna Jeansonne to deliver the CJCC Engage report.

Ms. Jeansonne reported that people are consistently participating in the monthly CJCC Engage meetings. Ms. Jeansonne reminded the board that the goals of CJCC Engage are to closely involve community voice into board-level decision making, hear the community's concerns, and establish a link between the CJCC Board Members and CJCC Engage Members.

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Jeansonne concluded the CJCC Engage report.

JFA JAIL POPULATION STUDY

Next, Chris Csonka called upon Lauren Crapanzano Jumonville to deliver the JFA Jail Population Study Report

Ms. Jumonville reported the JFA jail population projection study will include the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison as well as the juvenile detention facility. The report will outline recommendations for continued reform including policies on authorized continuances, development of a pre-trial services unit, and the implementation of a validated inmate classification system at the Parish Prison.

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

V. ADDITIONAL AGENCY UPDATES

Finally, Chris Csonka asked if any additional agencies had information to report to the Board.

Mr. Csonka called upon Judge Grover to report on the Juvenile Court and Detention facility.

Judge Grover reported an increase in intake as well as a hardening of the incarcerated population. Additionally, Judge Grover reported 32 youth are currently housed in the juvenile detention facility, one youth is currently housed in the parish prison, and 12 of the incarcerated youth are being tried as adults.

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

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Next, Chris Csonka delivered the Director Updates.

Mr. Csonka reported the current Average Daily Population in the Parish Prison is 1070 which is a reduction of 47.35% when compared to the 2017 baseline.

Next, Mr. Csonka asked if inmates in East Baton Rouge Parish prison were able to make free phone calls to the public defender's office, since attorney-client visits are limited by COVID-19 restrictions. Warden Grimes reported that there has never been a dedicated free line for the public defender, but that inmates used some of the free phone calls the Sheriff's office had provided for inmates to call public defender's office. Lisa Parker asked if the CJCC could explore the cost and feasibility of setting up free phone calls to the public defender's office. Mr. Csonka agreed to pursue this conversation.

Mr. Csonka then reported that he was working with Chuck Toney to set up site visits with Jefferson and Orleans parishes to better understand their pre-trial programming. He expected to have one team visit East Baton Rouge and for East Baton Rouge to visit the other before the end of the year.

Additionally, Mr. Csonka reported that East Baton Rouge was selected to participate in the Safety and Justice Challenge IMPACT Network. This network joins six communities new to the SJC with five current sites to encourage implementation of reform at the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice.

Mr. Csonka then reported that he had submitted a budget request to the City-Parish for 2022. This request included increased funding for a data analyst and race equity coordinator for the CJCC. Additionally, Mr. Csonka noted that he is working with the City-Parish to develop criminal justice proposals for Relief Act Funding.

Finally, Mr. Csonka reminded the Board of Directors that the second annual CJCC Board Retreat will be held September 22 in lieu of the next meeting.

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

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chief Paul 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 1:34 p.m.

Christopher Csonka
Executive Director, CJCC
July 23, 2021