

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, September 28, 2023**

MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 11:30 am at the Shaw Center for the Arts.

Directors in attendance were Chair Honorable Judge Yvette Alexander with Baton Rouge City Court, Aislyn Taylor with the City Prosecutor's Office, Lindsay Blouin with the YWCA, Sara Anderson Clarke with the Public Defender's Office, Judge Gail Grover with East Baton Rouge Juvenile Court, Jermaine Guillory with the District Attorney's Office, Judge Don Johnson with the 19th JDC, Eric Dexter with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Leslie Chambers with the Mayor-President's Office, Dennis Grimes with the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison, John Spain with Spain Enterprises, and Jennifer Carwile with CJCC Engage and Together Baton Rouge.

Additional attendees were Margaret Lagatutta with the Office of the Public Defender, Christopher Csonka, Niles Haymer, and Brianna Jeansonne, with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Judge Alexander called the meeting to order at 11:33 AM.

FOR APPROVAL

Motion to approve July 27, 2023, meeting minutes was made by John Spain, seconded by Mr. Guillory. With no opposition, the motion is carried.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Judge Alexander called upon Chris Csonka to deliver Director Updates.

After brief introductions from the Board, Mr. Csonka led the meeting off with several updates to the Board.

Mr. Csonka announced Eric Dexter as Vice President of Civic Leadership Initiatives with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and now serves as Mr. Myer's delegate on the board.

RECOVERY MONTH

Mr. Csonka reported that the Pre-Trial Diversion & Recovery Program Graduation Ceremony took place in the Ceremonial Courtroom at the 19th Judicial District Court (JDC) to commemorate National Recovery Month. He added that the ceremony garnered significant positive media coverage.

Additionally, Mr. Csonka reported that Leadership Baton Rouge, with CJCC Deputy Director Niles Haymer as a participant, had the opportunity to observe the graduation ceremony and engage in discussions with CJCC board members and stakeholders regarding the EBR Parish Justice System during various stakeholder panels.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES LUNCHEON

Mr. Csonka highlighted the successful coordination of the 2nd annual Community Resources Luncheon, which saw the participation of over 100 attendees representing various community resources. State Rep. C. Denise Marcelle and Judge Will Jordan, Chief Judge of the Recovery Court at the 19th JDC, served as keynote speakers, during the event.

Additionally, Mr. Csonka shared that the CJCC is set to receive funds from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and private funds to establish a Reentry Coordinator position and rebrand CAPARC (Capital Area Reentry Coalition) as CAPRI (Capital Area Prisoner Reentry Initiative). This transformation aims to enhance support for individuals reintegrating into society by providing access to community resources, monthly job fairs, and opportunities for long-term support.

NAPSA CONFERENCE

Mr. Csonka informed the board that CJCC staff, along with Diana Gibbens, Judicial Administrator of the 19th JDC, participated in the National Association for Pretrial Services Association (NAPSA) Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The event had an attendance of 1,100 participants and took place from September 17th to 20th, where attendees attended various workshops about improvements in the pre-trial process of the justice system.

CJCC ENGAGE

Mr. Csonka relayed that CJCC successfully concluded its collaboration with the Mayor's summer "Heal the Block" events for the summer, where surveys were taken by attendees and results have been collected to identify community champions who will host listening sessions in their respective neighborhoods. CJCC is actively seeking to expand the membership of its Engage program. Additionally, CJCC has opened applications for Community Board Members.

4TH ANNUAL CJCC BOARD RETREAT

Mr. Csonka announced that the 4th annual CJCC Board Retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the City Club in downtown Baton Rouge. Success Labs will facilitate the retreat.

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

AGENCY UPDATES

BATON ROUGE CITY COURT

Judge Alexander conveyed the decision of Baton Rouge City Court stakeholders to hold an Amnesty Day for their court. Judge Johnson from the 19th JDC proposed the inclusion of as many courts in East Baton Rouge Parish as possible. It was agreed that CJCC would coordinate with Baton Rouge City Court, 19th JDC, EBR Juvenile Court, and Baker City Court for this initiative. It was noted that Zachary Court cannot participate at present due to a records system software update.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the CJCC Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm.

Christopher Csonka
Executive Director, CJCC
September 28, 2023