

**EBR Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, May 27, 2021**

**MINUTES**

The Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:00 pm at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation offices.

Directors in attendance were Judge Fred Crifasi, John Spain, Niles Haymer, Judge Yvette Alexander, Darryl Gissel, and Jermaine Guillory.

Board member not present were Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, Warden Dennis Grimes, Chief Murphy Paul, Michael Mitchell.

Additional attendees were Judge Gail Grover from the Juvenile Court, Christopher Csonka from the CJCC, Brianna Jeansonne from the CJCC, and Lauren Crapanzano Jumonville from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Judge Alexander called to order at 12:19 pm.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Judge Alexander reviewed the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. **On a motion from Darryl Gissel and a second by Judge Crifasi, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**PROGRAM/AGENCY UPDATES**

**PRETRIAL DIVERSION AND RECOVERY PROGRAM**

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

Ms. Burns reported 17 active participants, 3 of which are veterans. One participant is in 28-day treatment facility and the remainder are in sober living houses. Ms. Burns additionally reported recent relapse, which is currently being addressed. Currently, the Pre-Trial team has conducted a total of 210 total assessments, with 66 individuals assessed but did not meet the program requirements.

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

### **RAPID CASE ASSESSMENT TEAM (RCAT)**

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

Mr. Haymer reported his work to finalize April and May data. Mr. Haymer also reported the increased collaboration between him and the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program.

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

### **JFA JAIL POPULATION STUDY**

Judge Alexander called upon John Spain to deliver the JFA Jail Population Study report.

Mr. Spain reported the jail population study being conducted by JFA Institute and asked the Board of Directors to review the documents for approval before plans move forward. Mr. Spain reported that once approved, these documents will be finalized and shared.

With no further questions or comments, Mr. Spain concluded the JFA Jail Population Study report.

### **CJCC ENGAGE**

Judge Alexander called upon Brianna Jeansonne to deliver the CJCC Engage report.

Ms. Jeansonne reported on community engagement initiatives, which included the previous Community Justice Forum and upcoming meeting. The attendees of these meetings will discuss and advise the upcoming Community Safety and Justice Survey and build upon current CJCC initiatives that will provide inclusive advisement to the Board.

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

### **EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH PRISON REPORT**

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

Warden Grimes reported inmates are still being offered the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and continued efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the facilities. Warden Grimes reported most of the inmates who test positive are new arrests and are quarantined for the mandated 14 days and re-tested before entering the general population of the prison.

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

### **ADDITIONAL AGENCY UPDATES**

Judge Grover reported 25 juveniles currently housed at the juvenile detention facility with seven pending cases in the 19<sup>th</sup> JDC.

## **DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Judge Alexander called upon Chris Csonka to deliver the Director Updates report.

Mr. Csonka reported a 47% decrease, as of April, for the Parish Prion Average Daily Population when compared to the baseline.

Additionally, Mr. Csonka reported on the JFA study regarding COVID-19 impacts on crime, arrests, and jail population and stated that the report shows that violent crimes have decreased overall despite the rise in murders.

Finally, Mr. Csonka reported on the Safety and Justice Challenge Race Equity Cohort. The CJCC submitted a letter of interest to apply for an additional grant which would provide technical and financial assistance to identify points of disparity throughout the justice system. This grant would be a two-year engagement.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Csonka reported next meeting will be in person with no call-in option. With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Christopher Csonka  
Executive Director  
May 27, 2021