

**EBR Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, January 23, 2020**

MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on January 23, 2020 at 12:00 pm at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

Directors participating were the Honorable Yvette Alexander, Warden Dennis Grimes, Brandi Lawrence, Hillar Moore, Chief Murphy Paul, John Spain. Michael Mitchell participated via conference call.

Directors not present or represented were Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, 19th JDC Chief Judge Wilson Fields.

Sarah C. Gardner, Edmund J. Giering IV, and Lauren Crapanzano Jumonville participated from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation; Major Cathy Fontenot participated from the Sheriff's office; Lindsay Blouin participated from the Public Defender's office.

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Yvette Alexander called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

ACTION AGENDA

Judge Alexander called upon Chris Csonka to provide updates on actions required of the board.

Mr. Csonka asked the Board to approve amendments to the CJCC bylaws in the following sections: Article IV 4.3 – Composition and Article VI 6.6e – Duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director. Additionally, Judge Alexander noted that the description of the City Court board seat should be amended to read: “The Senior Judge of the Baton Rouge City Court...”. **On a motion by John Spain and a second by Hillar Moore, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the above and foregoing amendments to the CJCC bylaws.**

Next, Mr. Csonka discussed the appointment of designees to represent Board members in their absence from meetings. He asked each board member to consider who they would authorize to act on their behalf in board meetings in the event they are unable to attend.

Next, Mr. Csonka asked the Board to select officers. The following slate of officers was presented for approval:

Chair: Judge Yvette Alexander
Vice Chair: Chief Murphy Paul

Secretary: Michael Mitchell
Treasurer: John Spain
At-Large: Hillar Moore

On a motion by Hillar Moore and a second by John Spain, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the slate of officers as presented.

Mr. Csonka then asked the board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a subgrant agreement between the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and the CJCC. **On a motion by John Spain and a second by Hillar Moore, the Board of Directors unanimously approved authorizing the Executive Director to execute a subgrant agreement between the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and the CJCC.**

Next, Mr. Csonka asked the Board to approve the budget for the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge grant. **On a motion by Chief Murphy Paul and a second by Hillar Moore, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the budget for the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge grant.**

Mr. Csonka then asked the Board to approve a budget for the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program. **On a motion by John Spain and a second by Hillar Moore, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the budget for the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program.**

Next, Mr. Csonka asked the Board to approve an employment agreement for Christopher Csonka. **On a motion by Judge Yvette Alexander and a second by Michael Mitchell, the Board of Directors unanimously approved an employment agreement for Christopher Csonka.**

Mr. Csonka then discussed the need for a Nominating Committee and to populate its membership. He asked the Board of Directors to consider serving on this committee. He asked the Board to approve its creation and indicated that the committee members would be brought to the Board for approval at a later date. **On a motion by John Spain and a second by Hillar Moore, the Board of Directors unanimously approved creating a Nominating Committee.**

Mr. Csonka then discussed ongoing work around implementing a pre-trial risk assessment tool in East Baton Rouge parish. He suggested the Board appoint a committee with relevant stakeholders to explore its implementation. Mr. Csonka also asked the Board to suggest relevant membership from stakeholder agencies. **On a motion by Hillar Moore and a second by John Spain, the Board of Directors unanimously approved creating a Pre-Trial Risk Assessment Tool Implementation Committee.**

Next, Mr. Csonka asked the Board to approve a payment to Angel Rushing-Ward for the period of January 1, 2020 through January 5, 2020 in the amount of \$1,267.12. **On a motion by Brandi Lawrence and a Yvette Alexander, the Board unanimously approved a payment to Angel Rushing-Ward for the period of January 1, 2020 through January 5, 2020 in the amount of \$1,267.12.**

Mr. Csonka then reminded the Board that the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program has an ongoing relationship with the LSU School of Social Work to provide supervision hours for students in the clinical social work program. Mr. Csonka will complete all necessary paperwork associated with this program.

Next, Mr. Csonka asked the Board of Directors to authorize him to execute insurance policies for the CJCC to include director's and officer's insurance, employment liability, and general liability. **On a motion by Hillar Moore and a second by John Spain, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to authorize him to execute insurance policies for the CJCC to include director's and officer's insurance, employment liability, and general liability.**

Mr. Csonka then asked the Board to allow Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program staff to use participant funds as outlined in Memo #001-20. **On a motion by John Spain and a second by Hillar Moore, the Board of Directors unanimously approved allowing the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program staff to use participant funds as outlined in Memo #001-20.**

PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. Csonka then provided updates on ongoing work of the CJCC.

He indicated that a website for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council was recently launched and the website could be found at www.ebrccjcc.org

Next, Mr. Csonka gave an overview of the current state of the Pre-Trial Diversion and Recovery Program. He noted that program staff had assessed a total of 125 potential participants, that the program currently has 17 active participants, and that 27 participants have graduated to date. Mr. Csonka noted that with the sudden passing of Angel Rushing-Ward, the program had not admitted new participants yet. He reported that a search for her replacement is underway. Mr. Csonka then thanked members of the Board for their agency's participation in the program.

Mr. Csonka then reminded the Board of ongoing work related to the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge. He discussed ongoing work around the implementation of a Pre-Trial Risk Assessment tool, expedited arraignment program, and the establishment of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. He reminded the Board that a convening with MacArthur would be held in May and that all board member agencies would be invited to send someone to participate.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Christopher Csonka
Executive Director
January 24, 2020