

CCA Board Meeting
June 21, 2022

Statutory members: Retired Judge, Joseph H Niemeyer; Hancock County Common Pleas Court, Judge Jonathan Starn; Director of Court Services/CPO, Kimberly Switzer; Hancock County Commissioner, Michael Pepple; Juvenile/Probate Court Judge Kristen Johnson; ADAMHS Board, Precia Stuby; Hancock County Job & Family Services, Randall Galbraith; Dave Beach, City of Findlay; Hancock County Sheriff, Michael Heldman; Alvis/Ohio Link, Jennifer Stohr; CASA, Leah Cole; Public Defender, Paul Maekask

Guests: Asst. Chief Probation Officer, Patrick Brzozka; Drug Court Coordinator, Brandy Tiell; Fiscal Manager, Julie Smith; Hancock County Probation Officer, Chad McClain; Family Resource Center, Aeryn Williams; University of Findlay OT intern, Gargie Pathak; Hancock County Adult Probation Office Manager, Melanie Fox; Welcome to a New Life, Puck Rowe; Welcome to a New Life, Carla Benjamin; Welcome to a New Life, Stan Kujawa, Hancock County Auditor, Charity Rauschenberg; Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Jessie Sterrett; City of Findlay Municipal Court, Candace Griffith; City Mission, Kathryn Bausman

Call to Order, Introductions and Approval of Minutes:

Judge Starn called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

Judge Starn requested minutes from the June 22, 2021 meeting be approved; Sheriff Heldman motioned to approve.

Community Corrections Act Updates:

•Web Site: www.co.hancock.oh.us/commonpleas

CORRECTION ACT AND OTHER PROBATION GRANT UPDATES

Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) – Kimberly Switzer

- Pretrial/Bond Grant: annual \$87,844.00
- Intensive Supervision Grant: annual \$221,988.00
- Justice Reinvestment and Incentive Grant: annual \$161,500.00 (Lost \$36,640 per year)
- TCAP Funds: annual \$161,147.00; TCAP Grant is based on supervising low level felonies. Half of this grant goes to the Hancock County Sheriff for jail housing and the other half towards Hancock County Adult Probation Drug Court Coordinator.

ADAMHS/Ohio Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Kimberly Switzer

- Drug Court Grant/Specialized Docket: annual \$35,000 per docket for Fiscal Year 2022

CCA REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Chief Probation Officer, Kimberly Switzer

- New Board Resolution/Referrals – Please let Kim Switzer know if you have any referrals for new board members as we are in need of updating our current resolution.

NEW BUSINESS

Director of Court Services, Kimberly Switzer

- CCA Updates: Grant audit was completed earlier this year.
- Several plan of actions came out of this audit and they are due 7/17/22. Plan of action are related to aftercare plans and lost services due to not having in-house treatment services.

- Satisfaction Survey via Survey Monkey: Coming soon! We look forward to the feedback to continue to improve.

Adult Probation Updates/Trends

Director of Court Services, Kimberly Switzer

- Staffing changes, recruiting, training at Adult Probation
- Retention Plan in place to help keep staff.
- Meth and Fentanyl Substance Abuse – Huge issue right now but the Detox Center has helped.
- Housing is still in great need. City Mission is a great option as well as many in-patient treatment centers and sober living.
- Mental Health crisis continues in our area.
- Suicides: Hancock County Adult Probation has seen many suicides recently, almost weekly at one point in time.
- Overdoes: Same as suicides, Adult Probation department is seeing these occur more frequently.
- All of this leads to staff trauma, Kim Switzer has been working with ADAMHS board to get some trauma interventions set up for the department. Seems that staff turnover is related to the trauma as many probation officers truly want to help the defendants.
 - o Precia Stuby explained there is a program that has been set up for employees to ensure they are taking care of themselves mentally. ADAMHS Board has approved up to eight sessions for County and City Probation, and Job and Family Services Child Welfare staff. ADAMHS will send a letter to those departments to let them know how to attain the services.
 - o Judge Johnson inquired if that included her probation staff. Precia Stuby stated that would need to be taken back to the ADAMHS Board for approval.
 - o Dave Beach added that City of Findlay Probation is seeing the same trauma.

Drug Court – Brandy Tiell, Drug Court Coordinator

- Kim Switzer explained that Drug Court is a Specialized Docket and the program is voluntary.
- Program Activity handout reviewed.
- Drug Court Recidivism PowerPoint reviewed.
- Kim Switzer stated we first had to define recidivism. For the purposes of this research, it was defined as new convictions; either felony or misdemeanor. It was found that participants do not reoffend while in the program; however post-graduation showed the same recidivism rate as the control group. Need to look at what the issues are; is it fidelity of treatment groups? Kim Switzer stated she is unsure as the groups are no longer in-house and harder to track. The linkage after graduation is what is needed. This is why Welcome to a New Life and peer support is so important for our community.
- Brandy Tiell explained that the research was compared to a control group of Intensive Supervision probationers with similar offenses and risk scores.
 - o Kim Switzer asked Judge Starn to approve the creation of a sub-committee for Drug Court Recidivism research. Any board members interested please let Kim Switzer know.
 - o Kim Switzer noted that research timeframe was while Adult Probation had in-house treatment available and is unsure what further results would look like now that we no longer have that. She also noted that the National average of recidivism is 50% so our Drug Court research is doing better than that average.
 - o A meeting attendee inquired if the research was compared to other Counties. Kim Switzer responded the research could not be compared as other counties are not tracking the outcomes. There is also no State comparison as they do not track post Drug Court graduation.
 - o Judge Starn added that the data is not what he was expecting and he is shocked that no other agencies are tracking this information. Also stated the program is doing a lot right, but can do more.

Family Resource Center (FRC) – Aeryn Williams

- Soar Funds are being used to provide transportation to and from treatment with T & H Lift.
- Train the Trainer CBI-SA training completed recently
- Just in Time medical scheduling is up and running. FRC is seeing better attendance rates now.
- LEAD Grant has been updated to include other agencies beside Law Enforcement to make referrals. City Mission and Focus are two of those agencies. Precia Stuby added that the current LEAD grant is expiring, but they are looking at more funding.
- FRC is also seeing staff turnover; Brooke Nissan will become the new director of Focus, Elizabeth Pinion and Kelly Ash have both resigned. Kim Switzer inquired what treatment groups will look like now with staff turnover. Aeryn Williams stated that Nicole Frankart is back from maternity leave and will assist. Along with Derek Puchta, he will assist as well. FRC has an internal candidate that will be interviewed.

ADAMHS Update – Precia Stuby

- Steady Path opened in January for stabilization services.
- LEAD grant is expiring however another application has been submitted.
- Focus received a Criminal Justice Grant and an outreach team was awarded.
- Phone System App – The app is grant funded and provides self-screens, peer support, self-guided CBT, and allows for electronic meetings to be scheduled. In the future, ADAMHS hopes to engage employers in this app.
- Workforce issue – Starting MAT is very important to getting people back into the workforce. ADAMHS is working with Dr. Kose to offer inductions through the emergency room and hospital 24 hours a day/7 days a week.
- ROSC report includes information from the past eight years of progress happening in the community to help document all the different methods utilized to assist with issues.
- Precia Stuby added, ADAMHS is working to bring Dr. Flaherty back to the community in the near future.
- Precia Stuby added that there is funding available to send anyone interested to the 2022 PTACC Deflection and Pre-Arrest Diversion Training Summit in Chicago, IL August 2-5. Please let her know if you are interested in attending.

County Criminal Justice Business

- Findlay Municipal Court updates – Candace Griffith
 - o Collecting fees through the Ohio Attorney General is going very well.
 - Kim Switzer inquired what the Ohio Attorney General has done for court costs. Candace Griffith responded that they serve as a collection agency that can garnish wages.
 - o Grant received to finish 2nd and 3rd phase of E-Filing.
 - o Utilizing other Counties for housing offenders makes for extra work but they are making the best of it.
 - o CASC would be a misdemeanor facility with a work release program. Would provide a direct sentencing option for judges. Talking with City Council to approve conducting a preliminary design with an architectural firm.
 - o Dave Beach – different than WROC as the CASC would be a direct sentencing option and WROC was voluntary. Candace Griffith added that WROC you had to be employed and there were fees involved to participate.

- Sheriff's Updates – Administrative Lt. Jesse Sterrett
 - Jail is currently down 30 beds due to low staffing, this leaves approximately 50 male beds and 18 females beds opens at this time. Still need 4 male and 6 female officers to get back to full staffing level.
 - Continuing to house inmates at other locations however that comes with a charge as Mercer County is \$50 per day, and CCNO is \$80 per day.
 - Mental Health contract with Well Path to provide up to 8 hours of psychiatric management with a nurse practitioner for the jail.
 - House Bill 101 would approve funding for the remodeling of County jails.
 - Staffing updates – Kim Switzer inquired what other Counties are doing to recruit staff. Sheriff Heldman stated other counties are seeing the same staffing issues however they continue to actively recruit for Sheriff's Office positions. Judge Starn added that DRC is having same staffing issues.

- Jail Committee/Study/PONI Process – Retired Judge Niemeyer
 - Working with Commissioner Bateson on the Jail Committee. Looking to have a meeting in August or September for the committee to review the PONI report that was conducted in August of 2021. Judge Niemeyer stated the jail was only supposed to last 30 years when it was built, and has exceeded that timeframe.
 - Kim Switzer asked what the Community Corrections Planning Board can do. Judge said eventually yes, he will let the Board know.

- County Commissioners – Michael Pepple
 - Juvenile Court building – working with RCM Architects and Alvada Construction for finalized design that will be reviewed at a later date.

- Legislative issues/updates – Judge Starn
 - At OCPJA Conference in June bail reform bills were a discussion as always.
 - Senate Bill 215 made Ohio a constitutional carry state on June 13, 2022, this means you no longer need a permit to carry a concealed firearm. This does not change where firearms are prohibited and additional signage will be posted at Courthouse and department buildings stating such.

- Arraignment System Meeting – Judge Starn
 - Meeting scheduled for 7/12/2022 regarding arraignment process. With failure to appears, drug and violent offenses increasing the arraignment numbers have increased. Arraignments occur every Wednesday and Friday and are now taking longer than ever. Some of this is due to in person and video arraignment from ODRC and other Counties. Meeting will discuss whether different days would be more efficient, conducting in person and video arraignments on separate days, etc.

- Job & Family Services Updates – Randall Galbraith
 - TANF funding is available, these are federal dollars that can be utilized for various needs. TANF funding does require that a minor child be living in the household.
 - COVID funding available as well. Randall Galbraith stated that if someone has a need please send those to JFS to see if there is anything they can assist with before utilizing other funding sources.
 - JFS also has transportation assistance available for non-emergency medical appointments. This funding is for anyone currently on Medicare. Kim Switzer inquired how many in Hancock County are

currently on Medicare. Randall Galbraith responded currently there are 16,000 individuals on Medicare in Hancock County, normal average is 12,000.

- City Mission – Kathryn Bausman
 - Transportation contracts with HATS to assist with getting individuals to appointments.
 - Working with several landlords on 2nd chance options to assist with housing barriers.

- Welcome to a New Life – Carla Benjamin
 - Carla Benjamin thanked everyone who was able to attend the Recognition Breakfast.
 - Working with Findlay Digital, Owens Community College, and University of Findlay to get mentees education that may be needed.
 - Transportation contract with T & H Lift to assist with transportation.
 - Obtained grant funding to assist with positive engagement activities for mentors and mentees.
 - Looking for more capital funding to assist mentors.
 - Kim Switzer asked if the program still has a waitlist. Carla Benjamin replied yes.

Board Input/Questions:

- Puck Rowe inquired why Adult Probation Caseloads were currently so high in 2022, in regard to the Program Review Handout. Kim Switzer responded that it's difficult to get defendants off probation as they have issues with positive drug screens, paying fines and/or court costs, and it's difficult to get defendants in the office to fill out the termination paperwork due to transportation issues.

Action Items:

Next Meeting Date: October 11, 2022 5:00 pm

Meeting adjourned @ 6:15 pm by Judge Starn