

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – Meeting Agenda: October 28th, 2019, 1-2:30 pm
County Admin - Public Meeting Room (B14)

1. Welcome

a. Roll Call: Members:

Present at the meeting were:

Jana Staton, SK Rossi, Kim Lahiff, Myshell Lyday, Molli Zook, Theresa Williams, Terry Kendrick, Michelle Cares, Julie Merritt, Frank Knaack, Quinn Ziegler, David Conway, Jim Kitchen, Keenan Whitt, Jennifer Streano, Joe Thaggard, Christopher Croft, Landee Holloway, Colin Fitz Maurice, Kate Larcom, Jody Faircloth, Scott Hoffman, Sue Wilkins, Laurie Francis, Shantelle Gaynor, Shirley Faust, Kathleen Jenks, Josh Slotnick, John Engen, Jordan Kilby, Ivan MacDonald, Leslie Halligan

b. Acknowledgement of Country

2. Business

a. Meeting minutes

Meeting minutes from 8.13.19 were approved.

MOTION:

Mayor Engen moved to approve the minutes from the 8.13.19 meeting, Judge Jenks seconded.

b. CJCC Foundational Documents - Draft Strategic Plan: Comments and Review

Judge Halligan suggested that the council postpone the discussion on the strategic plan for a few meetings to allow more time for comments and until full contingent of members are in attendance.

c. At-Large Member Recommendations and Voting

Rossi recommend Bart and Katie (No last names provided), who are Peer Support Specialists and ACLU “super volunteers”. Rossi has yet to approach either of them with the opportunity but thinks they will be interested and available.

Ms. Cares recommended Lauri Pope who is an active member of Partners of Integration.

Action Item:

Rossi and Ms Cares will approach their recommended individuals and pass their contact information along to Kristen Jordan.

Group Discussion/ Possible Next Steps

It is recommended that there be an induction process for At-Large members.

Ms. Gaynor asked the group if it would be appropriate to create an application process for interested At-Large Members, especially if there is widespread interest in the future. Other Council members agreed that it could be beneficial to gather basic information and level of interest but no next steps for creating an application were put in place.

d. Other business

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Update from Kristen Jordan

Ms Jordan attended a meeting at the Chamber regarding a Meth Initiative that the Montana US Attorney would like to roll out in Missoula County. A similar model has been implemented in Yellowstone County, with United Way leading the charge. At this meeting at the Chamber, it was discussed that this group could become another subcommittee to the CJCC.

3. Presentations

a. Theresa Williams – Navigation Center, with Blueline Consultant Keenan Whitt

Site Locations

Trinity apartments, supportive housing

Two sites:

1. Skyview Trailer Lot
2. Mullan Road site: four acres across from the County Detention Center.

Ms Williams has met with the detention center to discuss the importance of a good working neighbor relationship and to assess their needs.

The Mullan Road site will include a Navigation Center that will be open to tenants and the public. Conversations with various service providers are ongoing.

Services and Targeted Population

The Navigation Center's design and services will be trauma informed, which is best practice for serving small subsets of the population with the highest and most complex set of needs. Ms Williams and Commissioner Slotnick traveled to Colorado to tour trauma informed sites.

Goals: close gaps in service for individuals experiencing chronic homeless, without duplicating existing resources.

Services will be available to tenant but not forced on them. This is an intentional approach to meet people where they are at, especially those who have struggled with housing vouchers.

Funding and Construction

The project will not rely on local tax dollars and will have a 4% tax credit- noncompetitive.

Spring 2021: construction begins with an 18-month schedule to completion

Early 2022: project will be released

Question and Answer

- How long can individuals stay?
Permanent means permanent but in practice, residents usually stay between 2-4 years.
- Will the Center serve as a detox center?

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No. The Center is not a detox center or a Dakota House alternative. It is meant for people experiencing a housing crisis, esp. those who might not qualify for other local options, i.e., the Poverello Center.

That means the Center will operate using a high threshold and belief that eviction is not the solution. Report and trust with staff will be paramount and helped by having services on site to develop a shared sense of community amongst tenants.

- Is the site open to families?

Yes, at the Northside location. The Mulan site will have limited 2, 3, and 4 room units.

- Can people on the sex offender registry be tenants?

Yes. Eligibility will depend on how recent the offense is and if it was violent, which are restrictions dictated by HUD.

- What kind of engagement do you anticipate between tenants and law enforcement?

The project is seen as a continuation of the jail diversion plan and talk with the County Sheriff are ongoing.

- Next steps?

Still working on how to accommodate people experiencing a mental health crisis.

b. Terry Kendrick – Strategic Alliance for Improved mental health and Wellbeing

Background on the Alliance and Current Project

The Alliance was formed to better align prevention and intervention efforts in the community.

Current issue: individuals with limited financial resources are ending up in the ERs of our two hospitals when they experience a mental health crisis, which is not the best resource for them.

Ms Kendrick was hired to do a review of the current services and potential gaps in Missoula, which identified success in the following areas;

- Use of crisis intervention and homeless intervention teams
- Incorporating mental health care into primary care
- Frequent utilizers engagement
- Use of mapping

Common Themes and Needs

- The community needs a step-down care program
- Providing referrals to resources is not enough. Safety and Transition plans need to be used
- Developing and providing culturally competent care
- Address stigma around mental health and addiction

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Next Steps

The Alliance has progressed to the stages of collecting and analyzing data to create a community plan and advocating to redesign funding sources and eliminate silos.

Current Focus

Applying for 2 years Montana Healthcare Foundation grant.

Looking at data provided by the state on ways to use available Medicaid Medicare dollars differently and gaps in services for individuals who are not appropriate for commitment at local hospitals.

Action Item:

Ms Jordan will circulate Terry's contact information to group- Feedback is welcome.

4. Expert Working Group Updates

a. Quinn Ziegler - Data Analysis Expert Working Group

The Workings Group's goal is to improve data collection and analysis.

In recent meetings conversations have focused on the necessary procedures and protocols for sharing data between agencies, the use of personally identifiable data, data collection requests from the McArthur Foundation, and the Foundation's offer to help make changes to our current databases.

Action Item:

Mr Ziegler will share the data requested by the McArthur Foundation with the Council.

b. Kristen Jordan – PSA/Pretrial Expert Working Group

Overview

The PSA is an algorithmic pretrial tool for judges to use when making initial release decisions.

The tool generates two risk scores measuring the likelihood of new criminal activity and the likelihood of failing to appear for court.

The tool does not use interviews to collect data. Instead it is a nine-question assessment based on a defendant's criminal history. Factors are weighted and put into a six- point scale and those scores are used with a rubric to recommend one of three supervision levels with accompanying recommended release conditions.

Strengths & Weaknesses

Training and direction from the State, which oversees the program, has been minimal. County pilots have largely been left to rollout the tool as they see fit.

There is concern regarding the tool's effectiveness in cases involving domestic violence offenses, which has sparked important conversations among stakeholders. The PSA is not validated to assess the specific risk present in these cases.

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Jana Staton shared with the group that the tool has not been validated for use with Native American populations. Ms Jordan stressed the importance of validating the tool locally and gave an example of how a jurisdiction in Alaska has reworked the Arnold PSA and validated it for use with Alaskan Natives.

The rubric used to assign supervision levels, from the Decision-making-Framework, was designed for use in all five pilot counties, which in practice makes it difficult to interpret.

Currently, defendants ordered to pretrial supervision are checking in with Pre-Trial Services more often than PSA would recommend.

c. Kristen Jordan – Jail Review Team

The Jail Review Team will look at individuals in custody at the Missoula County Detention Facility, who meet specific criteria, to make recommendations to judges for an earlier release. Recommendations must be by consensus.

This is a closed group and has the following members: Public Defender, City Attorney, County Attorney, Probation and Parole, and the Missoula County Detention Facility.

The Team is still in the planning phases of development and is using models from similar groups in other jurisdictions.

d. Michelle Cares – Re-Entry Expert Working Group / Partners for Reintegration

The existing group will soon be housed within the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council as an Expert Working Group. It has been sitting under Housing and Community Development Services within the City.

The group will continue to focus on outreach and re-entry resources for returning citizens.

5. Public Comment

No comments provided.

6. Closing

Next steps

The Council will aim to meet during the first few weeks of December.

Attachments:

Draft Missoula CJCC Strategic Plan

Meeting Minutes:

Data Analysis Expert Working Group

PSA/Pretrial Expert Working Group

Jail Review Team Expert Working Group

Re-Entry Expert Working Group / Partners for Reintegration