

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting

Date: March 21, 2024, | 12-1:30 pm

Location: Government Center – A Level Auditorium (lunch provided)

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Jeff Lunde, Eric Werner, Dawanna Witt, Chela Guzmán-Wiegert, Michael Berger, Catherine Johnson, Michael Rainville, Kerry Meyer, Todd Fellman, Hilary Caligiuri, Sara Gonsalves, Jason Nelson, Tim Busse, Andy Skoogman for Brian O’Hara, John Freude for Mayor Jacob Frey, Elie Farhat for Marion Greene, Staff: Mary Ellen Heng, Susan Winterfeld Thompson, Lisa Bayley, Cherie Nelson, Jackie Braun-Lewis Notes: Roberta Groening

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call and Introductions | Approval of Meeting Minutes (February)

Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair

- Commissioner Lunde called the meeting to order at 12:01pm
- Roll Call was taken by Director Heng
- Approval of meeting minutes – no quorum, approval of minutes vote was not taken.

Cities United Summit

Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair

Commissioner Lunde gave the following update;

- On March 5, 2024, the Hennepin County board passed a resolution to host a county wide safe communities’ summit. Invitations will be forthcoming to all cities, elected officials, schools, and others who play an important role in discussions pertaining to juvenile crime.
- The Hennepin County board will be working in partnership with a group called Cities United to host the summit. The objective of the summit will be to tackle and harness collective energies towards strategies to engage youth, with the hope that the earlier we can start interventions the better the outcome.
- Cities United works with governments and nonprofits tackling systems of inequity and sustainability.
- To begin the process, Cities United will be collecting background information from represented organizations by way of a self-assessment that allows organization to assess gaps and to determine areas of focus at the summit.
- The seminars will be available to registered participants at no cost.

- Save the date emails will be going out by week's end. The Marriott Hotel in Brooklyn Park will be the host site and has a maximum capacity of up to 300 individuals with flexibility for breakout rooms.

Strategic Planning

Lead: Mary Ellen Heng, CJCC Director

Susan Winterfeld Thompson, Hennepin County Strategic Planning & Initiative Department was introduced.

Director Heng reviewed the CJCC Strategic Planning conversation and goals to help determine what the group would like to focus on in 2024 and beyond. Susan Winterfeldt Thompson provided a brief introduction and spoke on the following topics;

- The committee reviewed high level strategic planning and process. The goal for the CJCC would be to align focus and prioritize the work of this group and in the future consider focusing resources on higher level priorities.
- One of the benefits of aligning the group' purpose, goals will help simplify decision making.
- The strategic planning process would also help serve as a great communication tool for the committee. The planning process would serve as messaging back to the board and whoever else the committee would like to communicate this information to.
- The process would provide shared language.
- As part of the information gathering process, the project planning team led by Susan would like to hear from everyone, including your departments and organization, about important issues that may have a place at this meeting.
- Members of this committee should come to the meeting as a system partner, to educate and share information with organizations so the committee focus can be on how best to work together.
- Expectations will focus on systematic challenges that are not currently being addressed through other efforts along with how to collaborate with system partners across other jurisdictions.
- The work of the strategic process and information gathering will start as soon as possible even as soon as next week.
- The focus will be on bringing people together and start working on solutions to bring forward.
- Next steps in the process will be reaching out to members to connect, and talk through what it is that you value, what does your agency get from the CJCC, what would you like to change, and discuss three areas of focus in 2024 and beyond. Questions for Susan and the process? One suggestion would be updating the website with past iterations of the strategic process. Another comment considers stakeholder input would be important, community input, is there an opportunity to get these contributions? Would like to see that considered.

Working Group on Youth Interventions

Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair & Mary Ellen Heng, CJCC Director

Commissioner Lunde provided an overview of the working group process.

- The Working Group on Youth Interventions was established by the legislature last session.
- The group looked at a systems approach, staffing, right care, in researching for this work, lots of good information was found that fell outside of the legislative charter.
- Task force established to look at the gaps, ongoing disparities, in service delivery. Buildings are easy to build, but staffing, licensing are difficult to procure.
- The state of MN does not suffer from a lack of spaces, staffing and licensure are the missing components. Building more facilities is not going to fix the system.
- Vendors trying to get into the space find reimbursements from the state to be challenging and acquiring the necessary licensing is very difficult.
- The state of MN has two types of licenses that can determine the outcome for youth. The current disconnect in the system is due to where the kids are in the system and not about the kids. Funding is a real challenge. Potential workers can make more money at fast food employment and potentially face less difficult work than what they may experience at these facilities.
- To address the issues related to licensing, the legislature would potentially have to establish another task force.
- One of the most surprising finds in the work of the task force was finding a similar report that was produced in the 90s that shows the system remains largely unchanged.
- The work of looking at ways to replace a system that has been in place for over 25 years is difficult.

Director Heng had the following summary of the work of the task force;

- The group was able to gather a lot of information in a short period of time. Members struggled to find experts to explain the current system. Members of the CJCC were encouraged to watch lived experience video testimony from October 25th, 2023.
- The task force looked at practices/research of nine jurisdictions that are making changes, what are their core concepts, what do they look like and what are they doing well. Core concepts emerged from this study, and the group developed potential solutions around a robust continuum of care, educational components, facility designs, which do not have to be so punitive, and are well designed.
- Under the new model family care giver support would be important and require involvement and access to programming.
- After care and transition – the task force explored what that would look like and especially how to integrate youth back into the community.
- One of the key limitations – no matter the data source, systems do not have the capability to keep the data, data is not tracked consistently, and there is no data sharing component. Commissioner Lunde thanked Head of Data Analytics, Law Safety and Justice line of business Jackie Braun-Lewis who worked hard to access raw data used by the working group.

The Working Group Task also identified significant barriers to providing care for youth;

- Finding a way to share resources that can benefit youth and family
- Staffing challenges
- Which “door” a youth enters? DHS or DOC? That determines the path for youth and resources that are available to them.

The task force made the following recommendations in six categories;

- Funding for the needed resources
- Reimbursement for providers who would need the money upfront to continue providing care
- Data limitations
- Workforce development

Next steps

- Request the legislature to set up a task force to look at barriers and differences,
- Shared vision and connections with DOC and DHS throughout the process.
- The group had members that were interested in proactive work.

Questions arose around the clarity scope, plans in place for youth during the coming summer? Address lack of placement for specific youth with various needs. Some members of the CJCC committee expressed an interest in a presentation on the working group work and report recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm

Wrap-up and next steps

Lead: Commissioner Lunde, CJCC Chair