

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 26, 2024, | 12-1:30 pm

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

#### **Committee Members Present**

Eric Werner, Chela Guzmán-Wiegert, Michael Berger, Jason Nelson, Michael Rainville, Nikki Appelbaum, Julie Maas-Kusske, Leah Kaiser and Mary Ellen Heng.

Staff: Susan Winterfeld Thompson, Roberta Groening, Jackie Braun-Lewis

Notes: Qulmie Abdi

#### **15 minutes | Roll Call and Introductions | Approval of Meeting Minutes**

*Lead: Chief Werner, CJCC Vice-Chair*

- Director Heng called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.
- Roll call was taken. A quorum was not present.
- Chief Werner offered a training opportunity from the Minnesota Chief's Association on use of force to members of the CJCC. The training is a three-hour session, scenario-based to help members better understand the average officer experience and how their training enables them to make effective decisions. After indication of interest, the training will be scheduled sometime in 2025.
- A question around charging for curfew violations by the HCAO.
  - A representative of the HCAO said that they are not charging curfew violations.
  - Youth Connection Center (YCC) still exists, and youth can be dropped off for curfew violations, but it is a non-secure option and youth can walk away. The YCC is not being used a lot. Safe Communities is looking at different options and has an RFP out to explore options, that include offering more services, and possibly at a new location YCC is staffed 24 hours a day.
- ADD agenda item at November meeting as a follow-up. ACA for Law, Safety and Justice will work on getting accurate information on the YCC and curfew.  
Director Mary Ellen Heng was presented as the Interim DOCCR Director.

#### **5 minutes | Committee Member Bios survey reminder**

*Lead: Director Mary Ellen Heng*

- A follow up request to complete bios was sent. Surveys are to be submitted to Elizabeth Mohr with LSJ Communications Team.

- A question around security concerns with the submitted details and having too much information about the members available on the CJCC website.

## 60 minutes | Strategic Planning

*Lead: Susan Winterfeld Thompson, Senior Strategic Planning Consultant*

- The new CJCC Mission and Vision definitions developed from the previous meeting were reviewed. The CJCC members, discussed and made recommendations to the mission and vision statements, .
  - **Final Vision:** A fair, equitable, and accountable justice system, supporting safety for communities and all people.
  - **Final Mission:** Advance system-level initiatives that improve community safety throughout Hennepin County by fostering communication, collaboration, and data sharing among justice system partners.
- Facilitator recommendation is for the group to have 3 goals, but no more than 5. 6 goals were presented based on member feedback. Short term (immediate issues) and long-term (broader goals) priorities were defined. Ideal time frames for these goals were reviewed. Defining shorter term as being within a year and longer-term defined as occurring in two to five years.
- In the discussion, members indicated a desire to use consistent language; for example, using community safety rather than public safety and members want the goals to address disparities.
- The group would look within their networks, for groups already doing similar work, to get input in order to avoid duplicate efforts.
- The need to consider various stakeholders connected to the justice system was acknowledged.
- The committee engaged in a conversation around the varying results of interpreting data from different perspectives and the importance of engaging onsite data experts as a resource.
- Sharing accurate information to identify gaps effectively was highlighted.
- The committee ended the discussion with expressed optimism regarding the group's potential to impact community safety and system improvements.
- Strategy setting: the how the group will achieve the work. Possible areas suggested by members were system-involved youth, data, correct information being disseminated.
- Members agreed that the CJCC needs to get back to having sub-committees for the immediate needs. Do the work in between the meetings and report back to the full membership during meetings.
- Director Heng will send out proposed edits via email and discuss at the November meeting with a follow-up vote to adopt likely via email.

## **5 Wrap-up and next steps**

*Lead: Chief Werner, CJCC Vice-Chair*

- Further discussion on bylaws will take place in November, covering member roles, responsibilities, and expectations.
- Committee discussed engaging sub-committees to accomplish tasks if the CJCC has immediate needs. The work can happen between meetings and report out to the group during meetings.
- Language for the mission and goals will be finalized and circulated for a vote.
- Next meeting is November 14th