



Clinton County Justice Coordinating Commission
Clinton County Courthouse
612 North Second Street
Clinton, Iowa 52732

(563) 243-6210 ext. 4310
ccjcc@clintoncounty-ia.gov

MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 15, 2020 **Time:** 3:30 PM **Location:** Webex meeting

Present: Jeannette Archer-Simons, Maribeth Bousman, Steve Diesch, Carole Dunkin, Lori Elam, Becky Eskildsen, Bill Greenwalt, Kelly Greenwalt, Marlita Greve, Kevin Gyrion, Paul Hammond, Kim Hess, Rick Lincoln, Charlene Nicoletto, Tom Paarmann, Kim Ralston, Greg Reckman, Dan Srp, Mike Wolf
Staff Present: Vacant (Coordinator), Amanda Schwartz (Secretary)

Quorum: Yes (13 present, 9 needed)

1. **Call to Order, Introductions** - Supervisor Srp opened the meeting at 3:32 PM.

2. **Approval of 8/20/20 Minutes**

A motion to approve the August 20, 2020 minutes was moved by Sheriff Lincoln and seconded by Chief Porter. Motion passed - all ayes

3. **Financial Report**

Lt Paarmann reported the budget is currently at 34% with \$3,433.00 remaining for FY2021. Due to a billing delay, the invoice for Tom Eberly, with the Justice Management Institute was not paid in FY 2020. The invoice was recently submitted for payment. The cost for his services to assess the commission's strategic goals during the December 2019 meeting was \$6,467.00. An annual membership to the Justice Clearinghouse for \$100 was also paid. A motion to approve the balance was made by Chief Porter and seconded by Kim Hess. Motion passed – all ayes

4. **Committee Reports and Discussion**

- Alternative Sanctions & Diversions: Due to Greg Reckman, the new Community Treatment Coordinator who has been meeting with judges, the county attorney and mental health coordinators, a committee meeting was not held this month. The next formal meeting is scheduled for January. Greg has started interviewing inmates to decide if they are appropriate for the program. He is waiting on some evaluations to accept some people into the program. Judge Greve provided program information to the judges and provided an order template that can be used for released for someone to be screened for the program. Greg plans on incorporating treatments with the current mental health and drug courts.
- Court Issues: The next meeting is scheduled for November 10th at 3 PM. Judge Greve updated the group that jury trials began September 14th and juries are being selected in offsite places because the Courthouse is not large enough to properly social distance a group of jurors. Jurors have been positive on the required COVID measures to wear a face mask and they have implemented additional cleaning and having Plexiglass barriers.
- Jail Programming & Reentry: Lt. Hammond stated the jail programming is still on hold due to COVID. The programs that began in February are also on hold due to COVID. Some recent challenges in the jail are receiving people arrested on out of state warrants because each of those inmates require an extradition process which takes a few days to complete. After these inmates are being held, the state where the warrant originated does not always want to come and pick up the person. Another issue the jail is dealing with is some of the inmates having severe mental health issues. One of the recent inmates has been consuming a lot of time and has a profound need for mental health services but they have not been able to find

- any sources to help the person out. The local hospitals did not want to take him because he was combative. They also refused telepsychiatric with him. They tried taking him to Genesis on a Committal with a 229 Order but Genesis also refused him. Lt. Hammond, Becky Eskildsen and Attorney Wolf met today to get a plan that they are working on which will take a few days to get him the help that he needs. Further discussion took place on the lack of resources available for people in this situation who need to be placed in a more appropriate facility besides a jail. Lori Elam stated the issue is not with the region but instead at the state level. Discussion took place on the shortage of available beds in hospitals due to COVID and the shortage of staff. Lori did not think there was a shortage of MHI beds due to COVID. Lori Elam stated clients are experiencing an increased level in anxiety, depression and suicidal due to COVID. Becky Eskildsen reported information she was told by Mary Wolf that due to an increase of medical beds needed due to COVID, hospitals need to shift a lot of staff from the in-person psychiatric beds to the medical side in order to cover that side. This has attributed to the additional shortage of available beds.
- Mental Health/Substance Abuse: Becky Eskildsen updated the group about the jail diversion and the juvenile committal process at Mercy. She also updated the group about a recent pilot project between the Eastern Iowa Region Crisis Team and the Clinton Police Department to do ride-alongs. Due to an increase amount of wellness checks in people's homes, they are planning to ride along with Clinton PD officers to assist with collecting some base line and demographic data. Kim Hess also added another goal of this project is to help the law enforcement departments be more familiar with the MH/SA providers so if there is a crisis the officer can contact them directly instead of telling the person to go to the Clerk's office for a committal. That would avoid them waiting on the Clerk's Office or a judge. This project will start in Clinton in a few weeks. Chief Gyrion stated the committee will meet a few weeks after the trial program has started to see what areas need improved and maybe expand it to other members in the county. Supervisor Srp stated the magistrate judges would like to provide some input on the programs being developed with Greg Reckman. Greg Reckman is meeting with the judges tomorrow to discuss the program and explain it in more detail to them.

5. Updates on Action Plan for 2020 Initiatives

- Adopt and implement a countywide cite & release policy: Mike Wolf stated the group has completed the process of a signature bond which addressed some issues of searches incident to citation vs. arrest. This policy has been implemented. Chief Gyrion would like to discuss this implementation once COVID has settled.
- Expedite plea offers on criminal cases: Mike Wolf stated the plea offers are ready for the pre-trial conferences a head of time and emails including the plea-offers are also sent in advance to the defense attorneys. This helps to make the pre-trial conference time with the courts more efficient.
- Conduct an analysis of available community services and identify service gaps: Becky Eskildsen shared to the group about a 2-day workshop where they did sequential intercept mapping to track the gaps from the community all the way to incarceration. She asked if the group would be interested in doing this type of in-depth mapping. Lori Elam stated the crisis system was based on the five-steps that leads to more restrictive care but if services can be provided that would intercept a person so they wouldn't go to the next level that would untimely be the best thing for the person, community, law enforcement and hospitals, etc. Lori Elam will send Becky the document.

6. Open Forum

- Mike Wolf stated the plea agreement issue has to do with not enough defense attorneys that are court appointment. Plea agreements can be prepared prior to the conference but he has noticed when an attorney has more time to pay attention to somebody in jail they then get that plea agreement and they review the evidence with that client that has a higher tendency that the plea agreement gets signed and that person receives the steps needed to be taken more quickly than somebody who has a lot of court appointed cases and can't get to the Courthouse enough. Mike thought Clinton County is competing with Scott County for who can get the court appointed attorneys.
- Judge Greve agreed with Mike's concerns. Judge Greve stated there has been some positive changes come out of COVID that she would like to see continued post COVID. Those changes would include holding pre-trials electronically where an attorney in Scott County can work on cases in different counties and not have to drive to that specific county. She stated the attorney's do not get paid by the state for drive time, which makes working remotely more cost effective. She would also like to continue pleas in writing instead of having judge time which gives the judges more time to conduct sentencings and hearings. Supervisor Srp suggested reaching out at the state level to advocate for these county needs. Judge Greve updated the group on recent steps she took to have an up-to-date list of available court appointed attorneys that are interested in taking on cases from our district. The updated list shows a decrease of available attorneys which may help in the future when asking for additional funds at the legislative level.

7. Adjournment

Sheriff Lincoln made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 PM. Motion passed – all ayes. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2020. The location will either be at the Law Center or by Webex. Agenda items can be emailed to Amanda Schwartz.