

Lincoln, Nebraska
February 13, 2004

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

The Community Corrections Council (Council) met Friday, February 13, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1113 of the Nebraska State Capitol Building, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was open to the public and was preceded by advance publicized notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Members present:

Dr. Scot L. Adams
Edward C. Birkel
William Burgess
Catherine Cook
Harold W. Clarke
Allen Curtis
The Honorable Karen B. Flowers
Frank E. Goodroe
Dr. Aileen Gruendel
Julie Hippen
The Honorable John P. Icenogle
Joseph P. Kelly
Robert P. Lindemeier
James McKenzie
Frank E. Goodroe
Senator John Synowiecki
Kenneth J. Vampola
Senator Kermit A. Brashear, Chair

Council staff present:

Linda Krutz, Chief
Julie L. Rogers

Others present:

Howard Kensinger, Legislative Fiscal Office
John Krejci
Marlys Sanders

Members absent:

None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Brashear called the Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendance is indicated above.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 12, 2003, meeting stood approved as presented.

2004 MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Meetings for 2004 were scheduled as follows:

March 12
April 23
May 14
June 11
July 23
September 9 & 10
October 8
November 12
December 17

PROBATION/PAROLE FEE MONTHLY OVERVIEW & PROCESS

Howard Kensinger of the Legislative Fiscal Office spoke to the Council regarding the collection of Probation and Parole fees. The amount of fees collected to date is significantly less than projected. Reasons for the difference could be that the rate of indigency was severely underestimated, the fees are not being processed in a timely manner, the fees are not being ordered, fees are simply not collected, or a combination of factors.

A comprehensive financial form will be developed and distributed monthly indicating the progress of fee collection.

REVIEW, DISCUSS & REVISE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PLAN

The Community Corrections Plan (Plan) draft was reviewed and discussed. The sections of the Plan discussed included the Mission, Philosophy, Definition, Goals, and Purposes.

The Council recessed at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE BILL 1253

Senator John Synowiecki gave an overview of Legislative Bill (LB) 1253 which he introduced during the current Legislative Session. LB 1253 purposes to merge the Probation Administration and Parole Administration into the Department of Community Corrections under the executive branch of state government. He provided the rationale behind and purposes for LB 1253. The Council discussed advantages and disadvantages of a Probation and Parole merger.

The Council recessed at noon for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. for public testimony.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

John Krecji, Nebraska Criminal Justice Review, spoke to the Council regarding his observations about the positive process the Council employs, posed questions stemming from the 1993 "Task Force for Prison Alternatives" report for the Council to consider, and suggested types of community corrections programming.

Marlys Sanders, Restorative Justice Program - United Methodist Ministries and Family and Friends of Inmates Support Group, spoke to the Council about specifics of the Community Corrections Council Plan (Plan) and provided input as to what the Council should consider in designing the Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Council will be held Friday, March 12, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 1113 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie L. Rogers