

**Lincoln, Nebraska
March 14, 2008**

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL
*MEETING MINUTES***

The Community Corrections Council (Council) met Friday, March 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m., at the Nebraska Education Television (NET) facility, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was open to the public and was preceded by advance publicized notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Members present:

Mike Behm
Kermit A. Brashear, Chair
Jeff Davis
Thomas Dorwart
Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky
Cathy Gibson-Beltz
Julie Hippen
Honorable John P. Icenogle
Joe Kelly
Lee Kimzey
Vicki Maca, Designee
James McKenzie
Senator Dwite Pedersen
Senator John Synowiecki

Others present:

Bruce Ayers
Joan Dietrich
Jim Harvey
Steve King
Ed Lankas
Deb Minardi
Michael Overton
Steve Rowoldt
Larry Wayne

Members absent:

Scot Adams
Esther Casmer
Honorable Karen Flowers
Robert Houston
Robert Lindemeier
Janice Walker

Council Staff Present:

Linda Krutz, Executive Director
Jeffrey Beaty, Policy Analyst
Tia Bachman, Admin. Assistant
Nickette Allen, SOS Temp

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, & OVERVIEW

Chairperson Brashear called the Council meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., announced the meeting is subject to the Open Meetings Act and gave an overview of the meeting. Attendance is indicated above.

Brashear stated Jim McKenzie, Parole Administrator, will retire in April 2008. Brashear thanked him for his service on the Council. Cathy Gibson-Beltz has been identified as his replacement. Ron Sorenson, designee for Scot Adams has resigned. Vicki Maca has been appointed as Interim Administrator of the Division of Behavioral Health and Scot Adams' designee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 21, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FINANCIAL REPORT

Bruce Ayers, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, gave the *Community Corrections Financial Report*. Ayers stated the Council General Funds for Treatment, Day/Evening Reporting Centers, and Specialized Courts have been allocated. Probation Offender Fees for Day/Evening Reporting Centers and Parole Cash Funds have also been allocated.

Ayers reported balances as of January 31, 2008. Ayers noted the Uniform Data Analysis Fund shows a balance of \$1,230,353. Probation Fees/Reimbursements show a balance of \$8,645,835. Parole Fees show a balance of \$583,327.

TARGET POPULATION REPORT & COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DATA REPORT

Mike Dunkle, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, presented the *Target Population Report*. Dunkle said admissions to the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) and Felony Drug Offenders (FDO) admissions are down. Dunkle stated Parole and Probation admissions are also down. Dunkle noted a task for 2008 is to discover why FDO admissions are down for both DCS and Probation.

Dunkle stated the number of offenders in DCS for 2007 is down by 30 offenders compared to the average population in 2006. Dunkle stated the numbers of offenders on Parole are up 11 percent and FDO's on Parole are up 28 percent.

Dunkle gave the *Community Corrections Data Report*. Dunkle said Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) participation is at 65 percent capacity with a current population of 203. Dunkle introduced Joan Dietrich with Probation and noted Dietrich will be the contact for Probation data.

SENTENCED ADMISSIONS / REVOCATIONS / VIOLATION OF PROBATION / VIOLATION OF PAROLE

Larry Wayne, DCS Deputy Director of Programs and Community Services, gave the *Sentenced Admissions / Revocations / Violation of Probation / Violation of Parole* report. Wayne stated DCS currently has a population of 788 inmates with a sentence of 12 months or less. Wayne stated 26 percent of inmates are admitted for drug offenses. Wayne noted 53 percent of inmates are from the Omaha metro region.

Wayne discussed the entry of inmates to the Diagnostic and Evaluation Center (DEC). Wayne said each newly admitted inmate begins participation in an intensive medical, psychological, and social assessment process. Wayne noted a case manager at DEC may spend a maximum of two to three hours with an inmate with a 6-12 months sentence.

A fifteen minute break was called by Brashear.
The Council reconvened at 10:29 a.m.

DEFICIT APPROPRIATION PROPOSAL

Brashear stated the *Deficit Appropriation Proposal* to increase the spending authority of \$383,854 from the Uniform Data Fund is included in the Appropriation Committee's budget. Brashear said the \$1,062,098 to fund two additional Reporting Centers (RC's) will be presented to the legislature prior to the end of session.

2008 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Jeff Beaty, Council Policy Analyst, gave the *2008 Legislative Update*. Beaty stated LB 1130 which provides for the merger of adult probation and parole services is held in Judiciary Committee. Brashear noted during a meeting with the Governor, Chief Justice, and Speaker the concept of creating an executive branch agency of community corrections to house probation and parole was discussed.

Beaty said LB 843 prohibits an individual under the age of 18 at the time the crime was committed from receiving a sentence of Life without Parole. Senator Dwite Pederson said LB 843 will be held in Judiciary Committee until after LB 1063 which changes a penalty from death to life imprisonment without possibility of parole is heard. Pedersen noted LB 1167 which provides for a statewide 24/7 sobriety program will be held in committee until an interim study is conducted.

2008 STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

Brashear presented the draft Report on Community Corrections Council Strategic Planning Retreat on February 6-8, 2008. Brashear requested comments to be emailed to Council staff.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP - GAPS & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Deb Minardi, DCS, said the Strategic Planning Group consists of Probation, Parole, and DCS. Minardi noted current members as:

Jeff Beaty	Jim McKenzie
Ron Broich	Dr. Rick McNeese
Scott Carlson	Deb Minardi
Rich Chisholm	Marla Nice
Mike Dunkle	Janee Pannkuk
Cathy Gibson-Beltz	Rex Richard
Steve King	Steve Rowoldt
Sue Kissinger	Liz Stanoscheck
Kent Lilly	Larry Wayne

Minardi said the charter of the group is ‘to insure the effective and efficient use of resources without compromising public safety by increasing our collaboration, and creating a continuum of intermediate sanctions by identifying the gaps and making recommendations for future development.’

Minardi stated data is being collected on where services are available, where the majority of offenses occur, and where registered providers are located in order to determine where gaps in services are.

EXPANSION OF SSAS ELIGIBILITY

Wayne discussed expanding SSAS eligibility to include parole and probation offenders who have significant substance abuse issues. Wayne said offenders who could be considered are offenders who steal to support their habit or an offender who commits a crime while under the influence of drugs but have not been convicted of a Felony Drug Offense.

Jeff Davis noted a need to determine whether an offender is a dangerous criminal and happens to be under the influence of drugs, or if they are addicted to drugs and commit a crime to support an existing drug habit.

Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky, Minardi, and Wayne will prepare a proposal on expanding the criteria to allow a greater number of offenders to participate in the SSAS programs.

JUSTICE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Steve Rowoldt, Probation, discussed the Justice Behavioral Health Committee (JBHC) meeting held on December 12, 2007. Rowoldt said the minutes from December 12, 2007 are included in the packet. Rowoldt said Terri Nutzman, Office of Juvenile

Services, and Lori Griggs, Juvenile Chief Probation Officer in Lincoln, were added in 2007 to represent the Juvenile section of JBHC.

Rowoldt discussed the Provider Follow-up Survey results and noted a 25 percent response rate. Rowoldt said a priority list will be created to address deficiencies reported in probation and criminal justice. Rowoldt said 78 percent of providers indicated the standardized format for evaluation improves the overall quality of the evaluation. Rowoldt noted the Survey could be sent out again in two years to measure the effectiveness of the Standardized Model.

2009 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Brashear noted Council members should begin planning the 2009 Fiscal Year Budget needs.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH STRATEGY

Linda Krutz, Council staff, presented the Education & Outreach Strategy. Krutz stated the senator information packet will be presented to Senators and the New Member Orientation Packet will be presented to all Council members. Krutz said Council staff initiated the development of communication methods in June 2007. Communication methods include the Newsletter, Brochure, PowerPoint's, and Information Guides.

Nickette Allen, Council, presented the proposed website for the Council. Allen highlighted the calendar of events, history of the Council, a library archive, Council member pictures and organization links. Fabian-Brokofsky requested data be included in the final product.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP ON TRANSFORMING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS IN CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Jim Harvey, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), stated the Strategic Planning Workshop on Transforming Services for Persons with Mental Illness in Contact with the Criminal Justice System was held on December 5-6, 2008.

Harvey stated six teams were created from the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities, Community Corrections Council, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, DHHS, and state stakeholders. Each team discussed the strengths, gaps in services and priorities for addressing the needs of people with mental illness in the criminal justice system.

Harvey will coordinate with JBHC to research what assessments are currently in use and could be built on. Harvey stated the deadline of the grant is October 2008.

TIMELINE

Brashear noted the timeline and stated items from the Strategic Planning Retreat will be added.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 12:25 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is Friday, April 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m., at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

Tia M. Bachman