



**Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting November 15, 2024 – 12:00pm**  
**Law & Justice Center**  
**Atrium**

Mission: The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Citizen's Advisory Committee, and the Department of Criminal Justice Services exist to improve the safety of the citizens of Lewis and Clark County and ensure the equitable and efficient treatment of defendants, offenders, and victims.

**1. Call to Order & Reading of the Mission**

Tom Cordingley called the meeting to order, and Clair Swain read the mission.

**2. Introductions**

**Members present:** Tom Cordingley, Clair Swain, Karen English, John Lytle, Mike Mahoney, Teresa Charlton, Jenifer Gursky

**Members absent:** Joanne Romasko, Moffie Funk, Mark Nay

**Staff in attendance:** Kellie McBride, Jillian Danesi, Mohanish Pradeep, Jessica McDonald

**Others in attendance:** Chief Brett Petty, Undersheriff Brent Colbert, Commissioner Hunthausen

**3. Action Items – Tom Cordingley**

Committee approved the September 20, 2024, and October 18, 2024 meeting minutes.

**4. Brett Petty, Chief of Helena Police Department –**

Chief Petty spoke to the officer involved shooting at Jester's Bar, that resulted in an officer injury and the death of a community member. Petty stated the incident is under investigation by Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office. Petty shared that these incidents are not common for the force, but they do transpire. Petty spoke to the risks officers take on every call for service (CFS), and how they use Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), to utilize de-escalation tactics in most cases. Petty provided data on CFS - 24,665 calls from January to October 2024 with 29,000 calls for service in 2023. Out of the 24,665, 1,609 calls were disposition 16, which is the number associated with mental health calls. Of the 1,609, 197 of the calls ended in protective custody in which an individual is deemed a danger to themselves or others. Petty spoke to the importance of the Journey Home opening and the potential of using that space in lieu of the hospital for protective custodies. Petty provided data regarding the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT). Of the 1,609 CFS,

539 involved MCRT. MCRT is either on scene to assist or can take over the CFS. Per Petty, MCRT is getting closer to being an alternative response entirely, which would result in MCRT responding to a CFS independently in lieu of a uniformed officer that can often escalate the situation. Petty spoke at length regarding the training officers receive, the support from the Department to ensure his team is taken care of, and the toll incidents take on officers and all parties involved.

**5. Communications -**

MadAve Communications is assisting CJS with revamping the CAC website, improving the Facebook page, developing an Instagram and LinkedIn accounts.

**6. CJCC Jail Population Task Force**

Commissioner Hunthausen, a member of the Task Force, provided an overview of the Task Force. Hunthausen stated the task force is well attended with great discussions on how to reduce the jail population. Hunthausen spoke to Municipal Court's efforts to ensure meaningful first appearances. Hunthausen spoke to the updates to the Bonds Roster to better inform on who is in detention on what bond. Hunthausen also spoke to individuals who are assigned to Pretrial and assigned a cash bond. The Taskforce has plans to meet with Gallatin County on their diversion program designed for individuals with their first felony charge, that can be dismissed if they successfully make it through the program.

**7. Public Comment – None**

**8. Upcoming Dates**

- a. CAC: December 20, 2024, 12:00 pm, L&J Center Atrium
- b. CJCC: November 26, 2024, 4:15 pm, Law and Justice Center Atrium

**9. Adjourn**

Tom Cordingley adjourned the meeting.