



Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting May 16, 2025 – 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 Moffie Funk read the mission.

2. Introductions

Members present: Tom Cordingley, Mark Nay, Karen English, Teresa Charlton, Joanne Romasko, Moffie Funk

Ex-Officio members present: Tom Rolfe

Members absent: Jenifer Gursky, Clair Swain, John Lytle, Mike Mahoney

Staff in attendance: Kellie McBride, Jillian Danesi, Keaton Welch

Others in attendance: Beki Brandborg, Rachel Burright, John Looney, Brent Colbert, Keegan Shea, Alec Skuntz, Victoria Hill, Signe Ask, Ara Babcock, Bri Lake

3. Action Items – Tom Cordingley

Committee approved the March 21, 2025, meeting minutes.

4. AmeriCorps VISTA Update – Kellie McBride (Jail Diversion & Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Steering Committees)

Due to federal changes, the AmeriCorps VISTA program, to include two VISTA positions, will no longer be utilized by the County. The County will combine the two positions/initiatives into a one-year temporary position. The "Family Members Behind Bars" booklet will be updated by the temporary employee for distribution.

5. **CJCC Jail Population Task Force Update – Kellie McBride**

The taskforce meets weekly on Thursdays in the Courthouse. Current taskforce priorities include but are not limited to reducing the number of individuals in the detention center, Lewis and Clark County Pretrial Services accreditation, Prosecution Diversion Program, and the development of a weekly bond reduction meeting. The taskforce tentatively plans to make formal recommendations to the CJCC for approval at the June 3 CJCC meeting.

6. **Fiona Apple’s “Pretrial” (Let Her Go Home) – Music Video**

Attendees viewed the music video.

7. **Review of May 8 NAPSA Community Presentation – Kellie McBride**

Presenter - Aaron Johnson. Kellie McBride has presentation slides and links available upon request.

8. **CAC Subcommittees – Moffie Funk**

Moffie suggested a subcommittee to continue educating the public on Lewis and Clark County Pretrial Services and the removal of cash in the pretrial system. She also recommended the nominations subcommittee be reformed. Kellie McBride offered to coordinate meetings to develop the subcommittees and determine next steps. Moffie spoke to the importance of reaching out to community members that may be interested in engaging with the CAC.

9. **Public Comment**

Alec Skuntz spoke to the negative impact cash bail has on families, leading individuals to use their money to be released from incarceration rather than directing their resources toward housing and food stability.

Ara Babcock read an article from Arnold Ventures regarding the importance of evidence-based pretrial services. The article outlined positive public safety outcomes and the detriment of incarceration. Ara spoke to the positive impact Lewis and Clark County Pretrial Services Program has on the community.

10. **Upcoming dates**

- **CJCC: June 3, 4:15 pm, Law and Justice Center Atrium**
- **NAPSA Accreditation: Elevating Pretrial Excellence, May 21, 12:00 – 1:30 Free Webinar**
- **CAC: June 20, 12:00 pm, Law and Justice Center Atrium**

11. **Adjourn**