



Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting

March 19th, 2026 – 12:00p.m.

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 & Clark County and ensure the equitable and efficient treatment of defendants, offenders, and victims.

1. Call to order and reading of the mission-Tom Cordingley

- a. Tom Cordingley called the meeting to order; Moffie Funk read the mission.

2. Introductions-All

- a. *CAC members present:* Tom Cordingley, Karen English, Teresa Charlton, Mike Cotter, Moffie Funk, Jenifer Gursky, John Looney, John Lytle, Joanne Romasko, Mark Nay, Judge Abbot, and Andy Hunthausen
- b. *CAC members absent and excused:* Mike Mahoney
- c. *CAC members absent and not excused:* Ara Babcock
- d. *CJS staff present:* Kellie McBride, Emily Buehler, Alyssa Spies, Jillian Danesi, Lindsey Weisner, Bob Bussey
- e. *Public present:* Leo Dutton, Ashley Fischer, Mike Menahan, Clair Swain, Shani Henry, Shawn White Wolf, Bradly Bragg, Mike Sanders

3. Action Items-Approval of February 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes-Tom Cordingley

- a. John Lytle made a motion to approve the minutes, Teresa Charlton seconded.
- b. Teresa made a comment about previous minutes, asking to fix item 7b in previous minutes. Kellie confirms she will correct the item from last meeting.
- c. Moffie requested the minutes reflect the difference between excused and unexcused member absence.
- d. Minutes were unanimously approved with change.

4. Public Comment Processing Committee – Jen Gurskey

- a. Jen encouraged anyone interested in participating in the committee to contact her through email.

5. APPR Pathways to Pretrial Advancement Technical Assistance-Jessica Ireland

a. Introduction and explanations of the Pathways Project

- i.** Jessica began with an introduction of the Pathways project. Goals for this meeting were to connect and get to know each other, understand the Pathways Project, and agree on next steps. Pathways is a chance to review and improve pretrial practices, and address persistent issues such as cash bail, pretrial diversion, and data. In the next 12 months the CAC can expect to see monthly meetings directed towards working with jail data.

b. Initial questions

- i.** Tom asked what Jessica felt we needed help with the most. Jessica stated she did not see anything outstanding with our pretrial system so far and sees lots of positives with the committee.
- ii.** Jen G. inquired about cash bail and asked what is possible through the Pathways project, stating this might be a state issue rather than a local issue. Kellie agreed that the right to surety bond is included in the state constitution, however judges can use their discretion to set cash bond and the amount, release individuals on their own recognizance, and/or release to Pretrial Services.

c. Data overview and expectation

- i.** Jessica and Emily shared their findings with the jail population data, including how close the jail has been to capacity and that the most common reason a person is held is because of a misdemeanor arrest.

d. Questions on data

- i.** Tom asked if the data would be available online and open to the public. Emily expanded on the custody snapshot handout, and shared that this data and more is available online on the Criminal Justice Services website. She encouraged members to use this data as an opportunity to find what they want to investigate more. Jen G. praised Emily's addition to the CJS staff.
- ii.** The Sheriff asked if the data included book and release. Emily explained that she is pulling data from ADP/Zercher which are the programs used by law enforcement and will confirm whether this is included.
- iii.** Moffie inquired about only 18% in custody being convicted and wondered if it correlated with length of stay. Emily responded that the distribution is similar between pretrial and non-pretrial.
- iv.** Judge Abbott questioned how much work will be done with probation. Emily responded that 13% of the population are probation holds and suggested the Committee decide if they would like to further investigate this population.

- v. Jen asked if there is a way to identify what is co-occurring and what is individual substance misuse and mental health diagnosis. Emily assured her that she could do that.
- vi. Commissioner Hunthausen expressed how thankful he was to have so many people at the meeting. He wants to tell a story with the data and make it understandable for the community.
- vii. Moffie expressed concern over the issue of prescription meds being accessible to inmates over the weekend. The Sheriff stated there are nurses there over the weekend, but some medications are not allowed.
- viii. Jen G. raised concern about time allotment for other meeting discussions not aimed at Pathways. Tom asked to resume this topic at the next meeting.

6. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment.
- b. Tom reminded all that new CAC applicant members will be voted on by the CJCC at their March 24th meeting.

7. Upcoming Dates

- a. CJCC: March 24, 4:15 pm, Atrium
- b. CAC: April 17, 12:00 pm, Law & Justice Atrium
- c. NAPSA 2026 Annual Conference, August 30th-September 2nd, 2026, Reno, NV

8. Adjourn