



Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting January 17, 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 Mike Mahoney read the mission.

2. Introductions

Members present: Tom Cordingley, Clair Swain, Karen English, John Lytle, Mike Mahoney, Teresa Charlton, Joanne Romasko, Moffie Funk

Members absent: Mark Nay, Jenifer Gursky

Staff in attendance: Kellie McBride, Jess McDonald

Others in attendance: Ed Barrett, Jaymie Hazel, Signe Ask

3. Action Items – Tom Cordingley

Committee approved the November 15, 2024, meeting minutes.

4. Presentation on Rocky Mountain Head Start – Jaymie Hazel and Signe Ask

Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood development program that serves low-income children ages three to five and their families. Head Start focuses on physical and oral health, positive social/emotional development, healthy nutrition, and access to stable, nurturing and encouraging environment and the roles they play in preparing children for success in school and life. Head Start also focuses on supporting families to identify their strengths, work towards their goals, and

recognize and build on their efforts to be their child's first and most important teacher.

Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc. is the local Human Resource Development Council for District 8 and has been the grantee agency for the Head Start Program since 1967. Rocky Head Start serves 16 children and their families in Broadwater County, 16 in Jefferson County and 144 in Lewis and Clark County. Ninety percent of all children enrolled in Head Start must meet Head Start income guidelines, 10% of Head Start's openings must be for children with disabilities.

5. **Discussion: "Family Members Behind Bars" booklet – Tom Cordingley**

The group discussed updating and republishing "Family Members Behind Bars" and distributing to those in need of support when family is system involved. The group identified the people on the front line when parents are being arrested, as the Police Department, Sheriffs Office, DOC/P&P.

6. **CJS update – Kellie McBride**

A Pretrial update was provided.

7. **Areas of focus for 2024 –**

Communications – Kellie McBride

MadAve Communications is assisting CJS with revamping the CAC website, improving the Facebook page, developing an Instagram and LinkedIn accounts. Our website has been updated with new logo, font and colors.

8. **CJCC Jail Population Task Force – Joanne Romasko**

Joanne Romasko, a member of the Task Force provided an overview of the Task Force. Joanne stated the Task Force meets weekly to discuss the jail population. She noted that the Task Force focuses on ways to decrease the overall jail population. For example: Pretrial Services, Diversion Programs, and cash bond reductions. She stated that DOC has moved 120 individuals from MSP to Arizona. Another 120 will be moved to Mississippi next week, and another 120 will be moved next month. DOC has been facing challenges with intake/classification of these individuals.

9. **Public Comment**

No Public comment

10. **Upcoming dates**

a. **CJCC: January 28, 2025, 4:15 pm, Law and Justice Center**

b. **CAC: February 21, 2025, 12:00 pm, Law and Justice Center**

11. **Adjourn**