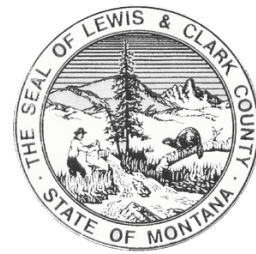


Criminal Justice Services

Quarterly Update, January 2024



Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update

Mission Statement: *The CJCC exists to improve the safety of the citizens of Lewis and Clark County and ensure the equitable and efficient treatment of defendants, offenders, and victims.*

The CJCC recently revisited the nine strategic priorities set in 2021 and focused the list down to three priorities for the Department in 2024:

1. Research Pretrial Program Accreditation
2. Formalize Intercept Zero, a citation in lieu of arrest diversion program
3. Increase education and community engagement activities

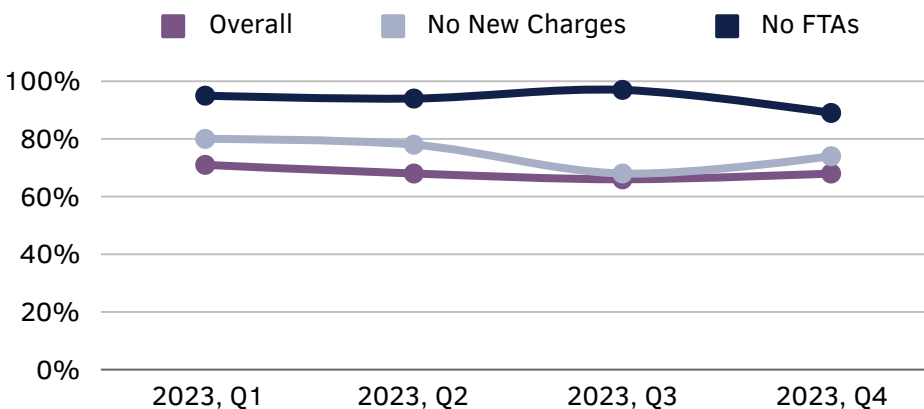
In November, the CJCC formed a Pretrial Working Group to discuss consistency and efficiency in the Pretrial Services program.

“Accreditation through the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies is rigorous and creating this working group is step one to examining where the program succeeds and where improvements may be made,” says CJS Program Analyst Bri Lake.

The CJCC meets the fourth Tuesday on odd months in the Law & Justice Center atrium from 4:15pm - 5:15pm. All meetings are open to the public.

Pretrial Services Performance Metrics

The Pretrial Services (PTS) program continues to provide case management and supervision services across hundreds of pending court cases in Lewis & Clark County. PTS was established in July 2018 as the Department’s first and largest program to provide an alternative to financial bond. Pretrial Officers provide text message reminders with court dates and meet with Defendants to assess individual needs, provide ancillary support, and connect individuals with community resources. In 2023, 71% of cases assigned to PTS appeared at all court hearings and were not arrested on any new charges. PTS has an overall success rate of 76%.



New Inmate Programs & Classes Added in the Detention Center

The CJS Education & Transition Coordinator has introduced new groups available to Lewis & Clark County inmates, thanks to collaborative efforts with community volunteers and Detention Center staff. Inmates can now sign-up to attend Literacy classes and Veteran Resource groups. In addition, the first jail-based voter registration program in Montana through the League of Women Voters of Montana, provides eligible women *and* men with the opportunity to register to vote. These join the list of current programs offered including Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups, spiritual services, including one-on-one meetings with a volunteer Chaplain, and Life Skills offered through Ability Montana.

CJS is always looking for eligible volunteers interested in assisting with the implementation of programs in the Detention Center. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please fill out an application online or download a paper copy by scanning the QR code on the back of this page.



Citizens' Advisory Committee Visits Missoula Facilities

The CAC has focused recent meetings on discussing the intersection of housing and the criminal justice system, specifically the link between homelessness and higher rates for both violent and nonviolent crime, as well as higher rates of victimization. Members attended an all day tour of a number of facilities in Missoula in lieu of their December meeting. "The Missoula trip was packed with so much info, it was exhausting," noted CAC Chair Tom Cordingley, who's been a member of the CAC since its inception in 2012.

One stop on the visit included the Blue Heron Place--a permanent supportive housing site designed to house Missoula's long term unsheltered population and operated by the Missoula Housing Authority. Members spoke with service providers and one resident who shared with the group the positive impact the Blue Heron Place has had on her life.

The CAC meets the third Friday every other month in the Law & Justice Center atrium from 12pm - 1pm. All meetings are open to the public.

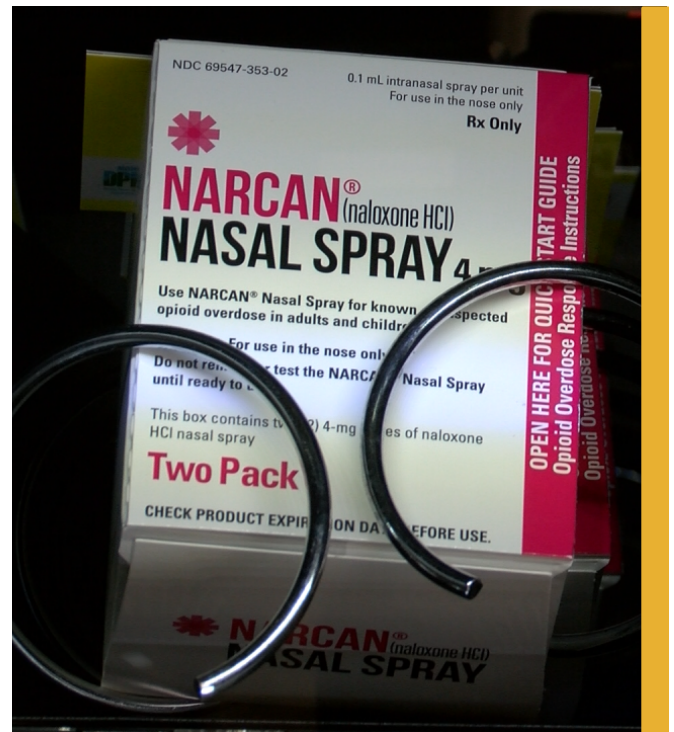
Narcan Vending Machines Distribute Hundreds of Boxes in the Last Year

The Narcan vending machine in the Law and Justice building was introduced February 2023 distributing free boxes of the FDA-approved "miracle drug" for its ability to safely reverse an opioid overdose. Since then, **743** boxes of Narcan have been dispensed! A second vending machine is located in Our Place Drop-In Center.

The vending machines were purchased through grant funding from the Institute for Intergovernmental Research and the Narcan is provided by the Department of Public Health & Human Services.

NNCJCC Annual Meeting to be held in Helena, MT this June

The National Network of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils is an association of local criminal justice coordinating councils whose membership is composed of leadership and staff from CJCCs across the country. This year, the NNCJCC annual meeting will be held in Helena from June 5-6. This is an exciting opportunity for Lewis & Clark County criminal justice stakeholders to network with NNCJCC members in our own backyard!



A Message from the Department Director

"Criminal Justice Services' successes are the direct result of true collaboration among our criminal justice partners, a dedicated staff, and the expectations of the community. In 2017, we were charged with implementing thoughtful criminal justice reform and we have taken that direction seriously. Together, armed with research, data, and best practices, we are improving our local justice systems and bolstering public safety."

-Kellie McBride



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