



Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting

February 20th, 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; John Lytle read the mission
- 2. Introductions-All**
 - a. *CAC members present:* Tom Cordingley, Karen English (proxy), Ara Babcock, Teresa Charlton, Mike Cotter (proxy), Moffie Funk, Jenifer Gursky, John Looney, John Lytle, Mark Nay, and Judge Abbott
 - b. *CAC members absent:* Mike Mahoney, Joanne Romasko, & Andy Hunthausen
 - c. *CJS staff present:* Jillian Danesi, Kellie McBride, Emily Buehler, Alyssa Spies, Brandy Petty
 - d. *Public present:* Shani Henry, Brent Colbert, Clair Swain, Mike Sanders,
- 3. Amendment to Agenda to create Item 7: (Update-CJCC bylaw changes) to discuss and approve the three new member applicants-John Lytle**
 - a. Proposed by John Lytle, seconded by Moffie Funk and unanimously approved
- 4. Action Items-Approval of January 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes-Tom Cordingley**
 - a. Approval motioned by John Looney and seconded by John Lytle.
 - b. Jen G. expressed her appreciation for the level of description in the meeting minutes
 - c. Minutes were unanimously approved
- 5. Action Items-Approval of two new subcommittees-Jen Gursky**
 - a. *Federal Policing subcommittee*
 - i. Jen G. stated that the purpose of this subcommittee would be to develop a process for reception and processing of public comments. Mark provided an example of Sheriff Dutton's presentation.

- ii. John Looney & John Lytle expressed concern regarding how this subcommittee fit into the scope of the CAC. Kellie provided feedback regarding scope creep stating that the CAC has the ability to review the criminal justice system and decide where they want to work in that space. Jen G. clarified that the committee would be for processing public comments and proposed to rename the committee the “public comment processing committee”. Several members offered feedback throughout the conversation.
- iii. Jen G. motioned to adopt a public comment processing committee, seconded by Mark N.
 - 1. Moffie expressed her support. Judge Abbott discussed the possibility of different subcommittee groups. Jen clarified the committee would be to develop an overarching process to address public comment
 - 2. The committee was unanimously approved

b. *Education subcommittee*

- i. Jen G. expressed her desire to have a 15-minute standing agenda item on education that would help the CAC understand the criminal justice system and be better able to address issues
- ii. Kellie expressed concerns about the frequency required by a standing agenda item. Jen G. stated that the committee can be flexible and doesn’t have to be every month. Moffie questioned whether the committee would suggest or discuss speakers. Jen G. suggested that the committee would facilitate education, and that the public comment process could feed into the subcommittee.
- iii. Mark N. moved to create an education subcommittee, seconded by Moffie.
 - 1. John Looney and John Lytle expressed concern regarding scope creep and checks and balances for topics proposed by the education committee. John Looney suggested the CAC change its mission and meet more often if they seek to broaden the scope. Jen G. asserted that the scope of the CAC is not just pretrial services. Tom asked if this new committee would be a standing committee, Jen G. stated it would be an ad hoc committee. Moffie proposed motioning to table the committees until there is more information on the purpose and structure of the committees.
- iv. Jen G. rescinded Mark’s motion to create an education subcommittee
 - 1. Mark stated this escalated into more of a debate than anticipated. Teresa expressed support for the idea and indicated a need for the CAC to better understand the current state of the criminal justice

system through data and other information. Tom requested that Jen bring a more fully formed idea back to the committee

6. Update-APPR Pathways to Pretrial Advancement Technical Assistance-Tom Cordingley & Alyssa Spies

- a. Alyssa and Tom discussed the APPR award, referencing a timeline and handout outlining the technical assistance opportunity
- b. Jen G asks for notification as soon as possible when we schedule outside activities. John Looney asked for clarification on system mapping.

7. Update-CJCC bylaw changes specific to CAC membership-Tom Cordingley & Judge Abbott

- a. *Moffie motioned and John Lytle seconded approval of the bylaw changes*
 - i. Judge Abbott stated that the changes are verbatim changes from CJCC
 - ii. Unanimously approved
- b. *Discuss and approve three new member applicants-John Lytle*
 - i. Tom and Moffie discussed the results of interviewing the three applicants for CAC membership. The three proposed members include Mike Sanders, recently retired East Helena PD chief, Shani Henry, a retired veterinarian who works in non-profit and volunteer work related to gun violence prevention and suicide awareness, and Ashley Fischer, who was not present.
 - ii. New member approval motioned by Jen G. and seconded by John Lytle
 1. Unanimously approved
 2. Add to agenda for next CJCC meeting

8. Update-CJS Update-Kellie Goodwin McBride

- a. Kellie had no updates other than that Casey Wohlers graduated from the Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA)

9. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment. Jen G. had a question about where to place the final bylaw approval in their binder.

10. Upcoming Dates

- a. CAC: March 19th (Thursday!), 12:00, Law & Justice Atrium
- b. CJCC: March 24th, 4:15, Law & Justice Atrium
- c. CAC: April 17th, 12:00, Law & Justice Atrium
- d. NAPSA 2026 Annual Conference, August 30th-September 2nd, 2026, Reno, NV

11. Adjourn