

CCA Board Meeting
October 11, 2022

Statutory members: Retired Judge, Joseph H Niemeyer; Hancock County Common Pleas Court, Judge Reginald Routson; Director of Court Services/CPO, Kimberly Switzer; Hancock County Commissioner, Michael Pepple; Hancock County Commissioner, Tim Bechtol, Juvenile/Probate Court Judge Kristen Johnson; ADAMHS Board, Precia Stuby; Hancock County Job & Family Services, Randall Galbraith; Alvis/Ohio Link, Jennifer Stohr; CASA, Ashley Bell; Dr. William Kose, Community Member, John Bindas, CEO, Family Resource Center

Guests: Asst. Chief Probation Officer, Patrick Brzozka; Fiscal Manager, Julie Smith; Hancock County Probation Officer, Chad McClain; Family Resource Center, Cristina Christensen; Hancock County Adult Probation Office Manager, Melanie Fox; Welcome to a New Life, Puck Rowe; Welcome to a New Life, Carla Benjamin; Welcome to a New Life, Stan Kujawa, Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Jesse Sterrett; City of Findlay Municipal Court CPO, Candace Griffith; Ohio Court of Appeals, Judge Mark Miller

Call to Order, Introductions and Approval of Minutes:

Judge Routson called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

Judge Routson requested minutes from the June 21, 2022 meeting be approved; Judge Kristen Johnson motioned to approve, Precia Stuby seconded.

Community Corrections Act Updates:

•Web Site: www.co.hancock.oh.us/government-services/common-pleas-court

CORRECTION ACT AND OTHER PROBATION GRANT UPDATES

Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) – Kimberly Switzer

- Pretrial/Bond Grant: annual \$87,844.00; pays for a staff person, supplies and drug tests.
- Intensive Supervision Grant: annual \$221,988.00; pays for several staff members.
- Justice Reinvestment and Incentive Grant: annual \$161,500.00 (Lost \$36,640 per year for FY22/23)
 - o Performance goals based on diverting F4's from prison.
 - o State grant funding is being combined for the 24/25 Fiscal Year. This will also combine the performance goals for all state grants.
- TCAP Funds: annual \$161,147.00; TCAP Grant is based on supervising low level felonies. Per the MOU half of this grant goes to the Hancock County Sheriff for jail housing and the other half towards Hancock County Adult Probation Drug Court Coordinator. Goals are not mandated on TCAP grant, but the state has asked Counties to divert F4s. Hancock County has not agreed to that yet.

ADAMHS/Ohio Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Kimberly Switzer

- Drug Court Grant/Specialized Docket: annual \$35,000 per docket for Fiscal Year 2023
 - o Pays for partial Probation Officer, but does not cover all costs.

CCA REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Chief Probation Officer, Kimberly Switzer

- New Board Resolution/Referrals – Please let Kim Switzer know if you have any referrals for new board members as we are in need of updating our current resolution.

- Looking to update record retention policy regarding physical defendant files. Currently keep 10 years' worth, but can now change that to only retain 3 years.
- Plans of Action from State Audit – working with treatment providers to separate groups by gender, risk per audit standards.
- Loss of in-house treatment
- Certified sex offender group FRC, also looking at utilizing a new sex offender tool to help address offenders.

NEW BUSINESS

Director of Court Services, Kimberly Switzer

Adult Probation Updates/Trends

Director of Court Services, Kimberly Switzer

- Staffing changes, recruiting, training at Adult Probation
- Staff turnover continues to relate back to too many expectations.
- Meth and Fentanyl Substance Abuse
- Housing
- Mental Health crisis continues in our area; Suicides; Overdoses, Constant Trauma
- Trauma care for local probation staff; ADAMHS paying for 8 sessions through Hancock Cares. Any staff member can access this care by contacting the participating providers listed and state you are with Hancock Cares.

Drug Court – Kim Switzer

- Program Activity handout reviewed.
- Drug Court Recidivism research showed that Drug Court participants do re-offend however much later than if not connected with Drug Court. Offenders also stay alive while they are in Drug Court compared to those who are not. Researching how to make Drug Court more effective.
 - o Mark Miller inquired if participants had a lower risk of overdose than those not in drug court. Kim Switzer stated yes, but after drug court that rate is unknown. The program is trying to track those stats.
- State success average for Drug Court is 50%
- Adult Probation is going to contract with University of Cincinnati to conduct an assessment to help drug court become more successful.
- Kim Switzer stated that the ADAMHS Board has always been very supportive of Specialized Dockets. Could a Mental Health Court be an option for Hancock County? Precia Stuby stated that people seeking substance abuse treatment has more than doubled since 2009 and overdose death numbers have leveled off. Odds of overdose survival in our community is better than 2009.
- Mark Miller stated the community is doing well, but does the Drug Court model need to change. Kim Switzer agreed something needed to change.
- Puck Rowe inquired how other County drug courts are doing. Kim Switzer stated each defines recidivism and success differently so it's difficult to compare.
- Dr. Kose asked if a Drug Court has to be ran by a Judge. Kim Switzer stated she had looked into a Magistrate covering drug court. The key to drug court success is a consistent authority figure so a Magistrate covering once in a while may not be as effective.
- Kim Switzer inquired if Dr. Flaherty had a medication recommendations similar to suboxone. Precia stated yes, a new medication is coming out but not approved yet. National Opiate Response Network offers training for physicians on what existing medication combinations may help with stimulant use.
- Judge Routson stated Dr. Richard Rawson is an expert on medication combinations. Precia Stuby added that he presented and there's a recorded training.

- Puck Rowe inquired if Drug Court is voluntary. Kim Switzer stated that the program is completely voluntary and participants give up some rights to participate, however they also get many rewards and supports. Puck Rowe added that Judge Routson and Judge Starn do a great job running their Drug Courts. Judge Routson stated he just tries to make a difference.
- Judge Mark Miller stated that in the Seneca County model of Drug Court, participants plead into drug court to free up trial judge.
- Judge Johnson also runs a Specialized Docket, stated that the incentives are different for each participant, some to stay out of jail, others to get children back. Seeing a lot of self-medicating rather than participants taking mental health medications.

Family Resource Center (FRC) – Cristina Christensen

- Forensic team is now fully staffed. Created a new internal process for compliance reports to be more efficient.
- Jail Team status – fully staffed now with a case manager and groups will start soon.

A Renewed Mind NKA Ohio Guidestone – Kim Switzer

- Probation had a meeting with ARM recently ~~and they stated they will be focusing more on family and children now, will not be taking many adult felons for substance abuse and no mental health services.~~ Carla Benjamin inquired of the clients they already have in those programs. Kim Switzer stated they will ~~continue services with them until they are finished.~~ Patrick Brzozka added they also do not offer sex offender treatment any longer. Closest adult sex offender treatment located in Toledo or Columbus before FRC began offering. Judge Johnson added Bowling Green and Perrysburg have a juvenile program. Precia Stuby that added ADAMHS will assist in any way they are able.

FOCUS – Precia Stuby for Brooke Nissan

- Obtained a BJA grant to create an outreach team for the Recovery Center and hired three staff for this program. Team will be focus on engaging with clients.
- Goal to be open 3 Saturdays a month by the end of next year.
- Recovery Housing openings are on FOCUS' Facebook page.

ADAMHS Update – Precia Stuby

- Received BJA grant to sustain the LEAD team and program. Will allow for expansion and enhancement of that program. Also received a System of Care grant.
- Stepping up Board accepted by County Commissioners, June 2023 is their national meeting and the main focus is discussing Drug Courts. May have funding available through grants to send someone to the meeting.

County Criminal Justice Business

- Juvenile Court Updates – Judge Kristen Johnson
 - o Introduced Ashley Bell, director of CASA. Working to rebuild the volunteer group, current have three volunteers but need about forty. Secured VOCA funding to help with volunteer group.
- Findlay Municipal Court updates – Candace Griffin
 - o Driving under Suspension Day had 64 people helped this year, it was a good turnout.
 - o Outside jail housing has its difficulties as some jails are particular who they will accept and their own staffing issues.

- Also seeing lots of mental health issues and repeat offenders. Pretrial program is doing well at addressing mental health and substance abuse issues.
- CASC – Phase 1 Floor plan and location options are being discussed.
 - Judge Routson inquired if there has been any movement on speaking to senators about changes to allow common pleas courts to place low level felons and/or misdemeanors. In the CASC. Candace replied that Judge Hackenberg has been talking with Senator McColley about this. Candace stated that there is a possible Phase 2 of the CASC plan if that legislature would change to allow for more defendants.
- Sheriff's Updates – Administrative Lt. Jesse Sterrett
 - Sheriff has recently hired 10 jail staff, 3 currently in training and should have 9 in training by end of the month, hopefully to finish training by end of the year. Still need more staff trained before Jail would be able to open another wing.
- County Commissioners – Timothy Bechtol
 - Juvenile Court building – Project is in design stage with RCM with preliminary plans worked out. Plans have been evaluating building needs which added approximately 6,000 sq. feet to the 3 story building. Also evaluating the additional costs and inflation and exploring funding options which could include borrow money short term. Will take all this to the Building Committee for input. Projected start date for construction is spring of 2023.
- Jail Committee/Study/PONI Process – Retired Judge Niemeyer
 - Committee toured the jail in early summer. Also held a Q & A session with the committee and several community members and agencies. Next step of the committee is to speak with prosecutor's office about possible funding options. Commissioners are looking for a recommendation from the committee on how many beds, how to fund, where it should be located. Next meeting will be discussing funding, but no date set yet.
- Legislative issues/updates – Judge Routson stated sentencing simplification reform is a topic.
- Arraignment System Meeting – Judge Routson
 - Streamlining process
 - Public Defender meeting before arraignments to connect with an attorney
- State Issue 1 – Judge Routson
 - Proposed changes to Article 1, Section 9 of the Ohio Constitution regarding bail
 - Removes a Judges' decision to consider bail, leaves it up to legislation

Next Meeting Date: TBD

Meeting adjourned @ 6:19 pm by Judge Routson