

CCA Board Meeting
June 22, 2021

Statutory members: Retired Judge, Joseph H Niemeyer; Hancock County Common Pleas Court, Reginald J. Routson; Director of Court Services/CPO, Kimberly Switzer; Hancock County Commissioner, Timothy Bechtol; Hancock County Commissioner, Michael Pepple; Hancock County Commissioner, William Bateson; Juvenile/Probate Court Judge Kristen Johnson; Family Resource Center, John Bindas; Dr. William Kose; ADAMHS Board, Precia Stuby; Hancock County Job & Family Services, Randall Galbraith; Captain Ryan Kidwell, Hancock County Sheriff's Office; J. Steve Welton, Hancock County Treasurer; Dave Beach, City of Findlay; Nichole Coleman, Hancock County Veterans Services

Guests: Asst. Chief Probation Officer, Patrick Brzozka; Drug Court Coordinator, Brandy Tiell; Hancock County Probation Officer, Steve Wiechart; Fiscal Manager, Julie Smith; Hancock County Probation Officer, Chad McClain; Family Resource Center, Derek Puchta; University of Findlay OT intern, Jessica Miles; 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 Auditor, Charity Rauschenberg; 3rd District Court of Appeals Judge, Mark Miller; Rob Martin, Service Safety Director for City of Findlay

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes:

Judge Routson called the meeting to order.

Judge Routson requested that the minutes from September 15, 2020 be updated to reflect the rescheduled board meeting date. Judge Routson requested meeting minutes be approved; Precia Stuby motioned to approve.

Community Corrections Act Updates:

•Web Site: www.co.hancock.oh.us/commonpleas

CCA REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Chief Probation Officer, Kimberly Switzer

Electronic Monitoring Committee – Kim Switzer stated that she will chair the committee. Asked if Dave Beach would co-chair, he accepted. Director Switzer asked if any board members would like to be on the committee to please let her know, she will send out an email.

NEW BUSINESS

Director of Court Services, Kimberly Switzer

•CCA Updates:

-Pretrial and Intensive Supervision grants have been approved for FY22/23

-Targeted Community Alternative to Prison (TCAP) and Justice Reinvestment and Incentive (JRIG) grants are still pending the Ohio Budget Bill. TCAP grant, if not renewed, would result in a loss of \$322,294.

One-half of that amount goes to Probation and the other half to the Sheriff's office to assist with overcrowding costs.

-Justice Reinvestment and Incentive Grant (JRIG) also pending.

•Fiscal Quarterly reports – Handout reviewed

•TCAP Grant – Sheriff received \$161,147.00 in FY20/21

•Grant Program Activity – Handout reviewed

Adult Probation Updates/Trends

Director of Court Services, Kimberly Switzer

- In just one week, probation saw several suicides and overdoses. These used to be only occasional situations which shows the larger need for mental health services from agencies like Family Resource Center and other Hancock County agencies. Looking into trauma debriefing for staff to help them through these situations.
- Methamphetamine and Fentanyl are the drugs of choice currently, both very dangerous substances.

Drug Court – Brandy Tiell, Drug Court Coordinator

- Handout reviewed
- Starting 6/29/2021 Drug Court will be back in person.
- National success average is 50%, Hancock County Adult Drug Court is currently at 55%.
- Kim Switzer added that the department receives \$30,000 per docket in grant funding. Unfortunately, this amount is not enough to fully cover one full time drug court officer's salary and benefits.
- Kim Switzer also added that Brandy Tiell is not only our Drug Court Coordinator she also maintains a full probation officer caseload, conducts new officer trainings and conducts Quality Assurance checks.
- Judge Routson added that COVID has been quite a trying time for Drug Court, tried to do the best through Zoom but will be much easier to address issues once back in person.
- Kim Switzer inquired how often Judge Johnson has been able to meet with Drug Court participants through COVID.
- Judge Kristen Johnson stated that her Family Drug Court docket meets every other week and remained in person throughout COVID-19. Was able to graduated five people during COVID. However, it is a much smaller group compared to the Adult Drug Court.

Family Resource Center (FRC) – Derek Puchta

- Open Access started back up in October or November 2020 and FRC is currently hiring more clinicians. Some groups are getting back to in-person sessions but FRC continues offering some virtual or a hybrid to accommodate clients. FRC has recently extended their office hours to 8 am – 6 pm. In July, the office will be going to a centralized scheduling system making it much easier to schedule with case managers. The LEAD program has received 39 referrals since May 2020 and 19 are currently engaged in services.
- Kim Switzer asked John Bindas and Derek Puchta if the extended office hours was a step towards offering evening groups again. John Bindas replied that it is a step that way. Derek Puchta added that FRC is not seeing the client need to support an evening group at this time but will continue to monitor.
- John Bindas stated that FRC is hiring telehealth specific clinicians that will help be able to offer evening and weekend hours. This extend the employment pool as clinicians can be located anywhere just need to be licensed in Ohio. He also stated that FRC is getting closer to closing on a property. FRC applied for a grant through the ADAMHS Board to renovate the Carlin St. facility. These grant funds of \$500,000 will be matched with bank loans to complete the project. Goal is to move all adult services to the Carlin St. location once renovated.
- Derek Puchta advised that FRC has contracted with Genoa Pharmacy to be in house at South Campus. Emily Sterling will work with Genoa Pharmacy to get clients prescriptions filled. These can be picked up in person or shipped to their homes. The pharmacy portion is not up and running yet but will be in the near future.
- Kim Switzer asked if Emily Sterling could attend an Adult Probation Staff meeting and present to staff. Derek Puchta said he can help arrange that.

A Renewed Minds (ARM) –

- Kim Switzer provided feedback on a recent meeting held with A Renewed Mind. ARM is currently serving approximately 50% of Adult Probation's population. They are using Evidence Based Practices and are moving towards separating groups by gender however group numbers do not always support that option.

- Judge Johnson added that ARM runs the MOMs program; stated it is going pretty well.

ADAMHS Update – Precia Stuby

- Stated that the workforce shortage is apparent all over, current statistics state communities are losing 60,000 social workers from the field every year. ADAMHS is working to put federal grants dollars, already in the community, to help stream line services to achieve highest level of efficiency with the staff available. ADAMHS has received a federal grant to work with police department to offer early interventions with Focus: Recovery and Wellness Community.
- ADAMHS was also awarded a federal grant to open up Treeline as a stabilization center. The hope was for Treeline to be a 24 hour crisis drop off center, however that level of care cannot be fiscally managed with the size of our community.
- Steve Wiechart inquired about length of stay for individuals at Treeline. Precia Stuby responded that long stays are not ideal as there is no Medicaid reimbursement with this type of facility. However, facility will go by whatever length of time is needed for each individual.
- There are three Recovery Homes in Hancock County: one for men, one for women and another for pregnant women. A request for a family recovery home has been submitted but not approved yet by the State.
- Kim Switzer stated that access to the Recovery Homes is difficult because of the 30 days clean requirement, is there anything we can do about that? Precia Stuby responded that she is aware of that concern, however that policy decision is from Focus who manage the Recovery Homes.
- Judge Routson inquired if there is any research to support these timelines. Precia Stuby responded that every year there is a Recovery Housing statewide conference to discuss current situations. Precia further explained there are three levels of Recovery Homes. Level 1 offers no supervision within the Recovery Home, level 2 has a house manager that lives in the house but does not offer 24 hour supervision, and level 3 which offers 24 hour supervision of residents with multiple house staff. Level three Recovery Homes typically do not have a 30 days clean requirement. The Recovery Homes in Hancock County are level 2.
- Patrick Brzozka asked what the Recovery Home populations are currently. Precia responded the pregnant women and women's homes are full, but there may be an opening in the men's house.
- Patrick Brzozka inquired if all residents of Recovery Homes were from Hancock County. Precia said some are out of county residents. If there are open beds at a Recovery Home, and no Hancock County residents are on the waiting list referrals from out of County are accepted. The priority is to serve Hancock County residents first.

Systems Process Analysis – Judge Routson will reach out to Judge Stephanie Bishop of Findlay Municipal Court to inquire if she would like to take over this committee.

County Criminal Justice Business

- Sheriff updates/Jail study – Capt. Ryan Kidwell
- COVID practices continue for staff and inmate safety, but programming is returning slowly.
- In coordination with Hancock Public Health and the contracted inmate medical service, the Sheriff's Office was able to hold a vaccination clinic for inmates. Had 11 inmates sign up, but only 5 completed.
- In late August, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) will be holding a 3 day Planning of New Institutions (PONI) training in Hancock County.
- Pregnant female and restraints bill caused some concerned. Sheriff's Office reached out to Senator Antonio, the original author of the bill, to express concerns regarding some of the language and were able to receive some changes.
- House Bill 101 addresses Corrections money that would become available for jails through state budgeting process. Selection based upon need, needs assessments, and sales tax among other things. State will look at counties that are struggling with needing a new jail or renovation projects.

- Kim Switzer inquired what the Community Corrections Planning Board could do to help. Captain Kidwell stated in the future the Board would be needed for sub-committees related to a long term fix to overcrowding.
- Judge Routson stated that TCAP had proposed to mandate non-violent F5's to serve terms locally rather than in prison but heard that had been pulled. Captain Kidwell stated he heard of laws coming to mandate non-violent F4's to serve terms locally as well but sounds as if it will stay as a voluntary option for now.
- County Commissioners, Tim Bechtol – Discussions regarding the potential purchase of the Findlay Village Mall continue. Commissioners' recently entered into the purchasing agreement which gives them 75 days to conduct inspections, research from architects, and research safety measures. Commissioners are looking at the current leases of the mall to review retention. Current purchase price is \$3.7 million which equals approximately \$9 per square foot.

Findlay Municipal Court Updates – Dave Beach

- City of Findlay is researching a Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC). There is a facility in Mansfield Ohio where the City will be visiting in the near future. Judge Routson asked how the CASC differed from a jail. Dave Beach replied the CASC is a combination of low security corrections and a treatment center. CASC would be a place where OVI offenders would serve their mandatory sentences. Judge Routson added that it would mainly house misdemeanants but could may also serve non-violent F5's at the CASC. Dave Beach added that the per diem for the CASC would be lower than the Jail, but does not have exact amounts at this moment.
- City of Findlay caseloads are up and they are back to full operations. Text messaging system for jurors and court hearings are in place and working very well. City has conducted light renovations to courtrooms. Previously used Capital Recovery Services for debt recovery, however the results were less than stellar. Currently using the Ohio Attorney General's office for collections and that is going much better.

Juvenile/Probation Court Updates – Judge Johnson

- New case management system up and running, looking to be able to e-file with this system.
- Safety Program – received from Ohio Supreme Court grant to bring in an expert to train staff on how to deal with dual status youths that are in juvenile justice systems, children's services, etc. Three kids in program currently. May not have a lot of children in this program but hoping to reach who they can.
- Randall Galbraith agreed that the program is going very well.
- Kim Switzer asked how they are keeping the families involved. Judge Johnson stated that a probation officer is and a case worker are assigned to the case. FRC assists with in home services as these kids are very high need and have unique circumstances.

Legislative issues/updates – Judge Routson

- Dave Beach – A proposed change to the TCAP law would mandate that all non-violent F5 offenders serve only a local jail sentence as a residential sanction.
- Judge Routson added that he agrees with Dave Beach's concern regarding low level felonies and serving sentences locally. Briefly described changes to community control technical violators and the impact on the number of days a judge can order them to prison for these violations.

Welcome to a New Life – Carla Benjamin, Puck Rowe, Stan Kujawa

- Carla Benjamin thanked the board for the invite and to be a part of the group. Welcome to a New Life has been building relationships with community and meeting many individuals who want to make the program work for them. Puck Rowe thanked all who were able to attend the breakfast meeting at the Country Club.

- Judge Routson added when he sees an agency such as Welcome to a New Life in the courtroom supporting an individual a judge is more willing to give them a chance.

Action Items:

Kim Switzer to email Board regarding Electronic Monitoring Committee members.

Kim Switzer to email Survey Monkey inquiring whether to hold next CCA meeting in person or via Zoom.

Kim Switzer to invite Emily Sterling of FRC to an Adult Probation staff meeting.

Next Meeting Date: September 28, 2021; location and/or Zoom to be determined.

Meeting adjourned @ 6:42 pm by Judge Routson