

**LARIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS  
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 18th, 2020**

**Members Present:** Kristine Miller, Ed Seegrist, Chris Gastelle, Jeff French, Michael Allen, Justice Stephen Howard, Matt Landers, Laura Walker, Commissioner John Kefalas, Linda Hoffman

**Staff Present:** Araceli Santistevan, Shelley Durkin, Tim Hand, Alexis Ongley, Culley Flynn, Mike Ruttenberg, Dana Hersch

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm by Tim Hand. He thanks Michael Allen for hosting this meeting at his SummitStone office. Michael Allen explains that these are their administrative offices and are used for a variety of purposes. He adds that it is always an option for board meetings when the typical locations are unavailable.

**ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS**

- Jeff French asks Tim Hand to explain the one-on-one meetings. Tim Hand has been able to meet with multiple board members and it has been going very well; he's been receiving great feedback. He hopes to collect and report on general themes from these meetings to help the board set its agenda.
- If any board members would still like to meet with Tim Hand, please contact Araceli Santistevan

**ANNUAL REPORT—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED**

- Jeff French explains that the annual report was approved by the executive board at its last meeting. The finalized report will be sent out with the notes. Please let Araceli Santistevan if there are any questions or concerns

**CONRAD BALL AWARD BANQUET**

- Jeff French reports that the Conrad Ball Award Banquet is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Lory Student Center. The nomination form is active until March 20<sup>th</sup> and he asks for board members to help by getting the word out or submitting their own nominations.
- Tim Hand adds that they had invited Attorney General Phil Weiser to speak at this event, but he was unable to attend. Despite that, AG Weiser will be touring LCCC on February 27<sup>th</sup> from 3-4pm. Tim Hand and the assistant directors will be hosting him and answering his questions. It will be beneficial to have the annual report already available for the visit. Any interested board members can attend this tour as well; AG Weiser is particularly interested in behavioral health issues along with the successful aspects of this program.
- Michael Allen adds that AG Weiser is meeting with his staff the morning to see the MAT clinic and some Northern Colorado treatment tactics. It will be nice bridge between these programs and Larimer County's. Tim Hand reiterates that the Attorney General's main interest is in the treatment programs.
- John Kefalas asks for further information in case any commissioners would like to attend. Tim Hand will pass this along as it becomes available.
- Tim Hand adds that they are now seeking another keynote speaker for the award banquet—he is hoping for Stan Hilkey, the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety. He would be a wonderful speaker as a former sheriff and prominent figure in public safety. If he is not available, Tim Hand's next choice is Dean Williams, as his insights on the changing corrections landscape would be very interesting. If anyone has any questions or comments, please let him know.

**JUDGE'S JUDICIAL TOUR AND UPDATE**

- Tim Hand had an opportunity to meet one-on-one with Chief Justice Howard. They are hoping to have the justices tour the facility.
- Chief Howard adds that there are more new judges since the last tour than there are current judges who had previously attended. Some of the justices who attended last time may want to attend again.

**FLOOD UPDATE**

- Alexis Ongley reports that the residential rooms are back in order. Staff are still waiting on lockers, which will take ten weeks to arrive. There are temporary lockers in place for client use. One classroom and one

dayroom still need to be approved for use by facilities. Otherwise, they are very close to being done with this process and are working with Risk Management to finish the last few details.

#### **SOPADA**

- Tim Hand reports that Mike Ruttenberg, Alexis Ongley, Julie Rohloff, and he went before the Board of County Commissioners to request two additional addictions therapists and three additional case managers. This will provide an opportunity to keep jail numbers down and build more revenue. The extra staff will likely increase revenues by more than \$200,000. He extends his thanks to Commissioner Kefalas and Linda Hoffman for their dedication and kind words during this process. The Loveland Reporter-Herald will be coming to take photos and report on this story.
- Commissioner Kefalas asks what sort of credentials will be required for the therapist positions. Mike Ruttenberg explains that it will require a bachelor's level individual with CAC (Chemical Addictions Counselor) II certification or a master's degree without one. Commissioner Kefalas follows up, asking if it is difficult to find those qualified individuals. Mike Ruttenberg says that it can be difficult as there are not enough qualified individuals to go around in this region, but they have a robust relationship with CSU: 3 master's level interns are currently working at LCCC, and he is working with HR to create temp positions and keep them connected. Commissioner Kefalas asks if community colleges offer these CAC programs. Mike Ruttenberg replies that Aims does, Front Range is building one, CSU has a CAC I in its bachelor's program and CAC II in its master's, and CU is creating a master's program.

#### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

- Tim Hand reports that at the last LCCC management meeting, they discussed the current issues with incoming property. Security supervisor Jacob Hupp will be chairing a new committee to address the excess amounts of client property entering the building. This is in response to the recent overdoses and related safety concerns. It will be a substantial shift for staff (requiring more work and documentation), but he is excited for the changes. The committee will be reporting out regularly and Tim Hand will update the board. It may be difficult for some clients, so the process will be important.
- Jeff French adds that LCCC allows a lot of property compared to other facilities. He feels this is a good decision.
- Alexis Ongley adds that it is hard to balance safety and personal property for individuals with no home or storage options.
  - Matt Landers asks how long property is held if a client is terminated from the program. Dana Hersch explains that they hold it for two weeks and then either throw it away or donate it; some items may be held for other clients who arrive without clothing or other essential items.
  - Tim Hand adds that for clients transferred to DOC facilities that leave behind important personal items, he will make exceptions and hold property or mail items to them in their new facility.

#### **FEEDBACK FROM DECEMBER LUNCH EXPERIENCE**

- Jeff French reminds the board that this is the first year the Holiday Luncheon was held at Canino's Italian Restaurant. The executive board would like some feedback on the experience.
- Matt Landers says he felt the timing of the meal worked very well for the board's needs.
- Judge Howard and Chris Gastelle note that parking/space was limited but otherwise felt it went well.
- Jeff French appreciates the positive feedback.

#### **CSU GRADUATE STUDY 2020**

- Alexis Ongley reports that a graduate student will be researching the transgender population in community corrections and working with this facility. LCCC practices in this area are considered good right now, but she would like to stay up to date on best practices. Matt Landers asks what numbers are like for that population. Alexis Ongley responds that the numbers are small, but it can have big impacts in terms of programing, housing, and safety.
- Mike Ruttenberg adds that it is a unique population with unique needs, and there are usually 1-2 people in the facility.
- Commissioner Kefalas asks how bathrooms work for this population. Alexis Ongley explains that individuals that identify as transgender stay in dorms that match their genitalia. They can choose certain programing, who does their UAs (staff might do mouth swabs in place of traditional substance tests), who does their pat downs, etc. Commissioner Kefalas asks about the jail expansion and if it is intending to address concerns

regarding safely housing these individuals. Mike Ruttenberg says he is not sure about the jail, but for any future LCCC expansions, they are looking at how they could best suit the population and meet best practices.

#### **CMRC CLOSING**

- Jeff French says that his office was expecting lots of offenders paroling early as a result of the Cheyenne Mountain Reentry Center closure, but not many are being sent to Larimer County. Most are staying in the Colorado Springs area. CMRC is supposed to be closed in March. It is unclear what will happen to the building.
- Tim Hand adds that he learned there are 194 inmates still in the building. DOC is filling CSP II (Centennial South)—they've opened two pods, but it is a closed facility not intended for general population. They are moving some of their high-risk offenders in other facilities to CSP II and moving CMRC offenders to those other locations. DOC only has .08 vacancies in the state.
- Tim Hand reports that another state (he believes it is Idaho) may want to host 1000 prisoners in Colorado, similar to a past agreement with the state of Alaska. The executive branch will have to determine how that will work.

#### **TOOLEY HALL PURCHASE**

- Tim Hand explains that the City and County of Denver have purchased this facility to place female offenders. Greg Morro and other staff members have come to look at LCCC's female facility to gain insight for this new program. LCCC has been very collaborative in demonstrating best practices including gender responsiveness and trauma-informed care.
- Jeff French asks for clarification for the board of what facility this is. Tim Hand explains that it was originally a privately-owned halfway house for both men and women on I-70. Commissioner Kefalas asks where the name comes from; Chris Gastelle explains that it was named after a longtime Denver DA.
- Tim Hand explains that the building is very old and is in the process of being updated.

#### **LINDA HOFFMAN ANNOUNCEMENT**

- Linda Hoffman explains that the CJS director position—the head of Community Corrections and Alternative Sentencing as well as a member of several boards—has been filled since its creation by Gary Darling. Most board members are aware that he is retiring in May and there has been a nationwide hiring process for his replacement. She would like to announce that the CJS director position has been offered to and accepted by Emily Humphrey, second assistant DA in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. She has served on multiple boards and worked on a variety of important criminal justice projects including reduced juvenile access to firearms. Linda Hoffman would like to extend congratulations to Emily Humphrey. There was a lot of information and involvement in this hiring process, and the candidates all demonstrated incredible qualifications. She is glad that Larimer County was able to attract such qualified candidates that made the hiring decision so difficult.

#### **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Commissioner Kefalas asks for updates on statewide legislation, specifically regarding local control. Tim Hand says that there has not been a bill introduced yet regarding the prison work crews in communities, but they are anticipating this at some point. Jeff French adds that the Buena Vista prison has a crew of twelve inmates working in the community (Kristine Miller says they are working at a restaurant).
- Commissioner Kefalas asks about the notification process for this program. Tim Hand says that Director Williams has been working to open better lines of communication and discuss these programs with local leaders. He is still working to address the legal needs for DOC, such as taking inmates back to their facilities every night. The goal is to allow these crews to work and live in the community under supervision of parole.

Commissioner Kefalas thanks SummitStone for hosting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm

March's meeting will be held March 17th, at 12:00pm at 200 W Oak in the Carter Lake Room