

# LARIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

## ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

### June 16, 2020

**Members Present:** Ed Seegrist, William Sublette, Katie Mangan, Jeff French, Emily Humphrey, Kristine Miller, Cliff Riedel, Michael Allen, Linda Hoffman, Commissioner John Kefalas, Jeffrey Swoboda, Sara Steen, Sam Houghteling, Judge Michelle Brinegar, Matt Landers, Sid Simonson

**Guest:** Kenneth Evans

**Staff Present:** Araceli Santistevan, Alexis Ongley, Tim Hand, Mike Ruttenberg, Ingrid Schroeder, Beth Corbitt, Dana Hersch

The meeting took place via Zoom and was called to order at 12:01pm by Chair Jeff French

Welcome to Kenneth Evans from Federal Probation. Mike Ruttenberg explains that he is in a fellowship that allows him to shadow LCCC to learn more about the organization. He will be observing the board meeting and some other areas of LCCC to learn about its leadership styles.

Welcome to Sam Houghteling, new board member from CSU. He comes from the CSU Straayer Center for Public Service and Leadership and is excited to be here and learning about the board.

One final special announcement comes from Alexis Ongley. Beth Corbitt, head of the Evaluations unit, will be retiring in August. Her impact on the overall program and the evals unit has been unparalleled and she will be greatly missed, but her legacy will carry on. Beth Corbitt adds that she has been with LCCC for over 29 years, and it has always been a great place to work, in part because of the guidance and direction of the board and county commissioners. She appreciates how forward thinking the agency is. Time has passed quickly, but she is ready to pass the seat onto someone with new ideas while she has more time to travel and bike and enjoy herself. It has been a great place to work for and she is proud to be a part of it.

#### **CONRAD BALL -VOTING CLOSED**

- Araceli Santistevan reports that voting for the Judge Conrad L. Ball Award is closed as of 6/15/2020. Two individuals did not submit their votes, so if they would still like to do so, she asks that they do so by the end of the day.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE ZOOM MEETINGS UPDATE/REPORT**

- Jeff French explains that the subcommittee has begun meeting and voting via Zoom. It has been working very well to meet and talk in real time about the cases. The added interaction has been very beneficial.
- Beth Corbitt adds that the evaluations team has appreciated this new format as well. Janet Russell from DOC will be assisting with ISP referrals in the future.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE POLICY CHANGES**

- There have been changes made to the process for split votes/additional votes needed.
- Tim Hand explains that this is something that has been discussed over the years and they have decided to be more methodical about it. Historically, for split votes, anyone available could vote. Now the process will be the executive board will be asked on a rotating basis, beginning with the chair, vice chair, and secretary. This will be more purposeful than the current system.
- Linda Hoffman asks how often split votes occur. Beth Corbitt says that there are less than a half dozen per year. Tim Hand adds that if the subcommittee is missing members, this process will also be used.
- Alexis Ongley explains that the intention was to be more transparent and reflect the integrity of the voting process with a set policy for split votes.

#### **JUVENILE CLIENT REFERRALS**

- This section regards an amendment to criteria regarding mandatory exclusion of juvenile clients.
- Jeff French explains that a Larimer County judge was attempting to sentence an adult offender on a juvenile

sentence to LCCC, which has not occurred before. The executive board debated if it could be done in LCCC under the current bylaws and selection criteria. After some discussion, the executive board realized it would require large changes to supervision policies and decided to not allow this. Ed Seegrist adds that details of juvenile cases differ from current LCCC clients, and the consensus was that juvenile cases would need to be served in juvenile systems.

- Judge Brinegar asks about juvenile cases where the offender also has adult cases. She adds that there are no mechanisms to just sentence on the juvenile case. Emily Humphrey explains that for this specific individual, there was only one case, and there were multiple concerns including a need to be housed separately. For clients with both kinds of cases, they can enter the program, but the juvenile cases are not supervised by LCCC.
- Jeff French says that the bylaws do not specifically address this situation. Alexis Ongley clarifies that the selection criteria needs to be amended to include a mandatory exclusion of juvenile client referrals. This will require a motion to allow her to make this amendment to address the client referral type.
- Linda Hoffman moves to amend the criteria, Cliff Riedel and Jeff French second.
  - The discussion is finalized by Jeff French and Tim Hand calls for a vote. The motion carries.

### **COVID-19 UPDATES**

- Dana Hersch reports that clients who were not working have been moved back from ASD. There are 60 male working slots in the ASD building, as well as slots for working females. All the slots are filled; Sheila Torres, employment specialist, has been great and had clients ready to go back to work as soon as the Health Department order expired. At this point, 25% have restarted working.
  - They are working with the Health Department on how to job search safely. There are additional clients ready to go back to work now, and even more who are ready to begin job searching when approved.
- Ingrid Schroeder reports that handwashing stations have been added to both LCCC and ASD. Managing clients moving back and forth has been difficult, but staff have been doing very well.
  - Dana Hersch adds that working clients must undergo an orientation process, and when coming back from work must change clothes, wash their hands, and submit to a temperature check after undergoing an orientation process.
  - Alexis Ongley has been working to move clients out to furloughs as well.
  - A few clients have been taken out of this system after breaking the rules (i.e. an unauthorized location).
- Mike Ruttenberg explains that the treatment programs are using a quarantine model with health screenings prior to entering the building (temperature, health/symptom questions). Supervising agencies are asked to monitor for symptoms prior to the entry. They go through group intake and go into quarantine. These clients receive case management and at least one group per day with packets and other curriculum materials. This time is also used to address any clients' health needs. After clearing quarantine, they can join into full-fledged treatment programs. Once the kinks are worked out, the model will be submitted to DCJ for approval. He hopes it will be allowed to continue to have clients enter the building safely.
  - Judge Brinegar asks what the wait time is for residential programs. Beth Corbitt responds that the start dates are about one month from sentencing. They are trying to bring people in groups, to quarantine them all together.
  - Tim Hand explains that the priority was to move people out of the jail.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

- Tim Hand explains that he has not heard much on community corrections beyond the per diem and bed cuts across Colorado. He asks if anyone else has other legislative information.
- Commissioner Kefalas clarifies that the legislative session ended yesterday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Tim Hand will confirm if any final changes occurred in the last days of the session and communicate these to the board.

### **SUMMER BREAK**

- Jeff French explains that the board takes a month off in the summer. He asks the board which month to take off. Typically, it is July or August
- After voting, it is decided to take August off. The board will meet for July, NOT for August.

### **ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT**

- Tim Hand explains that Kristine Miller has asked for a CACCB meeting in Larimer County.
- He also feels that a board retreat is critical right now, with changes to policy and the addition of the assessment tool.
- His suggestion is to forgo the CACCB meeting since most conferences are virtual. He asks Araceli Santistevan and Shelley Durkin to coordinate a socially distanced Advisory Board retreat before the end of the year. His thought is a 10-2 or a 10-3 meeting in October or November.
- Board members are interested, Jeff French asks for other input.
  - Sara Steen requests a zoom option for high risk individuals.

#### **BOARD VACANCIES AND NEW MEMBERS**

- Sam Houghteling was introduced at the beginning of the meeting.
- Tim Hand thanks Debra Unger for her assistance reappointing and filling vacancies on the board. Two positions still need to be filled, due to eight current board members terms are expiring June 30.
  - Several board members have reapplied. John Eggers and Don Van Pelt will not be reapplying. This leaves five reappointments, one new appointment and two vacancies left over.
  - The vacancies are for an educator and a community member; a recruitment period may be started to fill these two positions.
- Commissioner Kefalas asks if there is any intentional recruitment targeting communities of color and other vulnerable or minority communities. Tim Hand responds that they recognize the importance of having a diverse board. He would be pleased to discuss with Debra Unger a stronger recruitment strategy to reach these communities. Commissioner Kefalas welcomes other board members to weigh in if they know of best practices on this recruitment to the board. Tim Hand assures the commissioner that he will follow up on this and present the board with a plan. He also welcomes board input.
- Michael Allen says that his office has been having good conversations about the current events in the US. One thing to come out of the conversations has been an interest in being more involved in the community. He points out that there is a lot more interest right now in diversity and inclusion, and this is an opportunity to promote board vacancies to community members looking to be more involved.

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

- Tim Hand explains that there was only one walk away while the facility was closed due to the public health order. Once things began reopening, there was an increase in walkaways. Some people who have left were probation sentences to the treatment programs. There are lots of conversations about how to manage these changes. Alexis Ongley adds that two clients left, and then turned themselves in shortly after. The nature of walkaways has changed; it is not clients leaving after working in the community.
  - Cliff Riedel requests a discussion on walkaways being downgraded to a misdemeanor. He argues that there is a difference between someone leaving for a few hours or a long period of time. Sometimes these clients are screened again for placement shortly after being terminated. He suggests reevaluating the criteria for clients who have escaped from LCCC in the past.
    - Alexis Ongley agrees and informs him that this may be a topic of discussion at the board retreat.
- Tim Hand asks Kenneth Evans if he has questions. He asks for clarification on what the DCJ is. Tim explains that it is the Division of Criminal Justice under the State Department of Public Safety and oversees multiple programs in the criminal justice system.
  - He also asks for clarification on the criteria for Conrad Ball award. Tim explains that any person contributing to criminal justice in Larimer county is eligible. He will follow up and explain this more as part of his fellowship.
  - Kenneth Evans explains that he will be taking over the Larimer County/Fort Collins area cases for federal probation, as the previous person in the position has been promoted. He welcomes any questions or interest in his work.
- Emily Humphrey adds that she has had the opportunity to meet with clients as she transitions into her new position. The clients praise the treatment and residential programs and generally agree that LCCC has changed their lives. The program here is second to none and has allowed them to take steps to successfully reentering the community. She believes that LCCC is one of the best programs in the state and that especially during COVID-19, the programs have served clients well.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54pm

July's meeting will be held July 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00pm in the Hearing Room at 200 W Oak or via Zoom (details to be determined)