

**LARIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
May 19, 2020**

Members Present: Donald Van Pelt, Katie Mangan, Ed Seegrist, Jeff French, Kristine Miller, David Koons, Beth Ayasse, Judge Brinegar, Chris Gastelle, Emily Humphrey, William Sublette, John Kefalas, Michael Allen, Cliff Riedel, Sara Steen, Matt Landers, Staci Shaffer

Guest: Megan Valliere

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

The meeting took place via Zoom and was called to order at 12:01 pm by Tim Hand

BUDGET CUTS

- Tim Hand reports that this has been a contentious discussion as the state tries to determine if cutting the bed numbers or the per diem rate is a better option. Losing the current per diem rate would be potentially devastating to LCCC. Much of this will depend on how quickly normal operations can resume, although this may be months away. He asks for questions from the board.
- Jeff French confirms that they are planning on cutting 240 beds. Tim Hand explains that this is statewide—these beds will not be filled any time soon. For instance, Core Civic in the Denver area is down 400 beds right now.

BOARD VACANCIES

- Tim Hand has been communicating with Commissioner Kefalas about the two board vacancies. He will be reaching out to Debra Unger in the Commissioners' Office to set up interviews, but these will most likely not actually take place until mid-June.
- Commissioner Kefalas reports that there are several re-applicants and one or two new applicants.

ISP-I DISCUSSION

- Tim Hand asks for Jeff French's assistance discussing this, but he believes that four individuals have been released to Larimer County without approval or review by the LCCC Board. DOC cites an executive order from the Governor to make these releases. LCCC is working with the county attorney to address this process.
- Jeff French says that there are no more ISP-I releases this month. He will share the information he receives about any future releases with LCCC Advisory Board members so that they are aware. Larimer County is not receiving the same number of these cases as Denver and other parts of the state.
- Tim Hand adds that he has discussed this program with the attorney in charge of DOC as well as Larimer County's attorney. One area of frequent discussion has been LCCC's ability to use its decision-making tool to see what range these individuals will fall in as they are released. He promises to keep the board informed of any increases to the number of these cases.
- He asks Jeff French if there are any concerns with providing the board with necessary information to use the assessment tool. Jeff French says he does not foresee any issue. Tim Hand will ask Beth Corbitt or Alexis Ongley about how to effectively apply the tool to this scenario.

PANDEMIC RESPONSES IN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ACROSS COLORADO

- Tim Hand explains that at a recent LCCC management meeting, Dana Hersch and other staff were asked for information on what other community corrections facilities are doing. He asks Dana Hersch to summarize this.
- Dana Hersch reports that Katie Ruske attended the most recent Coalition meeting and was asked if there would be another 30 days of subsistence provided. She said they would not be able to do so. Many facilities are starting to open up; similar to LCCC, they are requiring temperature and symptom checks. Most facilities' bed counts are down. Some facilities are not doing intakes, while those that are may be implementing some sort of quarantine. Anywhere between 30-60 percent of a facility's population are able to work as essential

workers or have been working this whole time. Before beds were cut back, the ACLU had been making lots of requests about safety and bed capacity. With the decrease in beds, many of those concerns have been addressed. Escapes are up across the state, except for LCCC, which she feels says something about the quality of the pandemic response here.

ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT

- Tim Hand expresses his goal for a Community Corrections Advisory Board retreat. It would be a half day with DCJ-led presentations and some small group time. There has not been a retreat opportunity like this for some time. He asks for the board's blessing to discuss this further with LCCC staff and the executive board.
- Kristine Miller has asked in the past if CACCB could be hosted here. Tim Hand assures her that LCCC will look into this for later in the year. He would want to make it a great event with tours and other activities for meeting attendees.
- He asks for any questions or concerns at this time. Hearing none, he plans to proceed with researching both ideas

SUBCOMMITTEE VOTING PROCESS

- Alexis Ongley explains that with the pandemic operations and safety protocols stretching on indefinitely, there have been requests to have Subcommittee meetings at the normal day and time via Zoom in order to have true discussions. She asks for concerns or questions.
- William Sublette explains that he has concerns about discussing interpersonal relationships over Zoom. He suggests meeting outside when possible. He does feel that Zoom is better than just Slack, however.
 - Jeff French agrees that it is a better alternative than just Slack and says that he would like to utilize Zoom.
- Alexis Ongley says that she will try to get the licensing setup and ready to go in the next two weeks.

COVID-19 IMPACTS AND FACILITY UPDATES

- Tim Hand explains that there has only been one positive case of COVID-19 and only one escape. Numerous tests have been done on clients to confirm this and safety precautions are still being taken.
- Evaluations Updates
 - Alexis Ongley explains that staff are balancing safety and normal operations as much as possible. For office spaces without room for social distancing, plexiglass will be installed. The Evaluations Unit will be going back into the jail to do fac- to-face meetings. Video conferencing and phone calls will be used when social distancing is not possible.
- New Intakes, Furloughs, & Client Supervision Updates
 - Alexis Ongley reports that staff are exploring how to build capacity with furloughs. Clients who are Level 3 Complete will be furloughed at the start of Level 4, and transition to Non-Res while still on furlough. Clients who are most stable will be prioritized for the furlough—this includes factors such as income, approved living location, savings of \$300 minimum, no jail sentences, reliable transportation for substance monitoring/meetings, and no pending write-ups or disciplinary action. These clients will be monitored per DCJ standards as regular furloughs (phone contact and home visits). Higher risk cases such as sex offenders and victim notifications will be placed on GPS monitoring.
 - Cliff Riedel asks if the victims of furloughed VRA cases are notified. Mike Ruttenberg explains that all victims of furloughed cases are notified of where the client is in the program and what monitoring and supervision look like. Victims are contacted multiple times through different mediums to make sure any questions are answered.
 - Cliff Riedel asks if priority was given to non-VRA cases. Alexis Ongley explains that the priority is non-VNot cases. Cliff Reidel clarifies that all cases are VNot unless they opt out. Mike Ruttenberg agrees and explains that the language is used similarly in LCCC, but that staff are following the law and notifying victims who have not explicitly opted out of communication. Tim Hand adds that there is GPS monitoring for high risk cases, including these.
 - Jeff French asks if LCCC is furloughing out of county. Alexis Ongley says no. Jeff French has heard of some out of county furloughs coming into Larimer County without notification. He will research this.
 - Dana Hersch explains that this Monday, May 18th was the first day clients could leave the facility to

work. 60 men were moved to ASD to socially distance and maintain health standards. ASD staff have been incredibly helpful with this transition. There is also a waitlist of working men waiting to move into those spots as they open up. There are currently 16 working women, and 6 women waiting for a spot. She is working with facilities to create partitions to allow for more workers going to the same location. The whole building was rearranged to accommodate these workers, quarantine, and treatment groups. Each group is its own cohort or "family unit". Mealtimes and rec times are done together. Substance monitoring has continued during this time. Furloughs are monitored at least twice a day at their residence and twice a week at work.

- Clients approved to work underwent an orientation process outlining the new expectations. Failure to comply results in a loss of working privileges.
- Mike Ruttenberg reports that treatment has been evaluating processes on both an internal and external level. Internally, treatment schedules have been redone to include a 14-day quarantine (within the 90-day IRT). For STIRT, Signal has approved a 14-day quarantine at the Pre-STIRT rate. Capacity has been greatly reduced during this time, and intakes are only coming from LCJ or clients already in the building.
 - Level two intakes will allow clients to be brought in from other jails or detox facilities. This will require documentation from the facility on any potential symptoms of the client and other cases of COVID-19 in their buildings. Professional transportation is required. All intakes need to start at the same time to begin quarantine consistently. During the quarantine period, case planning, assessments, and one-on-one meetings will be done to prepare for treatment, as well as transition planning for treatment completion. If level two intakes do not get the programs up to capacity, community intakes will be considered, with criteria to be determined. He will be working closely with the evaluations unit to monitor quarantine times and available bed space to safely and effectively bring people in. They are also working closely with evaluations on treatment referrals to determine how many of a given number of intakes will be treatment spots. STIRT's first groups will be starting after Memorial Day.
- Tim Hand explains that there was a case scored for IRT and they were attempting to get a bed ready, but a criminal advocate has argued that the COVID-19 safety concerns in community corrections IRT programs is too high. Jeff French adds that this was a case he asked to be screened after the individual was revoked from parole, and then re-paroled. This client will be placed in a different program in Denver, which may not be as good a fit. Tim Hand says they will explore this scenario more.
 - Mike Ruttenberg reports that he has done research on this Try program and what it can do for individuals seeking treatment. He adds that statewide there has not been a positive case of COVID-19 in an IRT program statewide. He and other providers are working to meet the needs of the population as substance use disorders are on the rise. Try and Oxford Houses are not a replacement for inpatient substance abuse treatment, but do serve a purpose. He will be meeting with providers statewide to discuss this issue and develop a coordinated plan to educate and partner across the system to effectively serve this population and support one another.
 - Tim Hand adds that he and Emily Humphrey will be meeting on this as well.

GRANT APPLICATION

- Tim Hand reports that Bryan Schissler, with the help of Ingrid Schroeder, is putting together an application for a federal grant for funding related to COVID-19-related expenses. There must be some outcome measures and lots of information provided to be considered for these funds. The deadline has been extended, which allows for more time to prepare, but Ingrid Schroeder adds that they are excited to see what options come of this.
- Tim Hand will update on the outcome at the June meeting.

LCJ MASK PROGRAM

- Staci Shaffer reports that she trained several inmates on how to sew and they have made about 3000 cloth masks. These masks have been brought to LCCC and other charitable organizations. All inmates have at least one mask to wear and one to wash. The individuals sewing have been very excited to help during this time. She adds that fabric donations are appreciated. Inmates are meeting several times a week as a program to support one another and the community.

- Michael Allen adds that they have been very appreciative of this program.
- Tim Hand adds that he has been very impressed with the relationships developed with ASD and the Sheriff's Department. The jail backlog will hopefully be addressed by the end of May, and hopefully will be down to single digits.

CONRAD BALL UPDATES

- Araceli Santistevan explains that there are some tentative dates for a rescheduled Conrad Ball Award Banquet in September, but it is unclear if the board will be able to have this gathering by that point. It may be simpler to combine awards for the 2020 and 2021 awards next May. In the meantime, she asks for approval to close the nomination window and send submissions to the board for voting. Jeff French and Tim Hand approve.
- William Sublette motions to close the nomination window and Kristine Miller seconds. The Motion passes unanimously with no further discussion.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Tim Hand asks if there are any questions. He adds that the slides this month look very different than this time last year, but there are still approximately 230 clients in the building.
- Commissioner Kefalas explains that the County submitted a waiver and alternate COVID-19 suppression plan to the state health department. They've identified 12 areas, largely businesses and infrastructure, that this plan will apply to. If approved, it will give the county more local control for COVID-19 responses and helping people safely go back to work. Alexis Ongley responds that this is great news.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 pm

June's meeting will be held June 16th at 12:00pm in the Powderhorn Room at Alternative Sentencing, or via Zoom (details to be determined)