

# LARIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

## ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

### January 19, 2021

**Members Present:** Ed Seegrist, Matt Landers, David Koons, Linda Hoffmann, Jeff Swoboda, Katrina Mangan, Kristine Miller, Heather O'Hayre, William Sublet, Sid Simonson, Chris Gastelle, Allyce Lobdell, Beth Ayasse, Michael Allen, Judge Villaseñor

**Staff Present:** Alexis Ongley, Tim Hand, Michael Ruttenberg, Jake Hubb, Emily Humphrey

**Notes:** Shelley Durkin

The meeting took place via Zoom and was called to order at 12:02 pm by Chair Ed Seegrist

#### **New Board Members**

- Tim Hand shares that we have several new board members.
  - Commissioner Stephens has been assigned to our board and will join us as soon as she is settled. Tim thanks Commissioner Kefalas for his work with Community Corrections and looks forward to welcoming Commissioner Stephens.
  - The DA seat will be filled by DA Gordon McLaughlin or delegated to ADA Matt Maillaro. They will be touring ComCor on 2/3/21.
  - Parole office vacancy – until there is a supervisor identified in the role here in Larimer County, we will have a fill-in Board Member.
  - Ed Seegrist has had some discussions with Melissa Gallardo from Parole, and it does not look like we will have a local Larimer County resident in as the Chief Probation Officer.
  - Currently in the bylaws, the Parole officer on the board needs to be a resident of the Larimer County.
  - Matt Landers brings to motions that we do not change the bylaws, rather add an addendum of allowing a stand-in on the board, on a temporary basis, until a permanent member is chosen.
  - Ed Seegrist brings to a vote the allowance of Melissa Gallardo temporarily filling the Parole Officer seat on the board.
    - All are in favor and the motion is passed. We will accept a temporary assignment if Melissa wants to join us.
  - Lastly, Tim checks in with Chris Gastelle on his retirement and seat on the board.
    - Chris mentions that they should know who the next Chief of Probation will be in the next couple of weeks, for sure by the February meeting.

#### **Judge Tours**

- Chief Judge Susan Blanco looks forward to seeing us all in February. Tim Hand shares he had a nice visit with her at ComCor a couple of weeks ago.
- Judge Cure was given a tour last week and had a chance to go around and speak with some staff and residents.
- Tim has been speaking with Chief Judge Blanco about starting tours again in 2021 for all new judges and any judge who would like a tour of the facility.

#### **Legislative Group Presentation 1/20/21**

- Emily Humphrey and Michelle Bird hosted another Larimer Legislative Issues Meeting. The meeting was to update Larimer County legislators on proposed state legislation that will impact our Community Corrections funding.

## COVID-19 updates

- Hotel update
  - Jake Hubb shares that we had our first group of clients return to the facility after being in isolation at the hotel for 2.5 weeks. We had ten male clients down there, but all have been picked up and there are currently no more ComCor clients at the hotel.
  - The staff at the Best Western were a pleasure to work with. The staff reported that our clients were easy to work with and low key. All things considering, it went really well.
    - First round of drug tests were negative, staff was visiting every morning delivering meds, and staff were conducting evening check ins.
- COVID Operation Updates
  - We now have rapid testing capabilities at the facility.
  - Alexis Ongley shares that several staff members have been trained to begin conducting rapid test. We were given permission from the health department to have clients to swab in their own nose.
  - Staff then take the swab and insert it into a card with the reagent. Results come back within 15 minutes.
  - We are rapid testing anyone who has any mild symptoms.
  - Alexis continues by sharing that if there are any positives the client can be moved offsite immediately. The process for handling a positive is then set in motion and the positive is reported to the statewide data base.
  - Alexis explains that we are now on outbreak status. For us, an outbreak is defined as transmission within the program. We have previously had a few positives from clients going to work and in the community, but there was no transmission within our program.
  - We recently went to outbreak status as we had one client who got sick at work and 2 of his roommates were infected.
  - To halt the spread of the virus, all clients who were in that room were then sent offsite to control the spread. Everyone else came back negative and was cleared to come back after their time at the hotel.
  - Once we are classified as an outbreak site, all positives are then reported and added to that number.
    - Our total includes 5 clients and 8 staff. The staff number also includes contract workers. We have not had any additional positives since the 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - We are a couple weeks into surveillance testing all clients in the facility and have done around 200 tests since the 12<sup>th</sup>, all of which have come back negative.
- Vaccines
  - Emily Humphrey shares that she has been persistently trying to get vaccinations for the staff and clients in our facility.
  - Linda Hoffman helped advocate for our need and Emily was called and given the green light for our staff to be vaccinated.
  - All CJS staff can get their vaccine during appointments this week and next. Emily does not know when it will move down to the clients, but for now the 200 staff have the opportunity.

## Conrad Ball 2020 and 2021 updates

- Matt Landers shares that we are going to delay the formal Conrad Ball, as of now. The hope is to have a combined 42<sup>nd</sup> annual award winner with the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual award winner in the fall of 2021.
- We will open nominations for the 2020 winner soon.
- Shelley Durkin mentions that we are aiming for end of January or the first of February to open the award nominations. Stay tuned for updates.

## IRT funding

- Mike Ruttenberg shares an update on IRT (Intensive Residential Treatment) funding.
  - We had been using a 14-day IRT quarantine model. This was effective for quarantine but not

for staffing, as the cohorts were overlapping.

- The Treatment team came up with the idea, and permission was requested from DCJ to fund not only fund the per diem for felony quarantine clients but also misdemeanor.
- Clients can now come in for 10 days at the Residential rate. During this time, they will have some case management meetings.
- At day 11 they are moved to IRT funding. The first 4 days of IRT funding is focused on assessment, treatment plans, and check-ins.
- On day 15 they are ready to go in the full program.

### **Legislative Updates**

- Tim Hand shares that Dana Hersch had a Coalition meeting last Wednesday.
  - There is a letter being drafted to the Joint Budget Committee by Colorado County INC.
  - In addition, a letter was sent to the Governor's office by a Commissioner in Montrose who was quite candid about his thoughts on the proposed budget cut.
- Tim shares that there is not a whole lot of new information, but a lot of people working very hard behind the scenes to advocate for community corrections.
- Chris Gastelle mentions that Judicial side was told to add an amended budget request. He said that it appears the state might have a little more money to spend than they thought. He is not sure about the Executive side, but he explains it does not appear that there is as large of a need to cut the budget as they once believed.
- Tim shares that at Administrative Matters Lisa Carlson spoke about 2<sup>nd</sup> chance and Wagees programs. LCCC is reaching out to these programs on how we can work together.
- Tim and Emily spoke about requesting a Wagees grant to create an alumni program. Tim would like to see a mentorship program started where alumnus, who are doing well, can come back to ComCor and meet with current clients for motivation and inspiration.

### **DOC Case Management Meeting**

- Alexis Ongley explains that before the subcommittee last Monday, DOC case management staff zoomed in and did some QA about our programs and processes and what we look for when Evals is screening.
- She mentions that they asked a lot of good questions, they received answers, looked into the decision-making tool, and then they were able to observe the subcommittee voting. This was to help bridge some gaps between DOC and ComCor.

### **Open Discussion**

- Tim Hand asks for feedback from the committee on how they feel the Advisory Board meetings are going and if there is anything Tim or the Executive Board can do to improve.
  - William Sublette shares that Zoom is not ideal, but this is what we have to do.
- Tim would like everyone to know that at any time board members can send Tim feedback.
  - We will continue to do our best, but please let us know if there is anything you can think of for areas of improvement.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46