

# LARIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

## ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

### March 16, 2021

**Members Present:** Ed Seegrist, Greg Otte, Katrina Mangan, Sam Houghteling, Staci Shaffer, Beth Ayasse, Melissa Divido, Allyce Lobdell, Michael Allen, Sara Steen, Jeffery Swoboda, Gordon McLaughlin, Sid Simonson, Kristine Miller, Matt Landers, Kristin Stephens, Staci Shaffer, Stephen Jourard

**Staff Present:** Alexis Ongley, Tim Hand, Michael Ruttenberg, 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 Mattresses**

- Tim Hand explains that the first shipment of replacement mattresses for the facility came in a couple weeks ago. We will be getting a second shipment in April.
- Mike Ruttenberg was able to coordinate a donation of 50 old mattress, in good condition, to the Denver Rescue Mission.
  - Mike explains that we will be more proactive with the next round.

#### **JAG Grants**

- Tim Hand shares that we are working closely with our IT department to replace our old, outdated camera system. Dana Hersch and Bryan Schissler, along with several others, did a great job putting together a JAG grant and we are hoping to be selected.
- Alexis Ongley shares that she, Dr. Tara Opsal from Colorado State University, and Dr. Alex Walker, have been working together on a JAG grant application through CSU with Community Corrections.
- Alexis explains that the goal for the first leg of the grant is to do some program evaluation and gap analysis of our women's program, looking at gender specific programming.
  - Hopefully after we get this grant, and the results from the program evaluation and gap analysis, we can move into a continuation of the grant for implantation, which will pair nicely with our expansion and our services to the female population.

#### **Social Security for Clients**

- Alexis Ongley explains that Community Corrections clients are not eligible for Social Security benefits during the residential portion of our program, per our local Social Security office.
- This is a great disservice to our clients, as many of them need these benefits to transition back to our community. She explains that if they are going to receive benefits outside of our program, they need to be eligible here as well to save funding and support their needs.
- Alexis further explains that there is no federal definition in terms of if people can receive Social Security while under Community Corrections supervision. This has been left up to local offices, who vary on how they approach this.
- Alexis' next step is to speak with programs across the state and find out who's clients can receive benefits, and which programs have clients who cannot.
- The Executive Board has spoken on this at length and are all on board to help solve this problem locally. They would like to get in connection with Commissioners and State Legislators.
- Sam Houghteling stated that he and the Executive Board agree that there is a sense of urgency and that we should explore a few different things simultaneously. If we can get a fix locally that would be great to help our clients, and in addition, if we can move larger legislative fix that would impact the state on a larger scale.
- Commissioner Kristin Stephens says she is very willing to help and to bring this forward to our state representatives.

## COVID-19 Updates

- Alexis Ongley shares that we went 25 days without a positive case in our program, we only needed to go 28 to get off outbreak status.
- Based on the information we found from digging in, Alexis shares that we believe this was a residual positive test and that the client was/is no longer infectious. However, because this could not be verified, the client followed all positive case protocols. Thus far, there has been no transmission or positives from people who were in close contact.
- We need to stay case free until April 1<sup>st</sup> to get off outbreak status.
- Mike Ruttenberg further explains that the client who tested positive was in close contact with several staff and clients due to being in the treatment program and still no transmission was found, adding to the suspicion of the test being a residual positive.
- Emily Humphrey took a few moments to talk about vaccinations. She explains that most of our staff have been fortunate to get vaccinated, and that we are now working on vaccinating those in the care of our facility.
- Many clients in our care currently, or soon will, meet the requirements that are out in the community to get vaccinated; they just do not have means to register or transportation to get to the appointment. These requirements include age, 1-2 underlying health conditions, service industry workers, grocery store workers, etc.
- Emily is working with the State and Local Department of Health to try to set up a vaccination clinic at Community Corrections for those that meet the vaccination requirements (around 140 or so clients.) She mentions the best one for our facility would be the Johnson and Johnson shot because it is a one-time deal.

## Legislative Updates

- Tim Hand continues to keep close eye on any legislation.
  - RO2 grant funding model and 22-million-dollar budget cut is gone for now. There was a tremendous amount of support from the Board Members and Commissioners.
  - Senate Bill 146 – Improve Prison Release Outcomes. This is referring to Special Needs Parole.
  - House Bill 1215 – Expansion of the Justice Crime Initiative. Brining more dollars to WAGEE programs, specifically sates sex offenders to be eligible for these grants and funding.
- Tim Hand shares a document (Parole Board Progression Matrix Narrative) that he has been collaborating on for the Parole Board. Work sessions included Community Corrections, DCJ, and the Parole Board. The Parole Board Progression Matrix Narrative is still in draft form, and Tim expects it to be approved after the next Governor’s Advisory Council.

## Conrad Ball Update

- Shelley Durkin explains that we have four nominations so far for the 2020 Award recipient. Award nominations are open until March 31<sup>st</sup>, please remind your teams and get your nominations in.
- <https://www.larimer.org/comcor/conrad-ball-award-nomination>
- Shelley is working on securing a location for a hopeful 2021 Conrad Ball this fall, pending state a local guideline.

## Selections Subcommittee

- Ed Seegrst shares that the Executive Board has been looking at ways to possibly “shake-up” or alter the subcommittee rotations. Some of the rotations have several new members, while another rotation has had the same voting members for a long time.
- Ed Seegrst suggested an idea of having 2 trimester rotations, where a couple voting members would overlap between the rotation prior and the new rotation.
- Alexis Ongley shares that she ran numbers on outcomes and will be working on a mock rotation to share with the Board.

**Commissioner's Questionnaire**

- Tim Hand shares that Commissioner's Questionnaire is due to the commissioners this week. They have asked that all members, even new members, fill out the questionnaire if possible. The questionnaire will be attached with the notes.

**Annual Report**

- Shelley Durkin and Tim Hand share the 2020 Annual Report Draft that is about 90% done.
- Once the draft is finalized, it will be shared with the Executive Board, followed by the Advisory Board.
- Alexis and Tim ask if any Board members would like to review the Annual Report while it is in DRAFT form. Please let Alexis or Shelley know.

**Adjourn at 12:38**