

# LARIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

## ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

### May 18th, 2021

**Members Present:** Ed Seegrist, Allyce Lobdell, Linda Hoffman, Katrina Mangan, Melissa Divido, David Koons, , Greg Otte, Chief Judge Blanco, Michael Allen, Sara Steen, Matt Landers, Heather O’Hayre, Commissioner Stephens, Gordon McLaughlin, Sid Simonson, Sam Houghteling, Emily Humphrey

**Staff Present:** Alexis Ongley, Tim Hand, Michael Ruttenberg, Alex Danielson, Miguel LaLond

**Notes:** Shelley Durkin

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

#### **Seat Vacancy End of June**

- Alexis Ongley thanks the Board members who renewed their seats and explains that we will have one seat vacancy beginning the end of June as Beth Ayasse is not renewing her term.
- Ed Seegrist thanks Beth Ayasse for her contributions to the Board over the years.
- Tim Hand shares that Emily Humphrey is working on some recruitment for the open seat. Tim will work with the Commissioner’s office on interviewing for the new member.

#### **In-person vs. Virtual Meetings/Board Presence in the facility**

- Alexis Ongley shares that in the subcommittee survey responses collected, many people inquired about how the board meetings and subcommittee meetings will be held moving forward.
- Sam Houghteling explains that the Executive Board had brainstormed some ideas and felt that the technology and ease of Zoom meetings have created some efficiencies but has taken away the “Board presence” in the facility.
  - The Executive Board suggested that most of the Monday subcommittee meetings remain on Zoom for ease and efficiency, but to possibly have a quarterly subcommittee meeting in person.
  - In addition to a quarterly subcommittee meeting in person, Sam suggested that we have a couple Board members tour Community Corrections each month to have presence in the facility and to chat with the staff and clients to stay connected.
  - As far as the monthly meetings, a suggestion was made to try to move back to in person, if rooms are available. Shelley Durkin will look into room availability. These meetings will once again provide lunch if we can find a space. If rooms are not available one month, we will have the meeting on Zoom.
  - As of now, there are not good options for a hybrid meeting with some folks in person and others on lines.
- Linda Hoffman adds that options for hybrid meetings should improve over time, but for now it is awkward and difficult.
- Michael Allen mentions that one of the reasons to have subcommittee in person is that it may be easier to hear from victims.
- Mike Ruttenberg says he feels there has been more of an opportunity for victim’s support with the virtual meetings.
- As far as subcommittee, they will remain on Zoom and the Executive Board will discuss plans for Board presence in the facility.

## **Review of Evaluations Slide**

- We received feedback requesting to review the slide decks so that the board understood the data.
- Alex Danielson, the Evaluations Supervisor, explains the Evaluations Unit's roll and what type of information is on the slide.
  - The Evaluations Unit is support staff for the Advisory Board. We are unique in that we are the only community corrections program in the state that has an Evaluations Unit.
  - The unit gives and reviews the LSI (Level of Supervision Inventory) Interview, the SSI-R (Simple Screening Instrument -Revised), the ASUS (Adult Substance Use Survey), and the TXRW (Treatment Recommendations Worksheet.) The unit works on Motivational Interviewing, developing rapport and empathy, and program placement of the client.
  - The slide is divided up between new referrals and cases screened with bar graphs showing numbers for Diversion/SOISP/Probation, Transition and Parole, and Feds.
- Linda Hoffman asks for clarification about the numbers being different between referrals and cases screened.
  - Alex Danielson explains that the referrals can come in chunks throughout the month and that the cases are screened closer to the sentencing date. Evaluators are trying to screen 8 cases a week.
- Matt Landers asks if we are noticing any trends for referrals.
  - Alex explains that referrals for clients who are RDDT are going through the roof.
  - Our referrals for IRT and STIRT are going up. The pandemic has caused lots of variables to change and we are seeing more mental health needs, usage, and loss of jobs.
  - She also says that the Transition numbers has gone way down. However, there has been an increase in DOC referrals recently.

## **Standards Notes Check-in**

- Last month we talked about the Colorado Community Corrections Standards and Alexis created a cliffs-note version to share with the board.
- Alexis Ongley checks in with everyone about the information she shared and offers to set up a meeting with anyone if more information is wanted.

## **Social Security Benefits Update**

- Alexis Ongley met with Vanessa Fewell and found that there are some local resources that we can use right now to help folks who need support in their transition.
- Alexis explains we have 2 Medicaid staff designated to CJS who are helping clients get set up with Medicaid. They assist when a client is on their way in, and then on their way out they check to make sure they are set up to go into the community.
- Sam Houghteling explains that the Executive Board brainstormed ideas to get the policy changed at a state level. There will be a planning session with the Executive Board and Commissioner Stephens to try to craft something up with our local congressional representatives.
- Linda Hoffman mentions that one of the hurdles we always hit at the state level is that there are not a lot of colleagues, since there are few County run programs. She is curious if we can find any partners across the states.

## **Victim's Rights**

- Ed Seegrst explains that the selections committee encountered a unique situation during a subcommittee meeting in April and a discussion on victim's rights and input is needed.
  - The Board had decided a while back that there would be one representative from the victim's family allowed to present on the impact, and this presentation would be capped

- at 10 minutes. Others could be present but not speak.
- The subcommittee members elected to allow others to speak out of compassion and empathy for the family's tragic situation.
  - Tim Hand asks for feedback on the one-person rule or if the board wishes to reassess the guidelines?
  - Tim Hand, Mike Ruttenberg, and Alexis Ongley will get together and discuss the parameters.
  - Sam Houghteling mentions that he sees three issues/sub conversations that need to happen
    - How does the board know about these policies?
    - Who is the facilitator, or do we need an assigned facilitator?
    - What do we want the Policy to be?
  - Emily Humphrey adds that the Diversion clients and Transition clients have different policies.
  - A few Board members express their concern about the subcommittee meetings becoming a hearing if many can speak and/or lawyers are present.
  - Tim Hand makes a recommendation to create a small group to move forward and discuss details. Volunteers for the Victim's Rights focus group include David Koons, Linda Hoffman, Ed Seegrist, Mike Ruttenberg, Alex Danielson, Melissa Divido, Sara Steen, Alexis Ongley, Matt Landers, and Katrina Mangan.
  - Shelley Durkin will send a Doodle Poll to schedule to focus group meeting.

**Adjourn at 1:08**