

CJCC Meeting Minutes:

January 21, 2025

Attendees: Judge Lisa McDougal, Sue Larson-New Day Counseling-treatment provider, Kristin Ihm-Probation and Parole Supervisor-DOC, Savannah DuCharme-Treatment Court Coordinator, Brandi Christianson- Behavioral Health Services Manager, Trisha Clements-Director of HHS, Jeffrey Erickson-Public Defender, Sheriff Clay Porter, Billy Jones, Jenifer Laue- Judicial Assistant, Pastor Frank Hoffman-Richland County Ministerial Association, DA Jennifer Harper

Judge McDougal calls the meeting to order at 8:32 am
Proof of Notification is confirmed.

Motion to approve agenda by Sheriff Porter, second by Trish Clements.
Motion to approve October 8, 2024 minutes by Billy Jones, second by Trish Clements.

Introduction of Pastor Hoffman as Larry Engels recently became a County Board Supervisor.
Pastor Frank Hoffman gives a brief background.

Committee Structure:

Trisha states we should have a county board supervisor as a member of this committee. A copy of the statute requirement was provided to the committee. There is also a question regarding the right to vote. For example, with Savannah, Brandi and Trish attending this meeting, how many votes should HHS get? Law enforcement gets one vote. She refers to the statute on treatment programs. Judge McDougal states we operate under the TAD grant.

Discussion on the representative from the County Board and Private Social Services Agency. The Private Social Service Agency has previously been someone from Passages. The required committee members are being reviewed by County Clerk-Derek Kalish for compliance. Discussion on additional people as members such as a recent graduates. Linda Tylor from The Richland Hospital has indicated she is willing to join this committee.

Trisha will reach out to MIS regarding creating a group CJCC member list.

This committee reports to the public safety committee. Members will look into finding and confirming a mission statement and by-laws.

Bail Monitoring: Jennifer Harper is recommending a bail monitoring program but there is not money or staffing to support it. Judge McDougal states there are other one judge rural counties that are similar to us. The next step is to have a meeting with Clay, Devon, Jennifer, etc. The more we can assess people and set bail appropriately, the better it is for public safety. Bail monitoring is also done to ensure they are complying with bond. Grant funding seems to have shifted focus to overhead expenses. Incentives have been cut out of the grant. Discussion on getting buy-in from the community.

Assessments: Kiah is currently conducting assessments; she is also trained in DV. Jessica Wallace-Mental Health therapist from Richland County HHS is conducting anger management assessments. Kiah is also conducting assessments for Vernon County. Judge states that paying for an assessment may be a barrier.

A person on probation often waits until the end of the probation to do these assessments. Probation does DV assessments and training virtually. When they are probation, they do not need to pay for it. They may get lesser charges so it can work as a diversion program.

Treatment court can be a deterrent so people don't acquire new charges.
The numbers indicate there is less recidivism.
We have had 33 graduates. 30 from alcohol and 3 from drug court.

Keeping graduates involved: Discussion on after-care and being eased out of the program. They need at least a year of sobriety. The National recommendation is to look at phasing and individualizing the competition of Treatment Court. Pre-graduation funding – check into Tad funding.

Probation does not do any differently for someone coming out of treatment court.

Exit Interviews for graduates: It was suggested that participants may feel more comfortable and forthcoming with information if the exit interview was with just the judge and not the whole team.

Request to attend National Conference was denied.

The request to use opiate funds to attend the National conference in Florida denied. This committee is a multidisciplinary team and with different tracks. For example: Judges may receive different information than law enforcement. It may not be pertinent for judges to provide their information to law enforcement. There appears to be a lack of understanding. Additional education to the county board and community is needed. The county did not want to set a precedence. Clarification was made that the funds stem from a settlement funds. Trish Clements stated that if the money doesn't get spent, it never sunsets. This money is in a separate fund. Sue Larson recommended giving a power point presentation to the county board and HHS committee.

HHS does have a power point.

We may gain support by showing that Treatment Court saves money.

Motion to adjourn by Sheriff Porter, second by Trisha Clements

Future Agenda Items

1. Committee Structure
2. Review Mission statement / by laws
3. Bail Monitoring-ongoing discussion
4. Assessments / Domestic Violence –ongoing discussion
5. Quarterly Treatment Court Report
6. Discussion on implementing Treatment Court after care
(More of a phase out of the program approach, include graduates)

Next meeting: April 1, 2025 in the County Board room.

