Community Corrections

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 24th, 2022

Present: Michael Nance, Annette Bowden, Judge Schein, Tim Turner, Sheriff Nielsen, Craig Olsinski, Sam Myers, Lynette Clark, Tom Santelli, Brian Tharp, Aaron Hedges, Katie DeVries, Hannah Catt, Carissa Smith

Approval of previous board meeting minutes – Tom Santelli moved to approve, Sheriff Nielsen seconded. No opposition.

Financial Report for July, August, and September – summary of project income and grants awarded to the department. Using positive reinforcement and incentive time to get clients to make payments is working well. Program growth is attributing, which is essential due to the new justice center projected to increase expenses for the department. Judge Schein moved to approve, Tom Santelli seconded.

JDAI Update –Judge Schein presented the announcement of Denise Schoeff retiring, and Lauri Thompson will take over her position. They attended a JDAI Conference earlier this month and are working on reviewing programming and how it has been received by the community. Judge announced that there may be some “revamping” of JDAI following the new coordinator and the information received from the conference.

Felony Diversion – Sam Myers presented, there are 69 clients currently on the program and they have had 4 unsuccessful discharges since the last Advisory Board meeting. However, Sam stated that their successes continuously outweigh the failures on the program overall.

Pretrial/Drug Court – Michael presented for Ashely, Judge Schein assisted with the Drug Court portion. Provisional Certification for Pretrial should be obtained by the end of the year. The Drug Court retreat went well, accomplishing their agenda by the first day. The policy and procedure manual has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by stakeholders. Following that approval, it will be sent to Indiana Office of Court Services and they will meet with stakeholders regarding provisional certification, which should begin the first quarter of 2023. Certification should be able to be obtained in summer 2023 if all goes well. All Drug Court cases will be transferred to Circuit Court, and court will be held Thursday afternoons.

Home Detention – Michael presented for Matt Williams. 92 bracelets are currently in use, the majority of which are Home Detention with some Work Release and one juvenile. Michael had a few conversations with Kent Eastwood (prosecutor, not present) regarding Russell v State being amended early 2023 and Home Detention will become an option for executed sentences again. Tom Santelli asked about employment rates for program participants, Michael clarified that number is very successful. Tom Santelli asked if clients can maintain their job and Michael stated that yes, in most cases clients are good at maintaining employment. Employment and job stability skills are something that case management focuses on building during appointments. Tom Santelli stated that he receives a lot of positive feedback from the community regarding the department helping individuals with a criminal history obtain and maintain employment.

Residential Facility/Current Work Release Update – Annette Bowden presented remotely. Work Release currently has 8 male clients, with capacity for up to 20. There have been 2 successfully removed from the program and one pending violation this afternoon. No concerns otherwise. Tom Santelli brought up transportation being a barrier to those involved in the program, to which Michael stated that our department is establishing a working relationship with Unite Indy and some employers from the business park in order to potentially establish a shuttle system for individuals from the jail to their work place. Tom Santelli suggested contacting Boone County Senior Services as well.

Quality Control – Katie DeVries presented an update on her new position, including duties (onboarding, running various reports, ensuring risk assessments and case plans are being created/updated as needed, analyzing data regarding client surveys and recidivism) and the establishment of continuous quality improvement. Each quarter, recidivism data is collected for all HD participants who have successfully or unsuccessfully completed the program. Recidivism is a new arrest or a probation violation if BCCC clients have probation to follow. As of October 1st, 18 out of 112 clients have recidivated which is roughly 16%. Drug Court will also require significant data collection, which will become a QA focus in 2023 as the program gets certified.

Board Member Changes – Michael presented that current member Kassie Fraizer advised that she believes she should step out of her position and nominated Matt Wilson of the Boone County Mentoring Program should take her place, as he would be a better fit. Sheriff Nielsen motioned to approve this proposal and Tom Santelli seconded.

Staff Changes – Michael presented the staff changes, including both field officers Shelby and Jake being promoted and introduced Aaron Hedges and Carissa Smith as new BCCC field officers. Michael also introduced Hannah Catt as the new pretrial case manager.

2021 Financial Audit – Michael updated that the DOC financial audit results are still pending. He will email the results to board members upon completion and present them at the next meeting.

Property Destruction Policy – Michael proposed BCCC have a policy on holding client property for 90 days prior to us disposing of it. Either when a client gets arrested in our office, or if a circumstance happens where a staff member has to confiscate something, then they can contact a family member to come and retrieve it within the allotted time frame. Jail Commander Tim Turner stated their policy is 30 days, and Judge Schein agreed with that 30 day mark as well as adding it to the BCCC handbook. Jail staff will provide BCCC a copy of their policy to review and potentially adopt. Judge Schein moved to approve this policy addition, Sheriff Nielsen seconded.

Senate Bill 9 Denial Policy – Michael proposed BCCC have a policy on denying any client that would be a transfer-in to Boone County who falls under the Senate Bill 9 notification due to their violent offense(s)/having a victim. Kent Eastwood (prosecutor) indicated via email to Michael that he agreed with this proposal. Judge Schein agreed that the denial of those violent offenders would be appropriate.

Operations Committee – Michael presented the announcement of reinstating the Operations Committee in regards to program growth with the residential facility. Annette and Michael would like the committee to meet at least monthly, potentially bi-weekly, in order to establish and review rules regarding the residential facility. Michael wanted to let the Advisory Board know if anyone would like to be involved in that decision making in addition to their involvement on the Advisory Board they need to email Annette. Michael and Annette will establish dates after her vacation and will notify the board via email on the specifics.

Local JRAC Meeting, open for business. The following topics were discussed:

Tom Santelli stated at the Mental Health Summit they covered mental health funding relating to criminal justice and the potential to team up with other counties in regards to resources, to which Sheriff Nielsen stated JRAC will have to be more involved in. A main issue in the mental health community is that there is a waiting list for psychiatric evaluations and beds in state hospitals. Judge Schein and Tom Santelli stated that a focus should be reducing individuals be incarcerated for severe mental health issues, and the goal is to get them out of jails and into mental health facilities.

Lynette Clark stated that she wanted to have on record that she is a local Crisis Intervention Team member and it is important to include that information to JRAC.

Meetings for 2023: January 23rd, April 24th, July 24th, and October 16th

Adjourned, motion by Sheriff Nielsen and seconded by Tom Santelli