



# Anoka County

## HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Community Corrections

Courthouse  
Adult Court  
Juvenile Court  
Juvenile Field

Rum River Human  
Service Center  
Workhouse  
Fahr Building 10  
Administration  
Building 13

Lino Lakes Juvenile  
Center  
Anoka County  
Secure  
Non-Secure  
Program  
East Central  
Regional  
Juvenile Center

February 7, 2022

**MEMO TO:** Anoka County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Judge Spencer Sokolowski	Michael McGee
Judge Sharon Hall	Morgan Whiterabbit
Judge John Dehen	Thomas Kinney
Judge Dyanna Street	Bryan Lindberg
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Michael Berger
Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Dr. Roger Worner
Commissioner Robyn West	Carter Diers
Dr. Ed Evans	Cindy Cesare
Robert DeRoche	Jerry Pederson
David Turnidge	

**FROM:** Don Kjonaas, Chair

**SUBJECT:** Community Corrections Advisory Board Meeting  
and Meeting of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners\*

**VIRTUAL via WebEx – Thursday, February 17, 2022 – 12 noon**

### A G E N D A

1. Approval of the January 20, 2022 meeting minutes - attached
2. Old Business
3. New Business
4. Juvenile Probation Report

copy: Dylan Warkentin, Corey Kohan, Rick Sells, Nate Parker, Beth Bloomenrader,  
Joshua Schmidt, Cary McCollor

Contact Tracy Rohloff at 763-324-4979 or [Tracy.Rohloff@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:Tracy.Rohloff@co.anoka.mn.us) to request a public WebEx link to the meeting.

*\* Actions taken by this Committee do not bind the County Board. In addition to the County Commissioners appointed to this committee, additional County Commissioners may attend. Non-committee Commissioners may choose to participate in the discussions and/or ask questions, but they will not vote on any item, nor will they agree to take a specific action on business conducted by the committee. If their attendance and limited participation in the committee meeting is considered a meeting of the County Board, this shall serve as notice of a County Board meeting. This shall also serve as notice of a County Board Meeting for any committee comprised of four or more members of the board.*

Working to Build a Safer Community

Anoka County Courthouse ▲ 2100 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Suite C100 ▲ Anoka, MN 55303 ▲ [www.anokacounty.us](http://www.anokacounty.us)  
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**Anoka County Community Corrections  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2022**

The Anoka County Community Corrections Advisory Board meeting was held virtually via WebEx on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 12 noon.

Board Members Present: Judge Sharon Hall, Judge John Dehen, Commissioner Mike Gamache, Commissioner Mandy Meisner, Don Kjonaas, Dr. Ed Evans, Robert DeRoche, David Turnidge, Michael McGee, Morgan Whiterabbit, Thomas Kinney, Bryan Lindberg, Michael Berger, Dr. Roger Worner, Carter Diers, Cindy Cesare, Jerry Pederson

Others Present: Dylan Warkentin, Corey Kohan, Nate Parker, Michael Sharon, Tracy Rohloff

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Chair Kjonaas called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM. Carter Diers, representing the Department of Corrections, was welcomed to the Board as a new member.

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The minutes of the November 18, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

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New/Old Business: None.

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**Lethality Project and IDAPP Update**

Dylan Warkentin presented a PowerPoint on the Intensive Domestic Assault Pre-Trial Program (IDAPP), the Lethality Assessment Project, and managing domestic violence clients in the Corrections Department. Corey Kohan, Manager, and Michael Sharon, Supervisor, also presented to the Board.

The Anoka County Lethality Assessment Project (LAP) is a multi-agency collaborative addressing intimate-partner domestic violence. The project was awarded a federal grant in 2010. The grant partners in Anoka County include the County Attorney’s Office, law enforcement agencies, Alexandra House, Corrections Department, the Public Defender’s Office, and the courts. The LAP project provides a fast-track to court for domestic violence cases, improves victim advocacy services, and provides an established pre-trial supervision program for high-risk defendants.

The Lethality Assessment Project is based on the research completed by Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell called the *Maryland Model*. The tool was developed from characteristics found in intimate partner homicides and serious injury. Lethality risk is assessed by information obtained from victims at the scene as immediate victim responses are the most accurate.

The Lethality Assessment is a twelve question screen that law enforcement uses at the scene with the victim. Based on the victim’s answers to certain questions, a determination is made if there’s high risk for lethality. If high risk is determined, a direct referral is provided for female victims to the Alexandra House for advocacy services. For male victims, resources and alternative housing referrals are provided. The lethality assessment then becomes a part of the police incident report and is utilized by bail agents to make recommendations to the Court. The police report and the LAP can be discoverable documents. The judge utilizes the assessment to make release decisions, which may include ordering the defendant to the IDAPP pretrial supervision program.

Dylan Warkentin presented lethality assessment data from the past five years. The number of referrals to Alexandra House from law enforcement remains consistent from 572 in 2017 to 584 in 2021. There was an increase in 2019

(658) and 2020 (603) during the pandemic. Additional data was provided regarding the number of LAP screens conducted and the number of high risk victims.

The court process for the defendant in jail includes:

- Corrections bail agents review the jail court calendar and determine cases in need of pre-trial evaluation or record checks. Bail agents complete pre-trial evaluations on all domestic abuse offenses.
- During the pretrial evaluation interview with the defendant, collateral/victim sources/phone number are requested. Recommendations are made to the Court. The Judge will determine whether the defendant is returned to jail, bail is set, or if the defendant is recommended to the IDAPP program.
- With the shift in business practices during remote hearings, the bail agent currently emails the completed pretrial evaluation to Court Administration, prosecutors, and defense attorneys.
- Bail agents reach out to prosecutors on cases that need to be screened for IDAPP so that information is available for the bail hearing.
- The prosecutor reviews police reports and lethality assessments to determine if victim was deemed high risk. Prosecutors provide the information at the bail hearing.
- The bail agent answers questions as needed, records court outcome, and communicates with IDAPP staff.

Aspects of domestic violence supervision best practices include:

- Coordinated justice system response where all key stakeholders work together.
- Corrections offers a specialized pre-trial program before sentencing and probation supervision after conviction.
- A comprehensive pre-sentence investigation is provided to the Court by Corrections, along with specialized risk assessment tools – Domestic Violence Screening Inventory (DVSI).
- The Court may order Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse treatment (if appropriate).
- The probation officer engages the victim directly for safety planning and coordinates with Victim Services and Advocacy.
- Expedited system response to threats, arrests, and violations.

The Intensive Domestic Assault Pre-trial Program (IDAPP) is a court-ordered pretrial supervision program that is an alternative to bail, and no fee is charged to the defendant. The program is offered to defendants charged with intimate-partner domestic violence and who are assessed high-risk to harm the victim on the lethality assessment. If the defendant chooses the program, there's a contract that they sign regarding conditions they must agree to throughout the program.

Admission criteria into the IDAPP program include:

- The defendant is charged with intimate-partner domestic assault or related offense.
- High-risk or danger to victim on lethality assessment.
- Court-ordered pretrial release option to bail.
- Defendant must be willing to participate – no cost.
- Approved residence suitable for supervision.
- Agree to the IDAPP contract conditions.
- Factors that impact admission and release from jail.

If the defendant agrees to participate in the program, upon release from jail they would report directly to the IDAPP office. Release conditions and contract are reviewed and signed. The probation officer makes contacts with the proposed residence and makes random visits to workplace and residence. Electronic monitoring may be assigned and random urinalysis and breath testing can occur. The probation officer communicates regularly with the victim and with the defendant and referrals are made to counseling and treatment. The probation officer provides support and encouragement, as well as accountability and compliance to the program.

A question was asked regarding visitation between the defendant and their children. Each situation is different and there are many factors to consider. Depending on whether the children were present during the domestic violence event will determine the type of visitation that is agreed upon or approved. In some cases, the Judge may make a decision as to how and where visitations are conducted.

Electronic monitoring for pre-trial defendants may include GPS monitoring or remote breathalyzer monitoring. For GPS monitoring, the defendant wears an electronic ankle transmitter that helps to monitor client movements upon release from custody. Felony level and high-risk domestic assault cases are placed on GPS monitoring for a minimum of 30 days. Remote breathalyzer monitoring includes a portable breathalyzer that monitors adherence to the No Use of Alcohol condition.

The Corrections Department has three probation agents assigned as Domestic Assault Specialists. These agents are very dedicated and collaborate with justice partners/law enforcement, victim advocacy, and community treatment providers. They attend specialized domestic violence intervention training and utilize correctional evidence-based practices. Communication with the victim regarding support and resources, along with working collaboratively with Alexandra House, is essential. The agents make frequent home and office visits and are highly responsive to non-compliant behavior.

Some typical conditions of probation for clients include:

- Felonies – stayed prison term and 3–5 years probation.
- Misdemeanors – up to 90 days jail stayed, one year probation.
- Gross Misdemeanors – up to one year jail stayed, two years probation.
- Local jail or Workhouse sanction.
- No contact with victim, direct or indirect.
- Domestic Abuse Treatment Programming.
- No use of mood-altering chemicals including alcohol.
- Remain law abiding, no assaultive behavior.
- Urinalysis and breath testing.
- No possession of firearms or dangerous weapons.

For any violations to supervision conditions, the Corrections agent will conduct an investigation and review options to address with the client via sanctions conference or through a violation report which results in a revocation hearing at court. The Court conducts the revocation hearing, reviews allegations of violation, and determines culpability and disposition. The client is either reinstated on probation, a sentence is executed, or the violation is dismissed.

Some unique challenges to supervision include a high caseload/workload for agents and stress/burnout, non-compliance of conditions often pose an increased risk to the victim, and the reunification of the offender and the victim or a new relationship.

Dylan, Corey, and Michael were thanked for their excellent presentation.

*PowerPoint is available with the Community Corrections Administration Office.*

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The meeting adjourned at 1:08 PM.

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**Next Meeting:** The next Community Corrections Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 12:00 noon on WebEx.