



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

March 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, March 17, 2022 – 12 noon

A G E N D A

1. Approval of the February 17, 2022 meeting minutes - attached
2. Old Business
3. New Business
4. Justice Reinvestment

copy: Dylan Warkentin, Corey Kohan, Rick Sells, Nate Parker

Contact Tracy Rohloff at 763-324-4979 or 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

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**Anoka County Community Corrections
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2022**

The Anoka County Community Corrections Advisory Board meeting was held virtually via WebEx on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 12 noon.

Board Members Present: Judge Dyanna Street, Don Kjonaas, Robert DeRoche, David Turnidge, Michael McGee, Morgan Whiterabbit, Bryan Lindberg, Michael Berger, Carter Diers, Cindy Cesare, Jerry Pederson

Others Present: Dylan Warkentin, Rick Sells, Corey Kohan, Nate Parker, Beth Bloomenrader, Cary McCollor, Joshua Schmidt, Tracy Rohloff

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Chair Kjonaas called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

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The minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting were approved as distributed.

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New/Old Business: None.

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Juvenile Probation Report

Juvenile Probation staff were introduced by Rick Sells, Manager – Beth Bloomenrader, Supervisor; Cary McCollor, Probation Officer; and Joshua Schmidt, Probation Officer – who presented a PowerPoint on the Juvenile Probation Report. Rick Sells manages the unit which is comprised of a supervisor, a juvenile court coordinator, probation officers, correctional service officers, and office support staff.

The focus on how probation officers engage with juvenile offenders has changed over the years. Staff are trained in evidence-based practices that emphasize accountability and cognitive thinking changes to reduce recidivism.

Cary McCollor presented information from the next few slides. Highlights include:

- The four core competencies/skills sets that facilitate offender behavior change starts with building a professional alliance between the probation officer and the client. They work together to create an effective case plan and work towards managing that plan. Rewards for compliance offer appropriate incentives, and noncompliant behavior is addressed. The probation officer models and engages in skill practice with the client in a supportive environment.
- Evidence Based Practices (EBP) are used by probation staff while working with youth in the community. These tools help to engage the client, assess risk levels, target use of interventions, and teach and practice effective cognitive thinking skills.
- The probation officer works with the client on Carey Guide’s 10 Steps to Risk Reduction curriculum during one-on-one appointments. These steps include establishing positive expectations, sharing initial assessment results and incentivize, identifying goals, writing a case plan, teaching and practicing skills to reduce risk, rewarding positive behavior, addressing noncompliant behavior, anchoring community support, and preparing for successful discharge.
- During a one-on-one appointment, the client will check in with their probation officer regarding any situations that have happened since the last check in. They will review what was discussed at the previous meeting. They will discuss what skills the client is working on in conjunction with the case plan. A take-home assignment is also given to the client.

- Cary explained the most influential criminogenic needs which include antisocial cognition, antisocial personality/temperament, antisocial associates, and family/marital conflicts and how to effectively respond to these situations.
- Juvenile probation officers collect information to determine the client's risk level and what are their criminogenic needs. Of those criminogenic needs, which one is the driving force behind the behavior. Attention is placed on how to reduce the risk level and focus on the motivating factor and skill deficits that drive the behavior. Then new skills are taught to help the client overcome the deficits by using Carey Guides and Decision Points curriculum.

Joshua Schmidt continued the presentation with information about cognitive behavioral interventions (CBI). Research has demonstrated CBI to be effective in changing the behavior of offenders over the long term. These approaches teach offenders prosocial thinking and behaviors, which they then practice and use in their day-to-day lives.

- The Decision Points cognitive behavioral intervention class facilitated by Juvenile Probation Officers weekly in person and virtually. Decision Points combines cognitive skills training and restructuring. New attitudes and beliefs are taught as a set of thinking skills with the belief that old ways of thinking can be unlearned.
- Josh explained the four elements of social learning – the theory of how we learn best. This includes modeling, skill practice, reinforcement, and graduated practice.
- Corrections professionals' interactions with clients can have a profound impact on recidivism by focusing the right issues and allowing sufficient time to devote to criminogenic needs. Time devoted to the length of appointments has shown to reduce recidivism rates.

Beth Bloomenrader reported on the training and development of Juvenile Probation Officers. Highlights include:

- The focus on client interactions has drastically changed from 2011 to today. There are positive advancements to how probation officers work with clients. They establish professional alliance, use positive reinforcement, determine risks and needs, build motivation and focus on stages of change, and have an increased community presence. In 2019, 61% of client contacts occurred in the home or community. The number of visits in January 2022 were 391. The client contact meetings are focused, intentional, and goal driven.
- Probation officers participate in required training and development yearly. EBP initial training requires 100 hours per agent, and after that 23 hours are required every year. Agents participate in peer-to-peer and supervisor field observations, case consults, and Communities of Practice (COP) peer training groups. Agents share in facilitating the monthly COP group.
- Subject Matter Experts and Trainers:
 - Lisa McHugo and Sue Weyer are trained in facilitating Motivational Interviewing and Coaching Circles trainings.
 - Carrie Hansen provides training in Cognitive Skills T4C, Carey Guides, and 10 Steps.
 - Mary Evers and Carrie Hansen facilitate Case Planning training and are YLS Master Trainers.
 - Carrie Hansen, Josh Schmidt, Cary McCollor, and Cheryl Sproessig provide Decision Points Cognitive Skills training.
- Juvenile Probation Officers meet with the supervisor 2-4 times per month. There's also 1:1 coaching sessions and field observations. The supervisor provides observation and coaching, and assist agents with suggestions on evaluating, determining, and defining practices.

- Juvenile Probation Officers collaborate with the Juvenile Center to provide seamless, continuum of risk/needs driven services for clients. Sharing of the YLS assessment and case plan helps to drive a collaborative treatment plan. Juvenile Center probation officers receive similar training as field staff.

Rick Sells presented information on the reduction in risk and recidivism.

- In 2012, the number of clients who re-offended within 24 months was 50%. After implementing EBP case planning, in 2019 the number reduced to 23%, and 87% had lower risk scores compared to 56% in 2012. Rick explained the risk score reduction and the recidivism rates data charts.
- Some violations to probation are processed through open order consequence reviews. This allows the client to work with their probation officer regarding the violation instead of going to court.
- In a 2021 survey with clients and their families, results show that family relationships have improved, and clients feel they have developed a good relationship with their probation officer. Most feel that they have made positive, long-term changes while being supervised on probation.

Cary and Josh shared client success stories.

Rick Sells and Dylan Warkentin recognized the tremendous work and great contributions of the Juvenile Probation Officers, along with the collaboration with the Juvenile Center and the Social Services Department.

Cary, Joshua, Beth, and Rick were thanked for an excellent presentation.

PowerPoint is available with the Community Corrections Administration Office.

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The meeting adjourned at 12:56 PM.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Rohloff.