



Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

Friday, April 25, 2025

11 AM – 1:00 PM

Meeting in person and via Zoom

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APRIL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

1. Attendance

- a. Present: Delphia Simpson, Alyshia Dyer, Gregory Dill, Katie Scott, Trish Cortes, Derrick Jackson, Kathryne O'Grady, Adam Grant, Melvin Parsons, Larry Root
- b. Absent: Pan Conlin, Erane Washington, Eli Savit
- c. Community Members Present: Leah Chapman-Mills

2. Approval of the Agenda

- a. Moved by Delphia Simpson
- b. Seconded by Gregory Dill

3. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)

- a. Annie Somerville, In-Person
- b. Cornelius W, Ypsilanti

4. Council Response to Public Participation

- a. None

5. By-Law Amendments

- a. Moved by: Delphia Simpson
- b. Seconded by: Gregory Dill
- c. Discussion:
 - ☐ KS: Added proxy option for members, no dissent.
- d. Approved Unanimously by voice vote

6. CJCC Principles Document Review

- a. DJ: Reviewed Guiding Principal document

- b. KS: The one thing that is the place where we will have the most fruitful friction is the fiscal responsibility piece and sustainable investment. This is where all of this discussion comes from.
- c. DJ: This is a tangible step to ensure we understand the work we have ahead of us. We can
- d. KS: This has been the perpetual problem of organizations like public health, it is hard to show the cost/benefit of public health because people don't think about it in terms of longevity. How do we tell this story with public safety and justice?
- e. DJ: Suggests reiterating these principles at the beginning of each agenda.
- f. KS: Agrees

7. Community Corrections Discussion

- a. KS: Spoke to Judge Conlin and he said he wasn't ready to present on the work the Judges/Sheriff did. It is on everyone
- b. AD: Judges and Sheriff had a very good meeting. Went through a draft electronic monitoring plan, similar to the jail organization. Community Corrections has had a staff update, a manager is back in the office and can help manage case loads. Last time we sat down we were in crisis level, but the CC and Jail population is down. We are all motivated to do what we can to ensure we are properly managing the program.
- c. KS: What do we think the issue is with the tether program? What are the big budget issues?
- d. AD: Funding. We don't want to collect revenue when people can't afford it, so how can we reduce the cost of this program? We are keeping an eye on the state level for grants from MDOC.
- e. AG: Is that \$300K from last years budget or what you are anticipating for this years budget?
- f. GD: That is the projection through the end of this fiscal year, correct?
- g. AD: Yes
- h. GD: Related to cost, can you say a little bit more about pressure on cost? I know you are having systems conversations but is there anything else you can do to put pressure on cost systems.
- i. AD: We were looking into emergency management of the crisis level. We decided it was up to the CJCC to determine the funding piece of it. The costs are what they are and at the end of the day if we aren't going to charge or collect revenue on electronic monitoring we have to figure out a way to pay for it.
- j. KS: I would like to hear from someone other than the sheriff. I am hearing case loads/cost are the biggest issue. Are there other perspectives in the room on this?
- k. AG: I would like to get some more understanding- who is represented in those numbers? How do we decide who ends up on tether? Who needs that in order to be in the community as opposed to someone who gets bonded out?
- l. AF: This decision comes from the judges and it is on a case by case basis. Every judge has a different perspective on it, but over the past 6-10 years we have been looking towards alternatives to incarceration. This is a conversation that has repeatedly come up and the needs of our community has outgrown the program as it was set up. The program does not fit the needs of the community. It is hard for us to have a cap because we can never tell what case is going to be in front of us.

- m. KS: Is there a helpfulness in thinking about parameters in how judges should be using to set CC?
- n. AF: It needs to be a case-by-case basis. It is so scary to think about someone coming in front of you who really needs your help and not be able to monitor them. The option is very important.
- o. KS: Can you say more about the fear?
- p. AF: Part of my job is keeping the public safe and this is a very important factor to ensure
- q. CK: Echo everything AF just said. There is no sort of CYA consideration in putting on a tether, it truly is about ensuring the community is safe. Noticed a difference in how often a tether is requested and the awareness that we have a limited number. I don't fault them for treating it as an unlimited resource in the past, but it is a limited resource and we are getting more reflective requests from prosecutors now that the limited nature is more evident. We need a better analysis of who needs one?
- r. AF: As part of our conversations with the sheriff we talked about doing a 90-day review of individuals on the tether.
- s. KS: This 90 day review is something you have all agreed upon?
- t. General consensus is yes
- u. DS: From my office we have already started doing a 60-90 day review
- v. KS: One of the questions I have is now that we recognize that this is a limited resource, are there other options other than 90 day review?
- w. GD: I want to layer on. This is what I was referencing when I said pressure on costs. At minimum we need to think about this system in a different way. Costs are rising but we need to look at the system.
- x. AD: We are designing the pop management plan around what we can handle. If we are constantly in emergency management mode, we have to think about the funding of it.
- y. DS: Long term we need to think about other alternatives than jail and tethering. Are there other ways to do this work?
- z. TC: Are there any efficiencies that can help the case management/case load on staff that can alleviate the burden?
- aa. CK. AF talked about the training around who should have a tether and who shouldn't. Counter to progress in recovery for one reason or another. The training isn't around risk of those who need to be in the community, it is more treatment based. I would like to see a rubric/checklist that would result in a recommendation on who needs a tether.
- bb. AF: There is a professor who spoke about this at a recent conference I attended. Slide show explaining the different risk factors.
- cc. DS: The sheriff mentioned there are best practices around how long someone should be on a tether. That would be great to share.
- dd. AD: The ACLU recommendations show a period of no more than 6 months, don't collect revenue, don't be punitive. Will share guide book.
- ee. KS: Evidence based sources are good but let's keep in mind to focus on the source.
- ff. AG: Back to the case management model, you will have to build efficiencies into it. You will have more exit paperwork. Never let a crisis go to waste. I can imagine it will be chaos for a few months, but lets hope it isn't chaos next year.
- gg. RC: We have spent the past few months doing that. Our vendors have made recommendations around best practices.

hh. KS: What are the things that contribute to cost other than the tethering itself?

ii. RC: Staffing, cost of equipment itself.

jj. LR: Are fees a part of technical violations?

kk. AF: A judge would violate them for not paying, but it is very very unlikely here in Washtenaw County.

ll. KS: When we are thinking about creative ways to consider costs, I would like for us to think outside of 90 day review. Case load management, are there options here?

mm. RC: I think at this point our operations is as efficient as it can be. There is not a ton more that we can add/change to the system. We have drastically reduced the amount of reports that go over to the courts. An opportunity to continue to explore is sliding scale fees. Since the last meeting we have seen individuals making payments. It is as simple as just reminding individuals, you have this balance if you are capable. Is there an indigent fee? Is there a sliding scale?

nn. DS: A sliding scale can harm families who are putting all the money they have into this.

oo. RC: Sober links- \$6 per day, GPS - \$10, Scram- \$12. We have not done an updated cost model analysis in awhile.

pp. KS: What is the average time someone is on a tether?

qq. RC: I don't have that knowledge off the top of my head. But I would be happy to share this information.

rr. KS: It would be helpful to look at mean and median.

ss. AF: The longer dates are often due to severity of charge. The context is important.

tt. KS: What is the average cost someone gets charged for tether. I have been thinking about alternative ways to consider revenue. Charging people, not charging people, sliding fee, is there a value to looking at everyone on tether, crunching the numbers, and saying there is a flat fee to be on tether. What is the lowest flat fee we can charge someone to be on tether?

uu. AG: I know it is complicated, but I want to go back to what DS is talking about. There is an inference when your probation officer tells me I owe something. There is a psychology there. These things are complicated because there are people involved.

vv. DS: I do think that this could be a continuation of jail services. Why are we making people pay. It doesn't make sense to me. If we are charging someone fees, how are the judges going to enforce that?

ww. DS: It is our community responsibility to pay for these things.

xx. MP: I may have missed the answer to the question I am getting ready to ask, but what is the cost that the County is paying for these tethers? What is the annual cost for those things? What are we paying the contractors for those tethers?

yy. RC: It is a little over \$1M per year.

zz. MP: Can we find a new vendor?

aaa. RC: Our current vendor is offering the lowest cost and providing 24/7 monitoring. The current biggest bang for the buck is our current vendor.

bbb. GD: Part of my original question is getting at this conversation- the system is as efficient as it can be, that's great.

ccc. KS: This is what I'm thinking about when I say we have to think about this from a systems perspective. \$1M have already been cut from the health department.

ddd. TC: In CMH we are obligated to do an ability to pay procedure. I haven't done an ability to pay myself, but it is a part of our audit.

eee. KG: Do you know what percentage are alcohol related vs. Not?

fff. RC: As of the end of last week, 47% of people on tethers are on for an alcohol or drug related offense?

ggg. AG: We have to speak about revenue, I get that. The County is used to cutting checks rather than receiving them. Going more into the non-profit realm, the SUD services have a list of scholarships/corporate sponsorships who do value community corrections over incarceration. The psychology and pressure that is real.

hhh. VBH: I believe we can do two things at the same time. Our bail policy is an option to explore in terms of thinking outside of the box.

iii. KS: Are there other programs that are cost effective that would work in other cases? We started talking about this plan that the subgroup discussed, I would love to bring that to this room. What was the number you got to when you realized you needed to start an emergency management program? What is the monthly trend?

jjj. TC: Did you say that in sobriety court the tethers are paid for?

kkk. AF: Yes. Our grant pays for it.

lll. RC: If we look at 10 years ago, 100-200 people per year on tether. There has been a significant spike since then. COVID had a drop off, in 2021 there is a significant spike. Since then we are seeing anywhere from 600-1,100 individuals put on tether.

mmm. KS: This does not mirror population growth.

nnn. RC: Correct. This is in alignment with changes since COVID but at its foundation we have a system/community have far outgrown CC and we do not have the ability to grow this program at the same speed/capacity as it has shifted. Average length of stay right now is 133 days scam, 146 GPS, Sober link 107. GD: This represents a change in values in our community since our population has not grown at this rate since then.

ooo. AG: What is the change in jail traffic? Are they even? We have outgrown the system, we can do two things at the same time. We need to figure out how to address the issue right now and how do we not end up in crisis mode?

ppp. AD: The courts can speak to this better than I can, but because of the pandemic there has been a build up in case loads.

qqq. AF: That is not the case in my court, but I can't speak to others.

rrr. VBH: There are other reasons for this.

sss. AS: RC when you are pulling some of the things together the Chair is asking. DO we collect financial information from individuals when they enter the program? (No, only employment information). I think it would be interesting if we were able to do a survey of folks who are currently participating in our program to see what their financial system is. Why are people getting scam tethers? Is there a way for us to get some data on those specific scenarios? Is it because more people are getting DUIs? For people who do end up getting sober link monitors, is that automatic? If not, how many of cases are getting tethers and how many are not?

ttt. AF: There is random drug testing and alcohol tethering, but the tether is much easier.

uuu. AS: Sober link program, how did they get there?

vvv. AF: I don't know how we can get that data. The standards are generally the same, but we are all elected to make those decisions.

www. AS: I am mostly asking so that the BOC can understand who is being served by the program.

xxx. EW: I have heard questioning about how people get on- most of the time the individuals that are on for me are people who are accused of DUI, however that it is not limited to that. The ability to maintain their sobriety or an accusation against them. We are not required as elected judges to require that information, but the decision-making matrix is not something we can provide. It is not going to be in a file for us to pull statistics for.

yyy. RC: To what AF just said, what is coming before the court is much more serious, which is why the tether is going up. GPS used to be the least used equipment, but now it is right behind sober link.

zzz. KS: Have court cases and CC gone up? If I am looking at ratios, not numbers?

aaaa. KS: Let's go over some of these numbers and the revenue/cost issue that we haven't totally gotten to the bottom of. I'd love to dig into the plan.

8. Adjourn