



Criminal Justice Collaborative Council

Friday, March 28, 2025
11 AM – 12:45 PM
Meeting in person and via Zoom

[Join by Zoom Webinar](#)

MARCH COUNCIL APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order
 - a. 11:03 AM
1. Attendance
 - a. Present: Pat Conlin, Erane Washington, Eli Savit, Delphia Simpson, Alyshia Dyer, Gregory Dill, Katie Scott, Derrick Jackson, Kathrynne O'Grady, Adam Grant, Larry Root, Melvin Parson
 - b. Absent: Trish Cortes, Melvin Parsons
 - c. County Staff and Members of the public present: Judge Cedric Simpson, Commissioner Annie Somerville, Commissioner Caroline Sanders, Terrence Williams, Crystal Campbell, Alex thomas, Cynthia Harrison, Renee Casey
2. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Moved by: Pat Conlin
 - b. Seconded by: Gregory Dill
 - c. Approved by: Voice Vote
3. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - a. Commissioner Somerville- Disturbed by communications around community corrections happening lately. Would like to be in the loop as the Chair of Community Corrections
 - b. Victoria Burton-Harris- Hello to the group. Happy to be joining.
4. Council Response to Public Participation
 - a. No response
5. Reestablishing CJCC: Goals, Expectations, and Charge
 - ☐ Washtenaw County Board Chair Katie Scott

- Larry Root: General Public Seat, retired faculty member from the school of social work. Trained mediator, taught in the Milan prison, Friends of restorative justice. Feels strongly about trying to reduce the prison population.
- Kathrynne O'Grady: Juvenile Court Administrator, lawyer, administrator, educator.
- Pat Conlin: Chief judge of the trial court. Good opportunity for the leaders of the county to come together and do what's best for the citizenry.
- Gregory Dill: County Administrator. We should work towards a shared set of values; this is the only way for us to craft a criminal justice system that meets the needs of our community.
- Sheriff Alyshia Dyer: Responsibility to protect public safety in washtenaw county. Excited to see everyone at the table, motivated to come together with solutions so we can ensure the safe operations of community corrections.
- Eli Savit: County prosecutor. Glad that the CJCC is reconvening. We have shared values to move our justice system in a way that reflects our shared goals.
- Delphia Simpson: County Public Defender. This is something that is unique around the state of Michigan. Happy to be here because the policy decisions I see in practice are impacting our clients.
- Erane Washington: 14B chief judge. Excited to be here in person and hear the various perspectives to reach the goals we are trying to get to.
- Derrick Jackson: racial equity officer. I do this work because of the people. I push for systemic change.
- Katie Scott: Chair of the board of commissioners. Woman who grew up in catholic school and learned about what justice means from an early age. We need to think about what it means for our system to work effectively. We have to get underneath the work and think about why- we need to be systems thinkers. Not only what we have been doing

6. Community Corrections Discussion

- a. DJ: For any difficult decision/discussion it is best to have shared principles on the table. When the question comes up, you can rely back on your principles.
- Important for the group to have common understanding and language
Community Corrections:
 1. PC- Gives an overview of what community corrections are for the members of the public.
 2. AD Turns over to RC: Community Corrections has been moved into and modified. CC is the pretrial and probation services component for the county.
 3. AD: **Ensuring the least restrictive measures are possible.**
 4. DS: Agrees with this
 5. EW: Least restrictive measure possible so that the person doesn't have to go into the jail, but the public is safe. Does not believe that her decisions are data driven- believes that they are based on the case in front of her.
 6. PC: Other side of least restrictive, most assistive. Pretrial programming reflects a bit of what probation does. If someone is in a program to assist with drug abuse, if we can get someone into programming even pre-trial that is what in the long run is going to keep the person and the public the safest.

7. KS: **Ensuring that there is dignity and allowing individuals to be seen as people.**
8. AG: THinks we can all agree that we are looking to public safety as a whole. We are talking about the people who are being tried for the charges. How does this keep everyone safe in the long run?
9. GD: Shared set of values, not just in this room but in this community as well. We are what we invest in, not just as county employees, but as a community as a whole.
10. DJ: We know that we want the least restrictive, we might have a lot of different ideas of what that means based on where we sit on that continuum. Values are what drives decisions, maintaining dignity, ensuring least restrictive, reducing jail population. Sometimes when we talk broadly, we can assume we understand what people mean,
11. ES: This work is incredibly important, and it is very important to all the people who are involved in the case. There are no two case that are exactly alike. Sometimes too much of a focus on studies can sort of lead to more rigid approaches. **Every story is an individual one.**
12. DS: Does not believe that there should be a financial barrier to any individual getting assistance from community corrections. **Finances and resource is not a barrier to people getting services.**
13. KO: **Consistent definition of Equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.**
14. DJ: Fiscal components leave a whole in the budget- there is a reality in the cost of something. How are we covering that bottom line?
15. PC: **Unrealistic to assume that it will ever get paid. This is never going to fund itself. This needs to be viewed in the same lens as other social services that we are prioritizing.** It does not serve dignity to give individuals a \$5,000 bill that they can never pay off.
16. KO: How do we define cost? If we are talking this particular service is going to cost XX amount, but this individual is able to be with their family and keep their job, what is the cost benefit analysis.
17. GD: Realities of how we fund local government. It is important for us to understand that yes, we agree with these principles, but we have to make the choice of what we will not fund in order to continue to fund CC.
18. DS: If we don't do CC, public defenders office clients will be in the jail, which will cost the county more money than if they were not.
19. PC: They will also lose their jobs, lose their housing, destabilize housing.
20. DJ: Collaboration
21. AG: Fruitful Friction. Friction is necessary in a lot of these cases and we should be comfortable with that as long as it is fruitful. When systems are created they get used, but what is the

definition of over use? What are the other options that do not have the same kind of cost as tether? Is it right sized?

22. EW: We talk about the word equitable. We really need to get on the same page of what equity means. For some people, they cannot afford this, but for others that actually can afford this. What is missing here is the folks that are in-between. It can't just be a free service. It is not equitable for the person with no job to not pay but for the person who makes \$100K per year to not pay.
23. DS: On the surface one might think that is true, but what is built into the MIDC program is folks who are able to raise money through a church can pay for experts. I do agree that there is room to look at who can afford and who cant? That is fraught with a lot of gaps.
24. PC: There is no way to determine someone's financial ability to pay at the beginning of a trial. Many people have public defenders, we can't just use that as a gauge.
25. AD: Two piece of this from an operational standpoint. We don't want to exclude people who don't have the money, in order for WCSO to insure dignity we need funding. In recent weeks there is a necessary conversation that needs to be had around capacity. Cases that are being monitored are getting more serious and probably would be in jail if this program was not available.
26. KS: Appreciate the dialogue around system level thinking. What are the system level thinking beyond this room? The health dept today that \$1M in funding has been clawed back from the federal government, that is 6% of their budget. What are we doing in terms of looking at budgets wholistically?
27. CS: I'm listening and hearing everything that's said. If we don't have CC our jail explodes. Every felony comes through my docket. The cases recently have been becoming more violent. The number of individuals violating their bond are increasing. Anybody that is in that courtroom we have to determine "if this person is going to be let out, what will happen?" It is a painful risk assessment. Suggests that individuals in the room come to court rooms and watch a docket. It is important to see what happens.
28. GD: As we think about CC as a resource and the cost associated, how can we decide or determine the best path forward.
29. RC: Gave CC Presentation
30. KS: Based on what we have heard today and discussed today, what the judges have received in communication, what the board has sent in communication, what the sheriff sent to the BOC today, what are the best steps going forward? Obviously there are things we need to talk about.
 - a. If BOC is being asked to bring more money into this, is the WCSO willing to bring more money into this?
31. AD: We have allocated as much as we can at this time with the millage to CC. If you look at our planned millage spending, we over committed. We reduced part time staff, we have found \$500K in cost savings. We are projected to be \$400K over budget in CC. Our food and medical costs skyrocketed last year- we are doing our due diligence and the best that we can to be fiscally

responsible and be cost effective. WCSO needs more structural funding if we are going to continue operating CC.

- a. Since coming in and talking to courts and judges they have had good ideas with population management. Reviews of those who have been on tether for long periods of time, jail population management plan, also create that for tether population management it is a tool WCSO will have in extreme situations. Judging by the needs we are going to need more structural funding for staff.
 - b. Are there more funds we can leverage at the state level? Are there grants we can find? At this point the WCSO needs more structural funding, we need more funding
32. KS: Where does \$1M from WCSO come from on the budget slide?
33. RC: \$270K transfer in from the budget each year, 4 FTEs and 2 FTE corrections division staff, this equals \$1,019,000.
34. EW: You have 24 employees now. How are they allocated?
35. RC: There is part time and full time.
36. PC: Captain Obvious for the moment- absent the millage funds or state funds, all of the dollars are coming from County General Fund. We have to come up with new money, understanding that it is going to impact other programs.
37. KS: That is fair. What do we do know
38. AS: Glad that RC was able to give the overview. BOC took this issue very seriously and when the former sheriff sent over the budget deficit. Some of the work that needs to be done as we are thinking about how to continue down this path- over the past year and a half they were misled to believe that we were just putting more money into the criminal justice system. There is some harm that has been caused around this in our community. At the end of the day, I don't want someone to be put into jail. There are people in our community who believe folks are being put into collections for this. A budget neutral ask is to clear up this misconception. What about WCSO hold vacant positions? Is there someone that can be done here. When we are talking about the millage there was language around harm reduction and keeping people out of jail, is that going to CC?
39. CS: Notice that the representatives that are sitting around the is in some way justice involved. No community members that may actually have another view point about how community corrections should work. What if CC was pulled out of WCSO and put into administration?
40. AD: Staffing issues are systemic. I am willing to talk to the community and explain what is going on. If our jail food and medical costs did not skyrocket, we would be okay. We can't use savings in the corrections division to make up for that deficit. This is the landscape that we are in.
41. PC: We have those vacant positions but any revenue that we have at the end of the year we turn back over to the back end of the county budget. That is the 30,000 mile view.

42. KS: You know that prior to this now, if the WCSO had extra money it did not come back to us.
43. PC: It is not fair for you to square off with public ire about these issues when there are folks who are willing to come talk about these issues publicly. We do not derive a benefit from it other than through the private lens.
44. CS: As elected officials, we have a responsibility to ask questions that are being asked of us. I would feel more comfortable if along with that commentary was backup factual information.
45. KS: Very candidly, one of the difficulties we are going to have is that we are in a difficult position. You told us we gave too much money for public safety, and now you are asking for more. We have to have a public reckoning with this. BOC is not opposed to giving more money to CC, but we have to understand how the millage money is being spent. That is a very honest and candid position on where we are with this. Everyone is willing to work on this and recognizes it as important work. I don't believe we have any answers right now, but this is going to be more looking at the budget and figuring out with each other. We have to have a collaborative conversation, there cannot be unilateral decisions being made about this. How can we control the costs, mitigate the costs? What is the budget in a wholistic sense. We are facing lean years ahead,
46. AD: It is my understanding that people didn't know food and medical costs were expanding. I am privy to more information than I was during the campaign. I will speak publicly about this issue. We all need support to keep this program going.
47. EW: We all have to work collaboratively. The reality is that some people say things out of context. The BOC is not the only people who should have to take the community ire on this topic. How do we find common ground and how to we create the safest community possible?
48. GD: This should be the value proposition for CJCC- as we move forward we unpack some of the things that we have spoke about today. Both from a programmatic, relationship, and fiscal perspective.
49. DS: Memo that says April 1st changes will be made to tether program. Is that still going to happen?
50. CS: I really do need to know. My PCC docket is April 3rd. Are misdemeanors being turned away from CC? Other than DVs we have to know.
51. AD: If the case loads don't go down- yes we have to make changes.
52. EW: What is the target caseload number?
53. RC: With current staffing levels 350. We are currently at 460.
54. ES: The April 1st date- we need to know. Is there something happening on that date where CC is not going to outfit people with tether.
55. DS: April 1st is next Tuesday. I'm willing to work and try to identify cases that we can agree on that can remove people from tether. I'm looking for an answer on what is going to happen on April 1st.

56. PC: I am not advocating for week-to-week reporting- but if you can sustain 425 cases...can we do week by week reporting?
57. AD: The challenge is we don't have an official population management plan....
58. KS: This discussion underscores the need for us to be collaborative when we are doing this type of thing. You are hearing frustration from courts, PD, and Prosecutor that this is TUESDAY and there is not a plan for what happens to the people coming through the system who might need this. Can we think about this deadline that seems arbitrary and push it back to continue having this discussion? Propose be our next meeting here be a working session with Courts, PD, prosecutors, to talk about how this system can be effectively managed. This is two business days away and people's lives are going to be impacted. There has been enough time to be
59. AD: Frustration from us is that we have reached a crisis point. WCSO staff is at capacity.
60. KS: If you wanted to do collaborative work, why is this the first place we are having the discussion right now.
61. AD: The reality is, we have never been in this case at this point.
62. DS: Can you hold off for another month to allow the system to catch up to you? Can this be adjusted.
63. AD: I believe it is possible, at the same time if we do have a situation like we had last week where we are turning people away because we don't have the equipment.
64. CS: When I saw the letter, tethers went up. Has there been any determination to why that increase happened? This reaction from the court standpoint, I can't substantiate that. What is going to end up happening is jail overcrowding. With the April 1 date, are you going to start removing people from tethers or are you just not going to administer them?
65. AD: I am going to ask Renee to speak to the operations.
66. RC: We have serious individuals we are monitoring right now, there are dangerous individuals on tether right now, we have to ensure staff and community safety. I am going to ask for your cooperation and judges to help reduce the caseload size.
67. KS: Underscore again the idea that this has to be collaborative and communicative. For the PD to not know about these changes until now is unconscionable. We have to increase communication.
68. AG: As somebody who was on CJCC previously, I was concerned about a conversation like this. We are in a crisis, we missed the big picture of this. Band-Aids don't fix bullet holes. We put a band aid on this last year and now we are bleeding out.
69. AD: Going forward hearing from RC and understanding that the judges are doing their best, we will delay the April 1 deadline.
70. EW: What is the CJCC meeting schedule going forward? The question I'm afraid to ask but I have to is how long are you going to delay the decision for?
71. PC: The question of that issue is that who is the short-term fix and who is the long-term fix?

- 72. AD: Judges and Courts need to set up a short-term solution. We need a population management plan regardless.
- 73. PC: If we met in 1-2 weeks, as long as you don't get over the 500-management option, can we map out how this is going to work going forward?
- 74. AD: Let's forget about this deadline, we are all going to sit down and go over this plan.
- 75. KS: Date is gone- deadline is eliminated. Criminal justice folks will work together. Proposes we come back to this room in 1 months.

7. Adjourn

a.

1:25 PM



Community Corrections

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff, Alyshia M. Dyer

Together, we are committed to creating a safer, more just and compassionate
Washtenaw County for all.

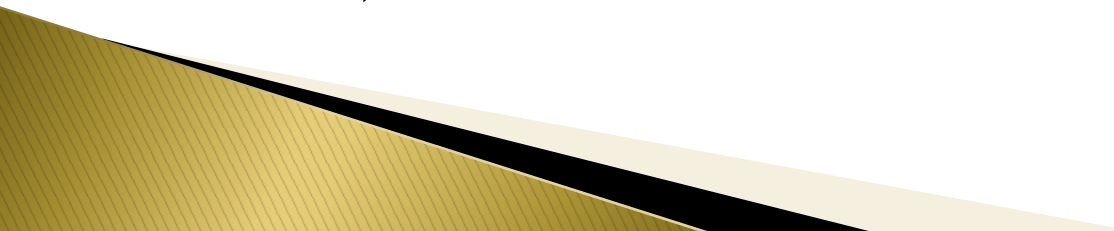
Washtenaw County Jail Overview

- ▶ The jail at 2201 Hogback was opened in 1978
- ▶ Two additions since 1978
 - 1998 – Added two Direct Supervision Units.
 - 2010 – Added two additional Direct Supervision Units and an update Intake Center
- ▶ Current rated capacity of the jail is 404

Community Corrections

- ▶ In 1988, the Michigan Legislature enacted [Public Act 511](#), commonly referred to as the "Community Corrections Act or PA 511", in response to prison and jail crowding. The act enabled local advisory boards to design, implement and evaluate corrections programs for eligible offenders who would otherwise be incarcerated in state prisons

Community Corrections Washtenaw County

- ▶ In November 1991, Washtenaw County and the City of Ann Arbor developed a Comprehensive Corrections Plan pursuant to Public Act 511 (PA 511) for the purpose of offering diversion and alternative sentencing options to the Washtenaw County.
 - ▶ The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approved the original Comprehensive Corrections Plan on November 9, 1991 (BOC resolution #91 – 0280).
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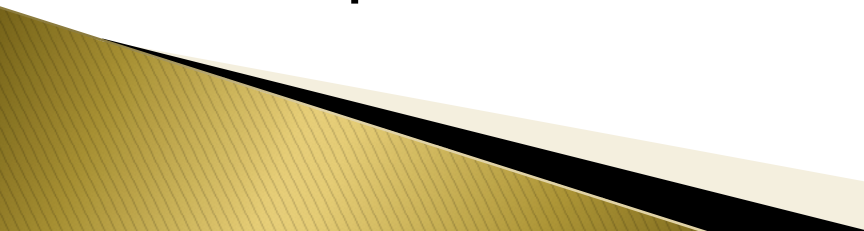
Community Corrections Washtenaw County

- ▶ The mission for Community Corrections continues to be:
 - Pretrial Services
 - Reduce prison commitments for eligible persons
 - Promote public safety and reduce jail crowding so that priority for scarce and costly jail beds will be reserved for appropriate persons
 - Improve treatment effect to reduce recidivism through credible alternatives to incarceration. Decrease violations of probation.
 - This mission aligns with guiding principles to ensure provision of mandated services, reduce the cost of doing business and promote intergovernmental cooperation to improve services, and focus on the root causes of problems

Community Corrections – Trial Court 2005

- ▶ No pretrial services
- ▶ Treatment coordination/releases for eligible incarcerated individuals
- ▶ Residential treatment placements for felony probationers
- ▶ Jail overcrowding community supervision
 - Day reporting supervision for eligible releases
- ▶ Extension of misdemeanor probation offices
 - Day reporting supervision for high-risk probationers
- ▶ Alcohol tethers for 14A district court
- ▶ Drug testing for some district court and juvenile court probationers
- ▶ **STAFFING**
 - 1 Director, 1 Deputy Director, 2 Supervision Agents, 2 Alcohol tether agents, 1 Drug Testing Agent, 1 Front Desk Clerk. Total 8
- ▶ **NUMBERS**
 - 50–75 Day Reporting
 - 75 alcohol tether
 - 100–150 weekly drug screens

Economic Challenges 2009

- ▶ 2009 – 2010 Washtenaw County was faced with a budget deficit that required all county departments to reduce operating budgets.
 - ▶ Trial Court reduced the budget, in part, by eliminating Community Corrections
 - ▶ County Administration moved Community Corrections to WCSO to avoid complete elimination of services to align with vision and plan to address jail overcrowding.
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Community Corrections –WCSO 2010

- ▶ Community Corrections 2010
 - 4 supervision services
 - Day Reporting
 - Alcohol Tethers
 - Limited Pretrial Supervision (no pre arraignment risk assessments)
 - Drug Testing
 - 3 community treatment programs
 - SUD
 - Thinking Matters
 - Residential Treatment Placements
 - Drug Testing to any/all court ordered individuals
 - 300–350 a week

Community Corrections –WCSO 2010

- ▶ Community Corrections 2010
 - 11 employees
 - Provided support and services to 8,818 court ordered individuals
 - Annual Budget – \$889,292
 - \$385,276 from MDOC grant
 - \$200,715k from county general fund
 - \$293,301 in revenue

Community Corrections –WCSO 2024

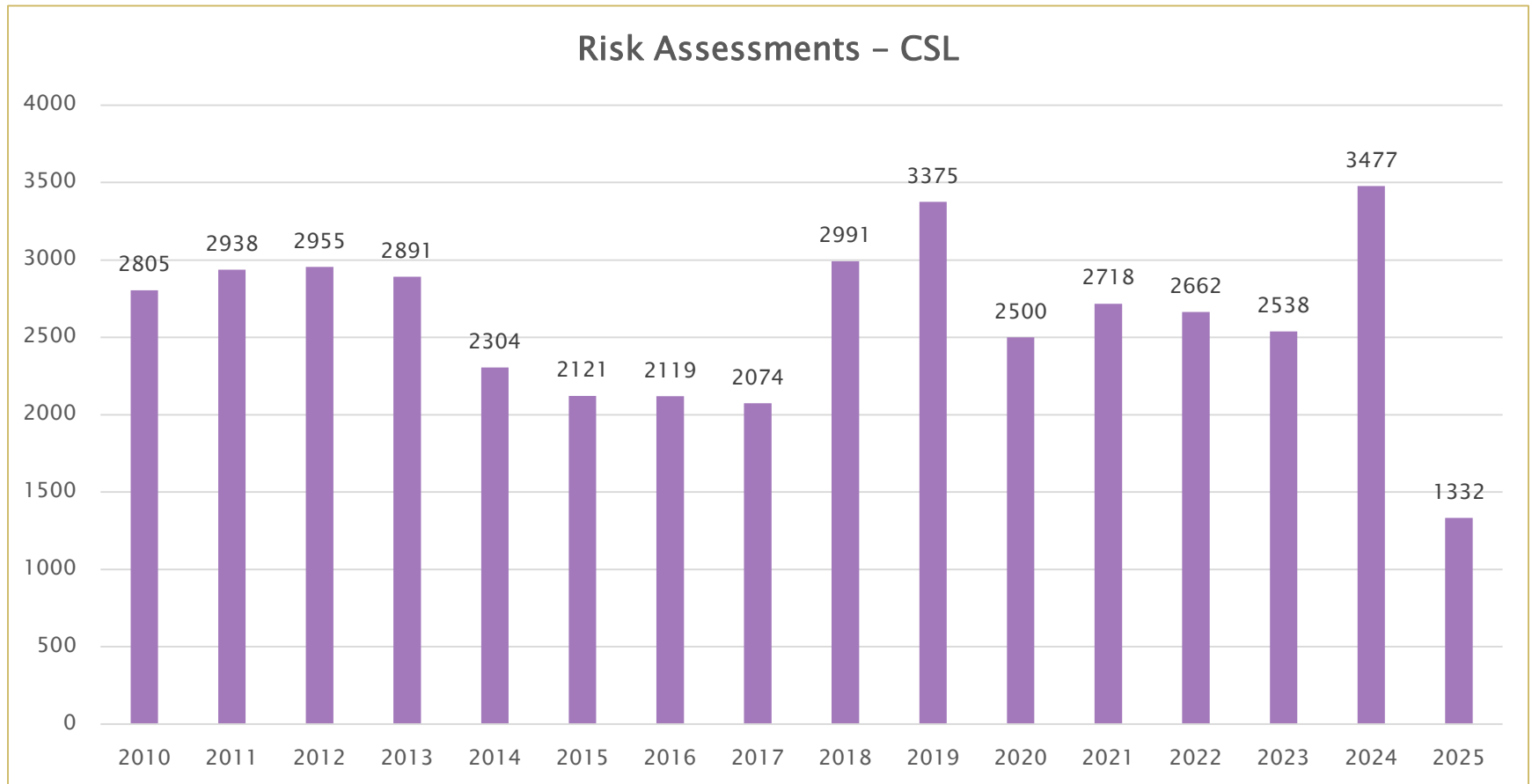
► Community Corrections 2024

- 4 supervision services
 - Pre arraignment risk assessments (365/days a year)
 - Pretrial Services Division
 - Electronic Monitoring
 - GPS and Alcohol
 - Drug Testing
- 7 community treatment programs
 - SUD
 - MRT
 - Peer to Peer
 - Vocational Certificate
 - Anger Management
 - Accountable Choices
 - Behavioral Health Specialist
- Drug Testing to any/all court ordered individuals
 - 400–500 a week

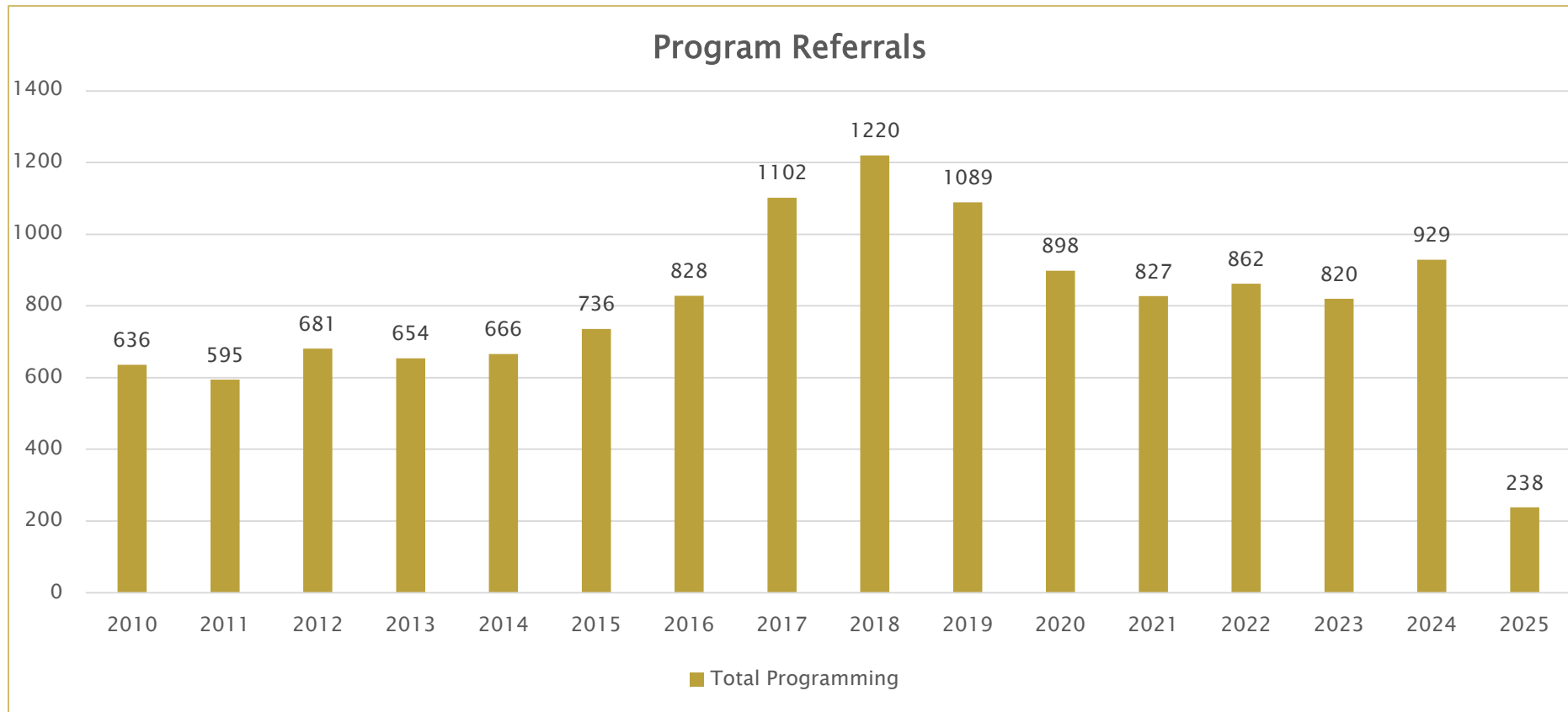
Community Corrections –WCSO 2024

- ▶ Community Corrections 2024
 - 24 employees
 - Provided support and services to 30,547 court ordered individuals
 - Annual Budget – \$2,434,970
 - \$827,684 from MDOC grant
 - \$497,678 from county general fund
approved for increase of \$500,000
 - \$269,608 from millage (not including 4 FTEs)
 - \$340,000 in revenue
 - 4 FTEs from millage
 - 2 FTEs corrections division
- (+WCSO FTEs – \$1,019,000)

Pre arraignment Risk Assessments

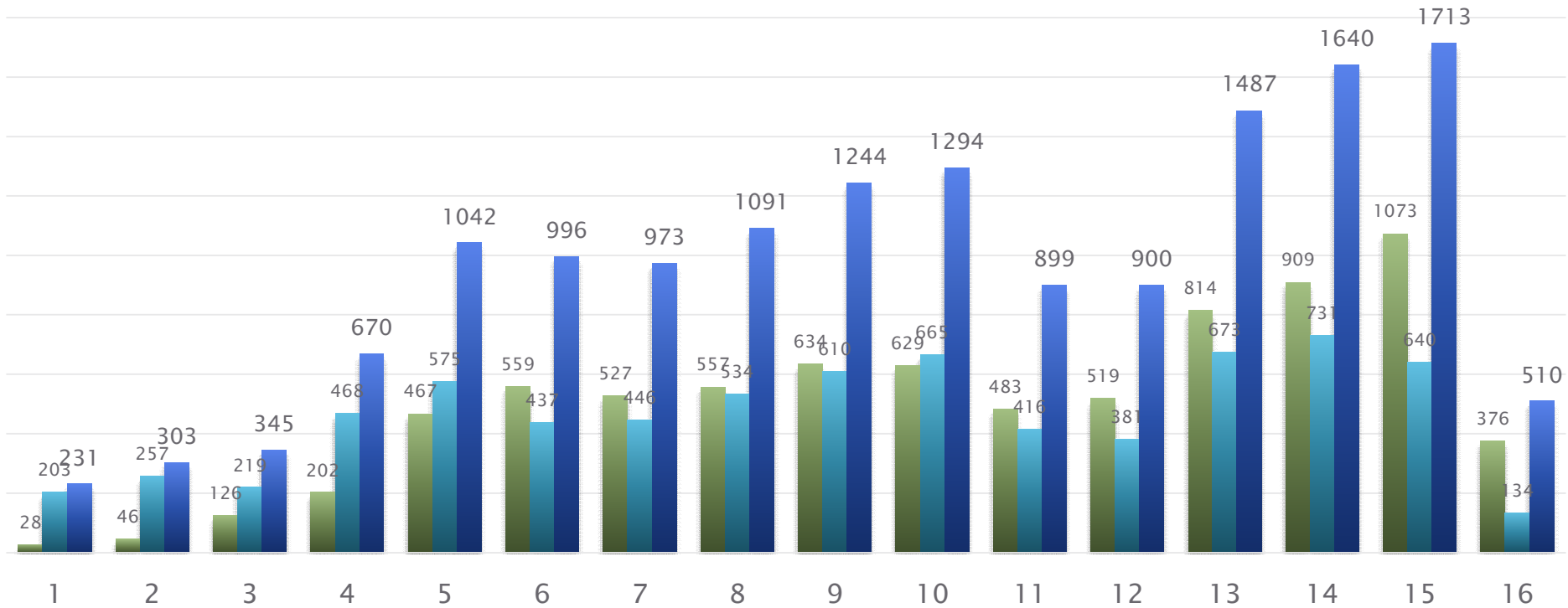


Community Treatment Programs



Pretrial Services and Electronic Monitoring Supervision

Electronic Monitoring Pretrial Supervision Total Supervision



Return on Investment

- ▶ \$167.00 a day to house an individual in the Washtenaw County Jail vs. \$65.00 a day per client for the costliest Community Corrections program.
- ▶ 2010, Washtenaw County had a Prison Commitment Rate over 25%, which was above the state average, and suffered a jail crowding challenge that had significant financial impact on the County, which cannot be overstated.
- 2024, Washtenaw County's Prison Commitment Rate was 15.9%, well below the State average. Washtenaw County has consistently been at or below the State PCR for the last 10 years.

Return on Investment

- ▶ Overall, the outcome of integrating Community Corrections operations into the Sheriff's Office has resulted in an average success rate of above 87% for key indicators over the last 15 years
 - (i.e., violation of release conditions, failure to appear, rearrest while under supervision, and reincarceration rates).
- ▶ As a result, prison commitment rates have decreased, the jail population has not declared an official overcrowding since 2010, and the successful utilization of alternatives by all District Courts and the Circuit Court in Washtenaw County has increased.

Results and Challenges

- ▶ These results come with costs and operational challenges
- Since 2020, Community Corrections expenditures have increased 61% due to increased staffing need to address the increase in utilization and inflation – supply costs.
- During this same period, revenue has only increased by 10%.
 - Fines and Fees Justice Reform – Equity, reduce financial burden and harm
 - Part of the revenue for Community Corrections is a transfer from the County General Fund for \$496,678 with an additional \$500,000 allocated to assist in balancing FY 24 and FY 25.
- In 2020, the Sheriff's Office began supplementing Community Corrections funding with transfers from millage dollars for \$250K+ four (4) new FTEs + two (2) FTEs from the Corrections division needed to sustain operations.
- In total, the Sheriff's Office contributes over \$1,019,00 annually to the Community Corrections budget, not including ad hoc costs absorbed as part of the larger organization.

Big Picture

- ▶ Over \$1 million annually from WCSO for Community Corrections operations as part of WCSO
 - Ad hoc costs
- ▶ \$997,000 annually from Washtenaw County General Fund for Community Corrections operations
- ▶ Every referral for supervision, service, or programming comes to Community Corrections through judicial order
- ▶ Pretrial Services Division for Washtenaw County
- ▶ Leverage WCSO affiliation to support EM operations is critical to program success
- ▶ Partnership with local LE agencies for support

Considerations

- ▶ Adequate structural funding to support the totality of the operations now and into the future.
 - ▶ Staffing levels that support utilization
 - ▶ Leveraging Community Corrections operations to provide appropriate and impactful alternatives that align with WCSO and Washtenaw County values and move us forward into the future
 - ▶ Support from all criminal legal system and county partners
 - ▶ Space – operations have far outgrown current location
- 