

Hamilton County Community Corrections Advisory Board Meeting Minutes January 16, 2020

The following members were present: Honorable Gail Bardach, Jim Barlow, Bob Bragg, D. Lee Buckingham, Honorable Richard Campbell, Roger Drayer, Honorable Paul Felix, Mike Fogarty, Kija Ireland, Leeann Murray, Barbara Scott, R. Dan Stevens, and Kylene Toney.

A quorum was present. Ralph Watson, Kevin Mulroony, and Jennifer Armstrong were also in attendance.

Jim Barlow called the meeting to order.

Jim Barlow called for the approval of the December meeting minutes. Barbara Scott made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Honorable Gail Bardach seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Following a brief summary by Mr. Watson, Jim Barlow called for approval of the December fiscal reports. Roger Drayer made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Honorable Paul Felix seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Director's Report

A written report was submitted and reviewed by the Executive Director.

Old Business

There was no old business on the agenda.

New Business

Mr. Watson provided the *2019 Level of Supervision Discharge Report*. He noted the most frequent violation was for a positive urine screen. He noted the unsuccessful discharge percentage for participants sentenced as an open placement is less than those sentenced to a specific Level of Supervision. Mr. Mulroony noted that we had a 7% increase in technical violations from last year and violation due to new offenses went from 6 last year to 16 this year. The agency is exploring ways to reduce the number of technical violations.

Mr. Watson presented two requests for additional appropriations. One is for project income and the other for county general. The agency budget for the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) was developed prior to the county having set the level of employee compensation for 2020. Therefore, The IDOC requires an additional appropriation request form for \$77,731.87 to reflect the increase in salaries and benefits made to the County General fund since the approval of the grant application. It will not be necessary for the County Council to approve the request as the compensation levels have already been approved. The Project Income fund additional appropriation request for \$147,844.56 is necessary supplement the salaries and benefits approved in the Grant fund. R. Dan Stevens made a motion to approve the additional appropriations as presented. Mike Fogarty seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The IDOC recently underwent some organizational changes. Ms. Julie Lanham has left her leadership position over the Community Corrections Division and Christine Blessinger has been named as her replacement. Mr. Watson indicated that Ms. Lanham had been a great asset as she had previously worked in county government and had oversight of a large community-based supervision agency. Ms. Blessinger's comes to the position having spent her

career in the Juvenile Division at IDOC. As happens with any leadership changes there is a likelihood that there may be changes in IDOC expectations, guidelines, and processes. Mr. Watson will keep the Board apprised. The IDOC also announced that they were eliminating a quarterly report that had been required since the funding was created as part of HEA 1006. They acknowledged the report was a duplication of work and will no longer be requiring it. On January 14th the IDOC released a procedural bulletin concerning performance metrics for 2020. The deadline for submitting our proposed performance metrics, baseline data, mid-point projections, and year-end projections is March 31st. Mr. Watson plans to present a proposal for consideration at the March Board meeting.

Mr. Watson provided a handout noting a few pieces of proposed legislation that may impact community-based supervision agencies. The Legislative Session began at the first of the year and there have been 435 Senate Bills and 431 House bills introduced.

At the Hamilton County Wellness Event held on December 19, 2019 the County recognized longevity of service for county employees. The following Community Corrections team members were recognized:

- Kevin Mulroony 5 years
- Janet Privett 5 years
- Nathan Gray 10 years
- Sandra Estes 10 years
- Heather Pinkerton 10 years
- Christopher Collins 10 years
- Robin Roberts 10 years
- Seth Reichert 10 years
- Jeffrey Cummins 20 years
- Mark May 20 years
- Peter Jakositz 25 years
- Ralph Watson 35 years

There was no further business to be presented and Jim Barlow adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be **March 5th at noon.**