

Rockingham - Harrisonburg Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB)

Minutes

In-Person Meeting – 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Monday, December 6, 2021 - 4:00 p.m.

Board Members –

Rick Chandler – Rockingham County Board Member / CCJB Chairperson
Laura Dent - City of Harrisonburg Council Member / CCJB Vice-Chairperson
Chris Bean (Marsha Garst) – Commonwealth’s Attorney
Eric Campbell and Ande Banks – City Manager
Kelley Warner – Chief, Harrisonburg Police Department
Chaz Haywood – Clerk of Circuit Court
Jimmy Wimer (Bryan Hutcheson) – Sheriff, Rockingham County & City of Harrisonburg
Ellen Harrison – Rockingham Harrisonburg Community Services Board
Nancy Insko, Rockingham-Harrisonburg-Page Re-Entry Council – *Absent*
Stephen King – County Administrator
Celest Williams – Director, Department of Social Services
Oskar Scheikl – Rockingham County School Superintendent
Judge Bruce Albertson
Michael Richards – Harrisonburg City School Superintendent
Joshua Lutz - Chief, Probation & Parole District 39
Judge John Hart - Absent
Judge Anthony Bailey - Absent
Gene Hart – Defense Attorney
Monica Martin – Chief Magistrate

Non-Board Attendees

Anne Marie Freeman – Director, Court Services
S. Frank Sottaceti- Harrisonburg / Rockingham Criminal Justice Planner
Ruth Jost – Alternatives Committee
Becky Sours – Reentry Specialist, Department of Social Services

- I. Welcome and Introduction by Chairperson Chandler
- II. Chairman Chandler moved for Approval of the September 13, 2021 Minutes, Motion made by Mr. Stephen King, seconded by Ellen Harrison, and Approved by the Board.
- III. Informational Updates
 - A. Rockingham Harrisonburg Regional & Middle River Regional Jail Statistics
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.

- B. Harrisonburg Rockingham Community Services Board (CSB)
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.
- C. District 39 Probation and Parole
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.
- D. Court Services
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.
- E. Reentry Coordinator
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.
- F. Alternatives Task Force
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting.

Mr. King commented that one alternative that could have been increased as a component of the Middle River Jail Expansion is Work Release.

- G. Criminal Justice Planner Report
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting.

Vice-Chair Dent commented that the City of Harrisonburg City Council recently voted to Opt-In to the Opioid Settlement that Virginia is participating in, and that part of the Settlement can be used for other expenses. Since our Community has an overwhelming issue with Methamphetamine, versus Opioids, there may be an opportunity to fund programs focused on other issues. Chairman Chandler added that the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors also approved opting-in at a recent meeting.

VIII. Old Business

Draft updated Bylaws for the CCJB were distributed prior to the Meeting for a review period during which suggested changes by Judge Albertson and Chaz Haywood were made.

Chairman Chandler recognized the hard work in drafting the Bylaws by Vice-Chair Dent, Stephen King, City Attorney Chris Brown, County Attorney Miller, and S. Frank Sottaceti.

Chairman Chandler requested a Motion to approve the Bylaws. Stephen King made a Motion for Approval. Seconded by Ellen Harrison. Unanimously Approved.

IX. New Business

A. Frank Sottaceti discussed the various CCJB Meeting schedules that were available. After open discussion it was decided to use a standard Calendar Quarter meeting schedule. Future meetings will be held in January, April, July, and October each year. Due to this meeting, under the old schedule, being held in December 2021, the next meeting will be April 2022. Chairman Chandler asked for a Motion to Approve the schedule. Stephen King made a Motion, and it was Seconded by Gene Hart. Unanimously Approved.

B. Public Defenders Office

Gene Hart discussed whether it is time to start looking at if our Community needs a Public Defenders Office. He said that there are a limited number of private attorneys qualified and capable of doing the work of criminal defense in our community's Bar Association. There are now 23 Attorneys representing 19 Law Firms accepting Cases in the General District Court. There are 11 Attorneys accepting Cases for adults in the Juvenile Domestic Relations Court. Those 11 are from eight (8) separate Law Firms. In the Juvenile Domestic Relations Court there are eight (8) Attorneys accepting Cases from six (6) Law Firms. The number of experienced Attorneys on the Court List is decreasing. The process to stand-up a Public Defenders Office is optimistically 3-5 years. This is a political process and action will have to be at the Commonwealth level to initiate the process. Gene Hart said this is a future concern and wanted to bring it to the attention of the CCJB. Chairman Chandler asked how the CCJB could assist if the City and County seek to stand-up a Public Defenders Office. Gene Hart said that possibly a Resolution of support at some future time would be a CCJB action. Possibly having a representative from another jurisdiction come to the CCJB to provide an overview of how their office was stood-up.

C. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Vice-Chair Dent gave an overview of ARPA that was supported by the slides contained in the read-ahead. She highlighted the "Community Violence Intervention" component of ARPA allowed funding. She had contacted Marsha Garst and Nicole Terrell to explore using some ARPA funds for Victim Services; specifically emergency lodging for domestic violence situations and counseling for Victims of domestic violence. Vice-Chair Dent suggested that the City and County collaborate on these initiatives. In addition, she reached out to Kelly Royston, the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Coordinator, to see if any additional funding is needed and Kelly sent her a proposal for equipment to support CIT Training. Another area of possible funding could be transitional housing for reentry and substance abuse.

X. Public Comment - None

The next CCJB Meeting will be held on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVED - 04/04/2022