

Cache County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Meeting Minutes

Time (Approximately): 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM (MDT)

Place: Cache County Council Chambers (199 N Main St., Logan, UT, 84321)

Present Committee Members:

- Sandi Goodlander (County Council)
- Sara Owen (Victim Services Supervisor)
- Taylor Sorensen (Cache County Attorney's Office)
- Andi Faulkner (Utah Association of Counties)
- Andrew Erickson (Cache County Council Staff)
- Joshua Parson (Bear River Health Department)
- Trevor Kirk (Bear River Mental Health)
- Dennis Franklin (Probation/Parole)
- Michael McGinnis (Public Defender's Office)
- Lee Edwards (Justice Court Judge)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Sandi Goodlander at approximately 3:00 PM (0:00). A quorum was established.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented for approval. No amendments were proposed. A motion was made to approve the agenda, which was seconded and passed unanimously (1:07).

Election of Committee Chair

Sandi Goodlander noted that the state code for the committee chair has changed to allow any elected official to serve. Taylor Sorensen nominated Sandi Goodlander to continue serving as chair, citing the value of tradition. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously (2:08).

Review of CJCC Purpose and Utah Code Requirements

Andi Faulkner provided an update on the purpose and new Utah code requirements for the CJCC (3:00). Key points included that the code was amended to allow for the optional addition of new stakeholders, such as university personnel and public safety members, to provide "ears to the ground" for the public. The original purposes remain: data sharing, mapping community resources, and creating a strategic plan to reduce recidivism. A new purpose was added: strategizing ways to help people leaving the justice system access county resources and gain employment. This is currently a strategy-level task due to a lack of available funding for deeper implementation.

The committee acknowledged the goals developed in 2023, which focused on defining and measuring recidivism in Cache County and creating a plan to address its risk factors.

Discussion on Strategic Plan, Data Sharing, and Objectives

The committee discussed the need to move forward with the strategic goals developed in 2023 (6:50).

- **Data Sharing:** Judge Lee Edwards noted the availability of a new court data request system where specific data points can be requested and returned in a spreadsheet format within a few days (8:26). He agreed to provide the contact information to Andrew Erickson and Sandi Goodlander. The committee acknowledged that a full-time position might be needed to analyze the data but that IT support could help create a program for data requests.
- **Recidivism Definition:** Dennis Franklin suggested a standard definition for recidivism would be to count any new conviction of a Class C misdemeanor or higher, as these can result in a custodial sentence (37:16). He emphasized the importance of defining whether the focus is on crimes committed in the county or by county residents, even if the crime occurs elsewhere.
- **Peer Support Specialists:** Dennis Franklin highlighted the value of certified peer support specialists—individuals with lived experience in the justice system—as liaisons for people leaving the system (12:02). Trevor Kirk noted that Bear River Mental Health and the Health Department have such specialists but face challenges with funding and retention. Joshua Parson said the Health Department would be willing to discuss the funding required for such a program. Michael McGinnis suggested connecting with the Drug Court's mentorship program, as it already has a pool of potential candidates (17:29).
- **Opioid Settlement Funds:** Sandi Goodlander mentioned a discussion with Sheriff Jensen regarding opioid settlement funds held by the state. She asked Andi Faulkner to provide contact information for the director of UBID to inquire about these funds, as they could be used to hire a probation officer or provide other resources for opioid-related cases (10:09).

Review of Committee Membership

The committee reviewed the expanded membership options in the new state statute (11:36). They will consider if other relevant voices, such as someone from the local homelessness council or a municipal leader, should be added to the committee. Judge Edwards emphasized that a representative from local government could help educate cities on the legal and financial ramifications of dissolving their Justice Courts (19:00).

Update on Cache Valley Unified Support Program

Trevor Kirk provided an update on this program, which involves police officers, mental health services, and other social service providers meeting monthly to share information and provide support (45:25). He offered to provide a report on the program's activities to the committee.

Update on Receiving Center

Trevor Kirk gave an update on the receiving center project. The contractor has been selected, and construction is planned to begin soon, with a 10-14 month timeline (46:49). However, plans for a housing unit next to the center are on pause because state funding for this component is not rolling over as expected. He explained that this is a challenge that other facilities throughout the state are also experiencing. The committee discussed the importance of permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless population.

Future Meetings and Other Business

- **Meeting Schedule:** The committee agreed to meet every other month. The next meeting will be in August.

- **Meeting Time:** The group decided to shift future meetings to a 12:00 PM (noon) time slot with lunch provided, as this seems to work better for most members (43:50).
- **Reporting:** Updates to the strategic plan will be submitted to Andi Faulkner by November 1 to meet the state's November 30 deadline (52:15).
- **Justice Court Issues:** The committee discussed the trend of cities closing their Justice Courts, which places a burden on the county attorney's office and the District Court system. This is seen as a "train wreck coming" and a key issue for county leaders to address (21:40).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM (53:49).