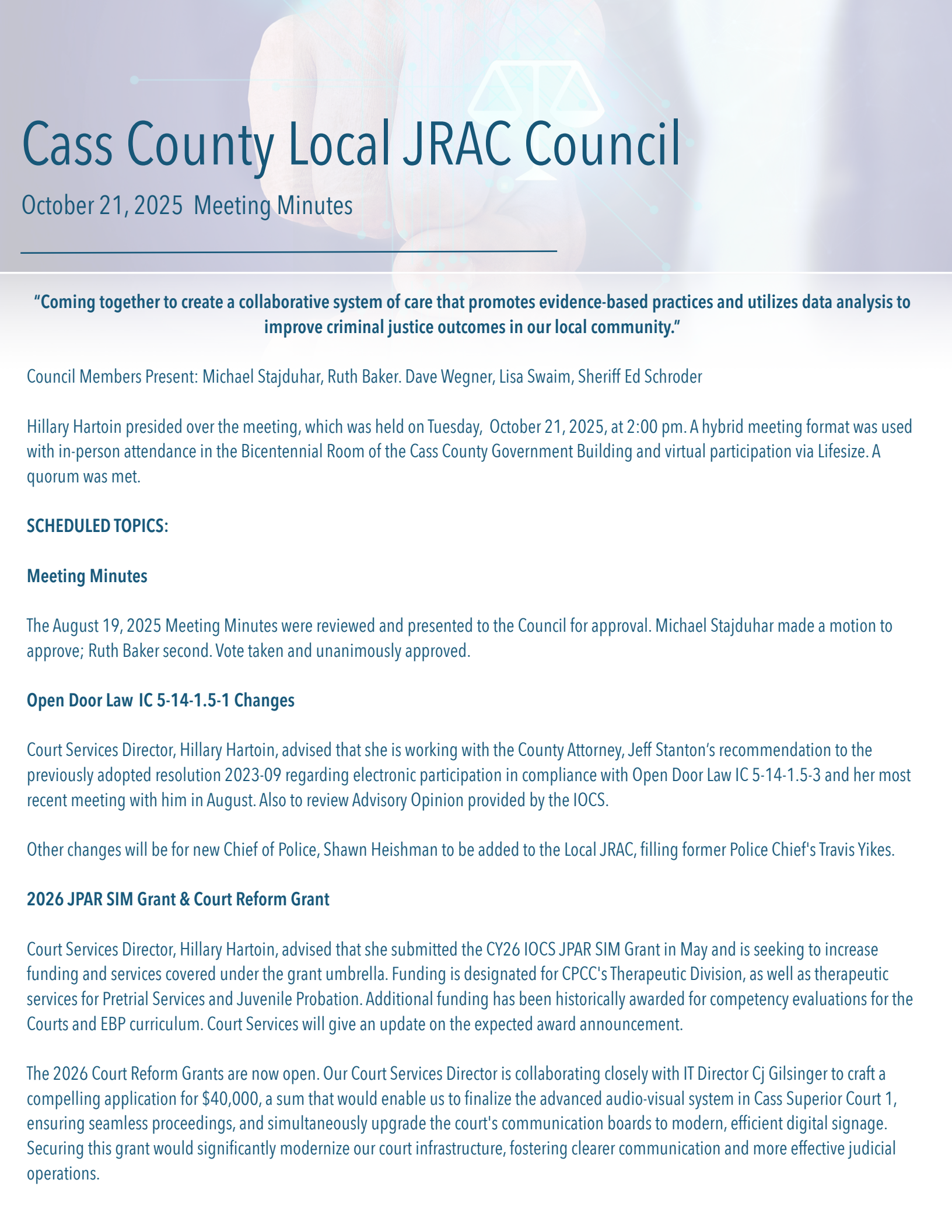




Cass County Local JRAC Council

October 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes

"Coming together to create a collaborative system of care that promotes evidence-based practices and utilizes data analysis to improve criminal justice outcomes in our local community."

Council Members Present: Michael Stajduhar, Ruth Baker, Dave Wegner, Lisa Swaim, Sheriff Ed Schroder

Hillary Hartoin presided over the meeting, which was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 2:00 pm. A hybrid meeting format was used with in-person attendance in the Bicentennial Room of the Cass County Government Building and virtual participation via Lifesize. A quorum was met.

SCHEDULED TOPICS:

Meeting Minutes

The August 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and presented to the Council for approval. Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve; Ruth Baker second. Vote taken and unanimously approved.

Open Door Law IC 5-14-1.5-1 Changes

Court Services Director, Hillary Hartoin, advised that she is working with the County Attorney, Jeff Stanton's recommendation to the previously adopted resolution 2023-09 regarding electronic participation in compliance with Open Door Law IC 5-14-1.5-3 and her most recent meeting with him in August. Also to review Advisory Opinion provided by the IOCS.

Other changes will be for new Chief of Police, Shawn Heishman to be added to the Local JRAC, filling former Police Chief's Travis Yikes.

2026 JPAR SIM Grant & Court Reform Grant

Court Services Director, Hillary Hartoin, advised that she submitted the CY26 IOCS JPAR SIM Grant in May and is seeking to increase funding and services covered under the grant umbrella. Funding is designated for CPCC's Therapeutic Division, as well as therapeutic services for Pretrial Services and Juvenile Probation. Additional funding has been historically awarded for competency evaluations for the Courts and EBP curriculum. Court Services will give an update on the expected award announcement.

The 2026 Court Reform Grants are now open. Our Court Services Director is collaborating closely with IT Director CJ Gilsinger to craft a compelling application for \$40,000, a sum that would enable us to finalize the advanced audio-visual system in Cass Superior Court 1, ensuring seamless proceedings, and simultaneously upgrade the court's communication boards to modern, efficient digital signage. Securing this grant would significantly modernize our court infrastructure, fostering clearer communication and more effective judicial operations.

Future CCAB Reporting for Jail, Pretrial Services an JDAI

Hillary Hartoin advised that a significant shift in the oversight and discussion of local justice initiatives is underway, as Pretrial Services is no longer funded by the IDOC nor directly tied to the Community Corrections Advisory Board. This transition, coupled with the establishment of dedicated Local Justice Reinvestment Advisory Councils (JRACs) in both Pulaski and Cass Counties, centralizes critical conversations. Consequently, all reports and discussions pertaining to the local jail, pretrial release programs, and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) will now be exclusively managed within the Local JRACs. This strategic realignment is designed to streamline communication and reporting, effectively eliminating the duplication of meetings and efforts across various local justice stakeholders.

Emergency Request for Opioid Settlement Funding

Director Hartoin presented an urgent request to the Board, seeking \$3,000 from the Opioid Settlement Funding to acquire new laptops for the Pretrial Services Staff. This critical need arose because the two current laptops utilized by staff members were verified by Cass County IT as completely non-functional and unable to retain a charge, effectively hindering their essential operations. Further demonstrating a collaborative approach, Cass County IT committed to matching the requested funds, effectively doubling the impact of the investment, especially since supporting Pretrial Services, including any form of supplemental equipment, aligns with the allowable expenditures outlined for the Opioid Settlement Funding. Following a motion by Michael Stajduhar and a second from Ruth Baker, the Board unanimously approved the request, ensuring vital resources for the Pretrial Services team.

Program Updates

It was requested at August's meeting that each program deliver a comprehensive overview of their progress, ensuring a shared understanding of our collective achievements and challenges. Community Corrections, Pretrial Services and the Cass County Sheriff's Department all presented.

Other Business

None.

Council Comments

None.

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dave Wegner; Ed Schroder second. Vote taken and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

To Be Announced

Respectfully submitted ,

/s/Hillary Hartoin

Hillary Hartoin

Director, Cass County Court Services

JRAC Chair