



Cass County Local JRAC Council

October 19, 2021 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."

Board Members Present: Judge James Muehlhausen, Terry Haney, Dave Wegner, Noah Schafer, Will Scott, Sheryl Pherson, Sheriff Ed Schroder, Nicole Hiatt-Drang and Hillary Hartoin.

Hillary Hartoin, Court Services Director, presided over the meeting which was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 3:30 pm. Due to COVID-19, the meeting took place virtually via the Lifesize application. A quorum was met.

Scheduled Topics:

What is the JRAC-Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council?

Director Hartoin shared the below information with the group regarding the formation and basis for local JRACs. The group was also advised of the November 1st Virtual Training offered by the Indiana Office of Court Services. Hillary Hartoin, Dave Wegner and Will Scott will be attending on behalf of the Council.

Based on legislation created by the State JRAC, HEA 1068, the Local JRAC Statute, was signed into law on July 27, 2021, requiring the establishment of a Local JRAC in every Indiana County. Per Statute, Community Corrections Advisory Boards are permitted to assume the role of the local JRAC Council, however, it was voted in July's CPCC Advisory Board Meeting that both Cass and Pulaski County would form separate Local JRAC Councils in order to best discuss and meet the needs of their individual local counties.

Local JRACs are "required to review, evaluate, and make recommendations about certain local criminal justice practices. In addition, there will be a two-way information flow and coordination between Local JRACs and the State JRAC (POPAL)," with a report compiling data from local criminal justice agencies due no later than March 31st of each year. The overarching goal of the Local JRAC is to examine and analyze local data and practices to improve criminal justice outcomes.

Local JRACs are required:

- to promote the use of evidence-based and best practices in the areas of community-based sentencing alternatives and recidivism reduction*
- review, evaluate, and make recommendations about local practices (community-based corrections and jail overcrowding)*
- compile reports as directed by the State JRAC*
- communicate with the State JRAC to establish and implement best practices and to ensure consistent collection and reporting of data*

Approve Council Members & Offices

The proposed list of both statutorily required council members and additional members was presented to the group. Care was taken to ensure all local criminal justice leaders were included and that local JRAC membership reflects the key stakeholders and partners in Cass County's local criminal justice system. Terry Haney, Chief Adult Probation Officer, made the suggestion to add a position on the Council for the Director of the Court Drug & Alcohol Program, Steve Snyder. Discussion took place and all were in consensus to approved said addition. Hillary Hartoin, Court & Pretrial Services Director, nominated to serve as Council Chair; Dave Wegner, Community Corrections Director, nominated to serve as Council Vice Chair. Motion to approve below Council Member List and elect the above-mentioned office holders made by Judge Muehlhuasem, Sheryl Pherson second. Vote taken and unanimously approved.

Ed Schroder, <i>Cass County Sheriff</i>	(Statutorily Required)
Noah Schafer, <i>Prosecuting Attorney</i>	(Statutorily Required)
Sheryl Pherson, <i>Chief Public Defender</i>	(Statutorily Required)
Judge Stephen Kitts, <i>Cass County Circuit Court</i>	(One Judicial Officer Statutorily Required; all recommended)
Judge Jim Muehlhausen, <i>Cass County Superior Court 1</i>	
Judge Lisa Swaim, <i>Cass County Superior Court 2</i>	
Brian Reed, <i>President of Cass County Council</i>	(Statutorily Required-President of County Fiscal Body)
Terry Haney, <i>Chief Adult Probation Officer</i>	(Statutorily Required)
Will Scott, <i>Chief Juvenile Probation Officer & JDAI Rep.</i>	(Recommended)
Hillary Hartoin, <i>Director of Court & Pretrial Services</i>	(Recommended)*** <i>Elected Chair</i>
Dave Wegner, <i>Director of Community Corrections</i>	(Statutorily Required) *** <i>Elected Vice Chair</i>
Dr. Carrie Caldwell, <i>Community Mental Health Rep.</i>	(Statutorily Required)
Steve Snyder, <i>Director of Court Drug & Alcohol Program</i>	(Recommended)
Ryan Browning, <i>Cass County Commissioners</i>	(Statutorily Required)

Agency Data Review

Reviewed data shared by Community Corrections, Pretrial Services, CCJ Jail Analysis, submitted Juvenile Probation and JDAI Report, Oral Adult Probation Report and Diversion Statistics shared by Cass County Prosecutor's Office. Court & Pretrial Services also shared that in collaboration with Four County we soon will have data to report from the BJMHS, that provides insight into the mental health needs of inmates in the jail. More specific data reporting requirements will be shared with the group after the above-mentioned November 1st training. Goals and data collection requests are welcome and will continue to be discussed at further meetings.

Goals, Mission Statement, and Bylaws

Discussion regarding agency needs and goals took place. In response to Terry Haney's request to streamline the Four County intake process for Adult Probation, Four County Criminal Justice Referral Form and process shared with all community supervision agencies.

Proposed Bylaws presented to the group and per the above-mentioned addition of the Director of the Drug and Alcohol Program to the member list, a motion to amend and approve said bylaws was made by Noah Schafer, Sheryl Pherson second. Vote taken and unanimously approved. Hillary Hartoin to submit said Bylaws to County Attorney and Commissioners for approval. After discussion, it was determined that an ordinance was not needed to formally establish the Council.

The below proposed mission and vision statements were presented to the group, but a vote was not taken to approve at this time. Further discussion to take place at the next meeting.

Mission Statement:

"The Cass County Justice Reinvestment Advisory Board (JRAC) consisting of local government leaders, stakeholders, and corrections professionals will regularly review policy and practices to promote the use of evidence-based practices, state and local collaboration, the collection and examination of data and the utilization of best practices in community based alternatives to work towards reductions in recidivism and improvements in systemic responses to improve criminal justice outcomes in our community. "

Vision Statement:

"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."

Other Business and Council Comments

No other business or comments were offered.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 4:30 p.m. following the CPCC Advisory Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted ,

/s/Hillary Hartoin

Hillary Hartoin

Director, Cass County Court Services