

Michigan Department of Corrections
Office of Community Corrections
State Board Meeting

February 12, 2024

1:00pm – 2:00pm

In Attendance: Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth, Director Heidi Washington, Chokwe Pitchford, Brandon D. Davis, Kevin R. Krieg, Jewel Hurn, Marilena B. David-Martin, Kyle Kaminski, and State Board Liaison Douglas Clark.

Not Present: Dr. Marlene Davis, Jennifer Janetsky, Chief Judge Bradley Knoll, William DeBoer, Chief Natalie V. Thompson, Chief Judge Martha Anderson

Call to Order

Brandon D. Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and roll call was completed by Jane Blount.

Approval of Minutes

Chokwe Pitchford motioned to approve meeting minutes from August 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Director Washinton and the board voted in favor of approving the previous minutes without corrections.

- I. Director Washington – Opening Remarks
 - a. MDOC is continuing to work on providing resources inside facilities as well as out and continuing to help people at the earliest intersection with the criminal justice system with help from community corrections.
 - b. There has been a slight increase in prison population which is probably due to the courts reengaging working through backlogs. The prison rate is still lower than what the population projections predicted.
 - c. Focus continues to be on expanding partnerships and adding CCAB's. There are currently 32 in the state, leaving some areas of the state without a CCAB. Hillsdale County was most recently added this cycle.
 - d. We plan to continue to expand probation services and extend the already successful model we utilize for parolees to probationers.
- II. Kyle Kaminski – Administrator's Report/Legislative Update
 - a. Executive budget recommendation will be released by the governor later this week and we will follow up with CCAB's after that about the recommendations.
 - b. In tracking our projections, they currently are low but expected to even out. Reminder that in order to develop additional support for our programs we need to ensure we are using allocated resources affectively.
 - c. Currently there is no pending legislation that specifically impacts community corrections, but it remains a great time to engage with local representatives and educate them about the services CCAB's provide.
- III. Doug Clark – Office of Community Corrections Update

- a. There has been a slight rise in felony dispositions (approximately 6% between FY22 and FY23) and also a rise in prison intake.
 - b. We are working on procuring new grant management software which will streamline the application and invoicing process. We will be beginning to work on it this next fiscal year and will notify CCAB's of updates.
- IV. Public Comment
- a. None
- V. Overview of local CCAB services
- a. Melanie Achenbach (Eaton County) provided an overview of the services offered through Eaton County including jail and community programming. They are also offering pretrial services beginning this year.
 - i. Motivational dorm program: Began in 90's and utilizes cognitive and optional faith-based classes. Participants can receive up to 25% reduction on their jail sentence for successful completion. After the 8 week program is completed a graduation ceremony is held that is attended by the participants, judges, deputies, etc..
 - ii. Jail cog: Cognitive program facilitated by Intrinsic Change Consulting
 - iii. Community programming: Outpatient substance use disorder treatment and MRT.
 - iv. Pretrial: Added full time pretrial specialist this year. PRAXIS assessments are conducted for felony or serious misdemeanor offenses and pretrial supervision for those who qualify based on the assessment.
 - b. David Stevens (Thumb Regional)
 - i. Thumb Regional offers Thinking Matters, IOP, employability, OMSP (through TRICAP)
 - ii. Discussed importance of reaching out to legislators and says they have been helpful in streamlining funding and accessibility. Asked for help to continue to streamline processes.
 - iii. Local control – local CCAB's need to have ability to assess the needs of their county and utilize appropriate resources instead of being required to take only one approach. Each county/judge has different sentencings and jails have different abilities to run programming. Rural areas have lack of access to public transportation and internet service, so they continue to experience problems.
 - iv. Access to documents – need to have the ability to access referral documents themselves instead of relying on MDOC to provide them.
 - v. Follow up questions from board members:
 - 1. Chokwe Pitchford asked about ROBIN funding for internet in the Thumb Regional area – David Stevens said that they are looking into it in Lapeer County but the county has not been willing to match funding. There have also been logistical issues with surveying citizens to determine need for access.
 - 2. Brandon D. Davis asked about process for staff getting paperwork and where we are at on computer program for access. Kyle Kaminski reported that those details are in the MDOC computer system, which is

still in the build out phase, but access for community partners is on the radar.

- c. Marissa Bolten (Midland)
 - i. Previously lacking in employment numbers according to their key performance metrics. They partnered with a local program that had been started by former recovery court graduates.
 - 1. Skills for Tomorrow (Community Construct) was started by recovery court graduates. Greg Yancer, a founder of the program, spoke about the program that was founded in 2019. Since its founding, they have employed 81 people and have a current roster of 12. The program allows them to be employed while working through the requirements of their programs.
 - a. Get raises by taking classes (parenting, financial literacy, etc.)
 - b. Help provide gas cards/transportation, clothes, etc.
 - 2. Midland Community Foundation awarded a grant to funding training at the Greater Michigan Construction Academy. There are 7 students currently enrolled with 5 more opening in the fall.
- d. Ken Bobo and Jamie Weston (Kalamazoo)
 - i. CBT – started in 2016 “I must think” 12-week program
 - 1. Study conducted by WMU on recidivism rates for the program: 82% recidivism rate for the control group compared to a 46% recidivism rate for program participants.
 - a. During covid a virtual option was utilized which produced similar recidivism rates
 - b. Served almost 500 individuals for FY23
 - 2. Recidivism rates were calculated through LEIN information prior to FY23, but had to switch based on reform.
 - 3. Additional Kalamazoo programs include: Moving On (women’s trauma informed cbt) and Trust (parenting program)

VI. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn accepted by Brandon D. David at 1:54pm.