

**MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
JUSTICE SYSTEMS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 18, 2024 - DRAFT**

Agenda Item / Discussion	Action /Follow-Up
<p>I. Call to Order / Introductions Committee Co-Chair, Contesa Tate, called the meeting to order at 3:30pm</p> <p><u>Members Present:</u> Cmsr. Tavane Payne, District IV (3:55pm) Co-Chair, Cmsr. Contesa Tate, District V Cmsr. Gerthy Loveday Cohen, District III Cmsr. Laura Griffin, District V Cmsr. Geri Stern, District I</p> <p><u>Guest Speakers</u> Ellen McDonnell, Contra Costa Public Defender’s office (CCPD)</p> <p><u>Other Attendees:</u> Angela Beck Jennifer Bruggeman Sarah Kennard (3:35pm) Jen Quallick, (Supv Candace Andersen’s ofc) Jill Ray, (Supv Candace Andersen’s ofc)</p>	<p>Meeting was held at: 1340 Arnold Drive, Ste 126 Martinez, CA and via Zoom platform</p>
<p>II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None</p>	
<p>III. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Cmsr. Griffin) I wanted to clarify a comment mentioned in one of our previous meetings that AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) program had three clients open to services. They actually have 51. The correction came from Marie Scannell and wanted to make sure it was put in record. I believe it was at a commission meeting and we will correct them. 	<p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Correct minutes re: AOT Program client numbers</p>
<p>IV. COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acting Co-Chair Cmsr. Tate. We will be speaking on the merger with AODAB (Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board). We will also be speaking on the tri-committee project to get everyone involved in participating. 	
<p>V. APPROVE minutes from May 21, 2024, Justice Systems Committee meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cmsr. L. Griffin moved to approve the minutes as is. Seconded by Cmsr. G. Loveday Cohen <p>Vote: 4-0-0 Ayes: L. Griffin, G. Loveday Cohen, G. Stern, and C. Tate Abstain:</p>	<p>Agendas/minutes can be found at: https://contra-costa.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx</p>

VI. DISCUSS/UPDATE 2024 Justice Systems Committee action items:

- a. **Assist/support of needs/challenges of the Public Defenders**
- b. **Governor's budget reduction proposal/effects for Justice and Behavioral Health programs**
- c. **Justice leading tri-committee visits/reports on Detention Facilities**

Assist/support of the Public Defenders:

- (Cmsr. Stern) Thank you very much for attending last month. It was a very comprehensive overview of what is going on. I think our committee would like to focus on things we can actually help you with, so that we feel we are providing a service, other than just showing up every month. Is there anything, as a Mental Health Commission Justice Committee can do to support the Public Defender's office and your needs?
(RESPONSE: Ellen McConnell) A minimum, having some of the engaged folks report in about some of these more vulnerable populations where we are very concerned. Example: the Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial (MIST) population, we are all working on ways to engage outside of custody to reduce the jail population. Perhaps having a report back from either our office or other partners on that. We are having conversations, but there a lot concerns about gaps in services. What work other partners are doing to address these gaps. We are moving to move things in a positive direction but there are gaps, especially for those sitting in custody.
- (Cmsr. Stern) We are not asking for reports but rather offering assistance as an advocacy group. So how can this subcommittee assist by advocating on behalf that population.
(RESPONSE: Ellen McDonnell) You question is clear and I agree. I don't know what the answer is but can tell you the gap in community-based services and have people sitting in custody because community-based services don't exist, or are not adequately staffed. We have judges asking, "are there spaces?" "are there residential beds for clients?" "are there community based service providers able to supervise them under mental health diversion. The answer we are hearing is no. I did want to give an update I didn't have at the last meeting regarding Care Court. We are still waiting on the official word on who will be the legal service provider in Care Court. We will have that official word on Friday. What is confirmed, the governor has severely / drastically cut the Care Court legal services funding, which was going to be somewhere close to \$1.4m and is now just under \$500K/yr. Our office has been advocating for additional funding for a conservatorship attorney because we are under capacity. There was a bidding process that went out from the state for the amount of \$1.4-\$1.5m, approximately 1.5 months ago, in the interim the governor has proposed to cut that significantly across the state. One more thing to add to your list, we are mandated to launch our Care Court in December 2024.
- (Cmsr. Stern) So we have a mandate to start Care Court but our funding has been cut in half <further than half>, if we can't meet the mandate because funding has cut, are there consequences?
(RESPONSE: Ellen McDonnell) That is a great question. We are all just trying to figure out what this will look like, an unfunded or less funded mandate. CCC's initial funding request was \$1.4m and now it is down to \$486k – just for the attorney services piece. There are likely other

Documentation on this agenda item was shared to the Mental Health Commission and included as handouts in the meeting packet and is available on the MHC website under meeting agenda and minutes: Documentation on this agenda item can also be found:

<https://contra-costa.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

ACTION ITEM:

Motion passed for the Justice System Committee creates a navigational guide that identifies current CBOs and recommends new CBOs to fill the gaps in services needed to serve misdemeanor clients with mental health issues.

Passed: 5-0-0

ACTION ITEM:

Motion passed for the Justice System Committee contributes to the tri-committee visit and reporting project on Detention Facilities.

Passed: 5-0-0

providers who have bid and likely not in Contra Costa from what we are hearing. That information will be released in a couple of days and conversations on how to manage to launch Care Court. Those we are servicing in both our conservatorship population and MIST population would potentially be really good Care Court participants, which would be the civil process, and have potential funding for housing and other case management. It is a promising model and appropriately locates folks in a non-criminal system and helps us to really shrink the number of folks we are criminalizing who have mental health issues. If used properly it can be a really good tool to get people out of our criminal system with mental health issues, ensuring we have a strong commitment to setting up a robust Care Court. What I am hearing from those counties that are year ahead of us, it is really important to have those housing and case management resources and finding people, getting them into court, getting them back and forth to their services is really crucial to having a successful Care Court. Attorney funding is important but also social worker, case client specialist funding to make sure people get those services.

- (Cmsr. Stern) Would that be a nice opening for us to advocate for more funding to the Board of Supervisors (BOS)?
(RESPONSE: Ellen McDonnell) Possibly, again we haven't even had these conversations yet. It is all brand new. I will keep the Justice meeting calendared to pop in and provide you all with updates. We are just getting the news.
- (Cmsr. Tate) Potential project we could do to help advocate for the concerns of having limited list of CBOs available to fill the gaps of services, maybe we could meet and learn/identify all CBOs in our county, categorize and share them with the Public Defender's office and see if we could bridge the communication gap as to what intercept of services would they be able to provide (upon incarceration, re-entry phase); where would they be able to provide support, so we can try to eliminate as many people in custody as possible. Housing is likely the number one services -- Who would be able to provide housing, supervision and transportation? Maybe we can champion, it is just finding those services, learning and finding creative ways to bridge that services to the PDs office. Do you think that might be supportive to help address those gaps?
(RESPONSE: Ellen McDonnell) It is a great offer. We can see if there are any CBOs or others our team is not aware of. There are restrictions on what kinds of service providers, under mental health diversion but we are always happy to be creative. (Cmsr. Tate) Spoke on past experience identifying gaps and helping to champion an underfunded CBO to advocate for this organization meeting a gapped need to be pushed to the forefront.
- (Cmsr. Tate) moved the Justice System Committee creates a navigational guide that identifies current CBOs and recommends new CBOs to fill the gaps in services needed to serve misdemeanor clients with mental health issues.
 - Seconded by Cmsr. G. Stern
 - Vote: 5-0-0
 - Ayes: T. Payne, L. Griffin, G. Loveday Cohen, G. Stern, and C. Tate

<p>Discussion: Need list of CBOs to interview, possible ad hoc; <i>Jennifer Bruggeman will forward a list after the meeting.</i> Also Ms. Beck to forward the recently updated service maps after the meeting, as well.</p> <p><u>Governor's budget reduction proposal/effects on Justice and BH programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Cmsr. Tate) Discussion in Finance committee meeting yesterday. Information will be more available in September so we will keep this item as a placeholder on the agenda as updates occur. <p><u>Justice leading tri-committee visits/reports on Detention Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Cmsr. Tate) Cmsr. Payne introduced the idea of all committees coming together to work on one project: Site visits to all the detention centers in the county, with already pre-thought out questions for each detention center that will cover information for Finance, Justice Systems and Quality of Care ideologies. Once we receive the votes from each committee with their commitment to participate, we will schedule visits to the detention centers and create the questions in each committee and create one report with all questions consolidated. (Cmsr. Tate) moved the Justice System Committee contributes to the tri-committee visit and reporting project on Detention Facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seconded by Cmsr. G. Stern Vote: 5-0-0 Ayes: T. Payne, L. Griffin, G. Loveday Cohen, G. Stern, and C. Tate (Cmsr. Griffin) For the record we still have one more committee to vote into participation and it may just be Finance and Justice Systems participating. Will brought up at the Quality of Care committee meeting on Thursday. Discussion regarding the visits and information to schedule the detention center visits and specifics. Cmsr. Stern requested the meeting minutes (and presentation if there was one) when Manju Mathews attended the Justice Systems meeting. Ms. Beck to send out to the committee members after the meeting. Questions regarding the merge with AODAB. Ms. Beck to send out information on the AODAB meetings and committees. (Jill Ray) AODAB meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 4:30pm at the Arnold Drive Campus. 	
<p>VII. Determine committee's revised priorities and Next Steps</p>	<p><i>Due to time constraints, this Agenda Item will addressed next meeting</i></p>
<p>VIII. Adjourn: 4:22 pm</p>	<p>ZOOM recording available at: https://zoom.us/rec/share/DqQFh4Epcm0EvOii01B3QM3bTOAaJanihv9XUR9ezL6F7bARdWgJOWbJTpWii3GA.NNXuH2Yc09I9jUBJ [zoom.us] Passcode: v&&6gDeL</p>