

Rockingham - Harrisonburg Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB)

Minutes

In-Person Meeting – 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Monday, April 4, 2022 - 4:00 p.m.

Board Members –

Rick Chandler – Rockingham County Board Member / CCJB Chairperson
Laura Dent - City of Harrisonburg Council Member / CCJB Vice-Chairperson
Christopher Bean (Marsha Garst) – Commonwealth’s Attorney
Ande Banks – City Manager (Acting)
Kelley Warner – Chief, Harrisonburg Police Department
Chaz Haywood – Clerk of Circuit Court
Bryan Hutcheson – Sheriff, Rockingham County & City of Harrisonburg
Ellen Harrison – Rockingham Harrisonburg Community Services Board
Richard Jackson, Rockingham-Harrisonburg-Page Reentry Council
Stephen King – County Administrator
Celest Williams – Director, Department of Social Services
Oskar Scheikl – Rockingham County School Superintendent - *Absent*
Judge Bruce Albertson
Michael Richards – Harrisonburg City School Superintendent - *Absent*
Joshua Lutz - Chief, Probation & Parole District 39
Judge John Hart - *Absent*
Judge Anthony Bailey - *Absent*
Gene Hart – Defense Attorney
Monica Martin – Chief Magistrate
Ann Marie Ritchie, Director, Court Services

Non-Board Attendees

S. Frank Sottaceti- Harrisonburg / Rockingham Criminal Justice Planner
Ms. Ruth Jost – Rockingham County Resident

- I. Welcome and Introduction by Chairperson Chandler
- II. Chairman Chandler moved for Approval of the December 6, 2021 Minutes. Amended to reflect verbiage change per Mr. King. Motion made by Mr. Stephen King, seconded by Ellen Harrison, and Approved by the Board.
- III. Mr. Richard Jackson was introduced as a Member of the CCJB representing the Rockingham-Harrisonburg-Page Reentry Council.

IV. Informational/Operational Updates

- A. Rockingham Harrisonburg Regional & Middle River Regional Jail Statistics
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.
- B. Harrisonburg Rockingham Community Services Board (CSB)
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.
- C. District 39 Probation and Parole
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.
- D. Court Services
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.
- E. Reentry Coordinator
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting. No questions or comments were raised.
- F. Criminal Justice Planner Report
Report was posted and disseminated prior to the Meeting.

Sottaceti highlighted the Bureau of Justice Assistance awarding a Grant for a Community Paramedicine Program which will be administered and run by the City of Harrisonburg Fire Department.

Vice-Chairperson Dent commented that this is exactly the type of “upstream” program that our Community needs. That it serves to divert individuals, who may otherwise become criminal justice involved, from entering that System.

V. Old Business

Chairman Chandler stated that the Bylaws for the CCJB have been Approved by the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County and are now in effect.

Chairperson Chandler stated that future Committees may be viewed more as Task Forces that are limited in scope and are targeted on single issues and will also be limited Term.

Ms. Ruth Jost, who had been involved with the former Alternatives Committee since 2015 was provided an opportunity to speak and thanked the CCJB for the opportunity to be a part of the Alternatives Committee since it was established in 2015.

VI. New Business

- A. During the December 6, 2021 CCJB Meeting Gene Hart had discussed whether it is time to begin exploring if our Community needs a Public Defenders Office to be established.

Chairperson Chandler brought that subject up at this CCJB Meeting and Gene Hart made a Motion to form a Committee that would look at the issue and report back to the CCJB towards the 3rd or 4th Quarter of 2022.

Gene Hart suggested that the membership of the Committee should include both City and County representatives along with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Mr. Chaz Haywood brought up the fiscal issues that surround standing-up a Public Defenders Office.

There was discussion that Gene Hart and Marsha Garst would not serve as Chair of the Committee and therefore the leadership of the Committee will be chosen by the CCJB Chairperson per the CCJB Bylaws.

The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Stephen King and the CCJB Voting Members Approved the Motion unanimously.

VII. Public Comment

Ms. Hannah Wittmer had a question regarding the movement of inmates from our jurisdictions. Mr. King stated that all of the movements related to the Middle River Regional Jail would be discussed the following day at the Middle River Regional Jail Authority Board Meeting.

4:47 pm Meeting Adjourned

The next CCJB Meeting will be held on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.