

Rockingham - Harrisonburg Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB)

Minutes

In-Person Meeting – 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Monday, January 9, 2023 - 4:00 p.m.

Board Members –

Monica Robinson - City of Harrisonburg Council Member / CCJB Chairperson
Rick Chandler – Rockingham County Board Member / CCJB Vice-Chairperson
Marsha Garst – Commonwealth’s Attorney
Ande Banks – Harrisonburg City Manager
Kelley Warner– Chief, Harrisonburg Police Department
Chaz Haywood – Clerk of Circuit Court
Bryan Hutcheson – Sheriff, Rockingham County & City of Harrisonburg
Rebekah Brubaker – Director, Rockingham Harrisonburg Community Services Board
Richard Jackson, Rockingham-Harrisonburg-Page Reentry Council – *Absent*
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 – Shawn Printz Representing
Joshua Lutz - Chief, Probation & Parole District 39
Judge John Hart – *Absent*
Judge Anthony Bailey– *Absent*
Gene Hart – Defense Attorney - *Absent*
Monica Martin – Chief Magistrate – *Absent*
Ann Marie Ritchie, Director, Court Services

Non-Board Attendees

S. Frank Sottaceti - Harrisonburg / Rockingham Criminal Justice Planner

- I. Welcome and Introduction by Vice-Chairperson Chandler. Rebekah Brubaker was recognized by the CCJB as the CSB Director. Monica Robinson was recognized as the new Chairperson of the CCJB.
- II. Vice-Chairperson Chandler moved for Approval of the Oct 3, 2022 CCJB Minutes. Mr. King moved for Approval, CA Garst Seconded. Minutes were Approved by verbal polling. None Opposed.
- III. 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. The movement of State Responsible inmates that are housed at the Middle River Regional Jail (MRRJ) to VA Dept. of Corrections facilities is consistently taking place which has maintained the MRRJ daily population down to the mid-500 level. Staunton and Waynesboro are the #1 and #2 localities in incarcerations per 1,000 at 5.68 and 3.54 respectively. Rockingham-Harrisonburg is at 3.18 and Augusta County is at 2.64.

IV. Old Business

The survey results of the Public Defender Exploratory Committee were summarized by Sottaceti. The main finding is that the reimbursement rate for Court-Appointed Counsel is a main factor in the diminishing number of available Counsel. Marsha Garst stated that while there is good representation in our District still available, the issue is sustainability. Between the current economic climate and the failure of raising fees for at least 15 years new Counsel will be difficult to find. Garst made a suggestion that a letter of support for raising the fees should be drafted and sent to our local Delegate and Senator. Chairperson Chandler asked if the letter should come from our local government (City and County) or from the CCJB. Mr. Haywood asked if there is any legislation proposed to address this issue. Sottaceti was tasked with researching any proposed legislation and any past efforts to raise fees. Judge Albertson brought up that the reimbursement fees are per Charge. There are also fee cap waivers available. CA Garst asked/wondered why the Indigent Defense Counsel Commission would not be the catalyst of raising fees.

VI. New Business

Vice-Chairperson Chandler proposed the Calendar Year 2023 dates of CCJB meetings. The meeting dates are all Mondays - April 3rd, July 10th, October 2nd. There was agreement among the CCJB Members that those dates were okay.

Judge Albertson also provided an update on Drug Court. Since inception there have been 50 Graduates and 70 individuals did not successfully complete the Program. He stated that they are in the preliminary stage of an after-care program which incorporates best-practices being

performed in other jurisdictions. Ann Marie Ritchie is going to compile the number of years that have been averted from the completion by the 50 Graduates.

VI. Public Comment

None

4:40 pm - Meeting Adjourned