



# Sherburne County Community Corrections Advisory Board

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## Meeting Minutes

*To enhance public safety and facilitate offender change through Evidence Based and Restorative Practices*

### Members:

Citizen:	Kenneth Asangwe Mary Jo Cobb
Commissioner:	Barbara Burandt, Sherburne County Commissioner
Corrections:	Carter Diers, DOC District Supervisor J. Hancuch, Director, Sherburne County Community Corrections
Education:	Angie Charboneau-Folch, Big Lake High School Assistant Principal
Judiciary:	Honorable Mary Yunker, Judge 10 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District
Law Enforcement:	Joel Brott, Sherburne County Sheriff Steve Doran, Chief Deputy (alternate)
Prosecution:	Dawn Nyhus, Lead Assistant County Attorney Kathy Heaney, Sherburne County Attorney (alternate)
Public Defense:	Lisa Hallberg, Sherburne County Chief Managing Attorney
Social Services:	Amanda Larson, Director Sherburne County HHS Jodi Herung-Dick, Social Services Manager (alternate)
Rivers of Hope:	Hannah-Ruth Patterson

### Meeting Minutes:

*The following members were present: Amanda Larson, Commissioner Barbara Burandt, Lisa Hallberg, Dawn Nyhus, Cartier Diers, Sheriff Joel Brott, Hannah-Ruth Patterson*

*Also present: Bobbie Shafer, Corey Mabis-Rowe, Mia Higgins*

1. **Welcome:** Dawn Nyhus facilitated the meeting in the absence of Judge Yunker. She welcomed the group to the first SCCCAB meeting of 2022 and confirmed with the group that there were no questions, concerns or changes to the last meeting's minutes.

2. **Rivers of Hope Update:** Hannah-Ruth provided an update on Rivers of Hope, advising there has been an increase of all caseloads, but especially in the juvenile/youth programs. Hannah-Ruth explained that with this increase she is watching staff closely to ensure they avoid burnout. She further explained that awareness of Rivers of Hope is spreading, and she is receiving more inquiries about volunteer or outreach options within the organization. Hannah-Ruth advised that the adult unit is

losing long-time employee, Jody, but this position will be filled by their recent intern who just completed their internship. At the moment, they do not have a team lead in the adult unit as all advocates are currently in the first few months in their respected positions but hope to find someone suitable to fill that lead position. Hannah-Ruth advised she currently has three full time adult advocates, who have all started within the last six months. She further advised that she has a full time juvenile/youth team lead, two full time juvenile/youth advocates and one part time juvenile/youth advocate. She explained that her juvenile/youth advocates have also started within the last six months.

Hannah-Ruth advised so far in 2022, adult advocates have worked with 250 unduplicated individuals, while the juvenile/youth advocates have worked with 90 unduplicated individuals. Between both the adult and juvenile/youth advocates, Rivers of Hope has offered 1,300 services. Hannah-Ruth and Corey explained that recently Rivers of Hope met with individuals in Sherburne County who previously attended the domestic violence training to have a discussion in regard to a multi-disciplinary team. Hannah-Ruth also advised the Rivers of Hope Fundraiser Gala will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and is Kentucky Derby themed.

**3. Offender & Department Wide Survey Update:** Corey advised Community Corrections has had a departmental survey listed on all email signatures for nearly one year, and the department has received over 100 responses thus far. He explained this departmental survey is set up for review of any and all staff members. Corey explained Community Corrections is taking the next steps and sending out a more specified survey to offenders who are supervised by traditional Probation Officers. A survey such as this is not completed by many counties within Minnesota, but Sherburne County Community Corrections wants to stay ahead of the game and be able to address any questions or concerns immediately with our supervision. Corey advised the surveys were originally created in Survey Monkey, then sent to each active offender via "Broadcast Messages" which is a function Community Corrections has available within their main system – CSTS. As long as offenders have updated contact information available, a message can be sent. Corey advised that for the adult unit we were able to send out to roughly 85% of an agent's caseload. All pertinent staff were made aware of the survey, as well as exactly what questions would be asked of the offender. This more specific survey provides Supervisors the opportunity to review the offender's response with the respective agent. The questions were based around what management would like to see out of our Probation Officers.

**4. Domestic Violence Supervision & Presentence Investigation Report Adjustments:** With the development/addition of domestic caseloads roughly one year ago, Bobbie advised the previously formed workgroup reconvened recently to review what's working and what's not. The significant increase to caseload numbers was a concern as the agents were unable to supervise these domestic-related offenders appropriately. Bobbie explained when the domestic caseload was originally created, it would contain all relationship type domestic offenses, such as siblings, children, roommates, spouses, etc. The workgroup made adjustments and the domestic caseload now supervises only intimate partner domestics. This adjustment brings the previous 70 offender caseload down to a more manageable 40 offenders.

A second workgroup was formed in 2021, consisting of supervision staff and PSI writers. The group contacted other counties regarding their practice/procedures, reviewed research and training materials, and reviewed and researched the various risk assessments specific to domestic offenders. The workgroup agreed to continue to utilize the Domestic Violence Inventory (DVI), however, they did make some adjustments to the PSI template to capture history of Violations of OFP/HRO/DANCO, domestic related police calls that did not result in charges, and additional information related to high risk behavior. In addition, the workgroup revamped the victim letters – also based on past experience, training and other county's templates. The language within the letters is now "softer" and better clarifies certain areas. A resource page was also added to the letter, so victims know the valuable resources available to them. These changes were officially implemented one week ago, but it may take time to transition out the old and feedback is encouraged.

5. **Agency Updates:**

- a. **DOC (Carter):** Statewide, DOC is still working on and dialing in on a practice model. DOC is wanting to ensure these items are implemented statewide as well as consistent throughout the state. Carter explained that this model is patterned after the ongoing case planning 4-step model and staff are learning this through the state academy, then receiving additional booster trainings. He expressed that the DOC is trying to instill consistency throughout the state. In addition, he advised the DOC is trying to the CSG discussions and is preparing for the possibility of more incoming funds.
- b. **Sheriff:** No update(s).
- c. **Rivers of Hope:** Hannah-Ruth added to her recent update that Rivers of Hope does not have anyone currently certified with Safe at Home, but there are three advocates set up for the training so there will be certified advocates in the near future.
- d. **Community Corrections:** As such with the domestic caseload workgroup, Community Corrections has set up a workgroup for the risk assessment and supervision of DWI offenses. These changes are near the end of the process so the group may receive an email regarding any changes made to the current process and an update at next meeting.

Corey advised Community Corrections has been working diligently with Health & Human Services and the Sheriff's Office on the Mental Health Action Team (MAT). MAT is currently meeting once per week and working on getting individuals who may need assistance with accessing valuable resources for their mental health. In some situations, the Court may be asked to order certain offenders to cooperate with MAT and sign the appropriate releases of information. The requirement would end there, and it would become voluntary if the offender wants to follow through with the resources provided to them. Corey expressed how valuable this resource can be to an offender. There was discussion regarding the wording when requesting that the Court impose an order relating to MAT. Lisa requested that Community Corrections rather request the Court order an offender to "connect with MAT" or "sign release(s) of information for MAT" so they understand that it is not mandatory to follow through with the provided resources. Corey did explain further the importance of having the offender sign a release of information, otherwise MAT is unable to discuss any information and provide the proper resource referrals. It was further explained that an offender would not physically meet with MAT, as they are solely a consultation team, but one of the members of MAT would be responsible for remaining in contact with the offender to discuss their options.

- e. **Commissioner:** Commissioner Burandt advised that they are currently checking into how much access to broadband influences the county's ability to meet with offenders/clients/members of the public. She explained that at this point, the county has got broadband available for all residents, and their next steps will be working with residents who may be unable to afford it.
- f. **HHS:** No update(s).
- g. **Public Defender:** Lisa explained that the Public Defender's Office is still short staffed and has posted their open position a total of four times.
- h. **County Attorney:** No update(s). Dawn did advise that the Supreme Court Justice issued a notice that there is no longer a mask mandate for court facilities.

**Submitted by:** Mia Higgins