



Sherburne County Community Corrections Advisory Board

13880 Business Center Drive NW Elk River, MN 55330

Phone: 763-765-4550 Fax: 763-765-4555

Meeting Minutes

Members:

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

Citizen:	Kenneth Asangwe Mary Jo Cobb
Commissioner:	Gregg Felber, Sherburne County Commissioner
Corrections:	Carter Diers, DOC District Supervisor Corey Mabis-Rowe, Director, Sherburne Community Corrections
Education:	Nicole Stottlemyre, ISD 728 Coordinator of Prevention and Safety
Judiciary:	Honorable Judge Walter Kaminsky, Judge 10 th 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
Health & Human Services:	Amanda Larson, Director Sherburne County HHS Jodi Heurung-Dick, HHS Planner (alternate)
Rivers of Hope:	Hannah-Ruth Patterson, Executive Director

Meeting Minutes:

The following members were present: Mary Jo Cobb, Commissioner Gregg Felber, Carter Diers, Corey Mabis-Rowe, Nicole Stottlemyre, Honorable Judge Walter Kaminsky, Sheriff Joel Brott, Dawn Nyhus, Kathy Heaney, Lisa Hallberg, Amanda Larson, Hannah-Ruth Patterson

Also present: Bobbie Shafer, Mia Higgins

- 1. Welcome Commissioner Felber:** Commissioner Gregg Felber is the new County Board of Commissioners representative and Sherburne County Community Corrections Advisory Board (SCCCAB) member. Commissioner Felber was recently sworn in as the representative for the third district, and reviewed his career history.

2. **Vote for Sherburne County Community Corrections Representative – Corey Mabis-Rowe, Director:** Due to J. Hancuch's recent retirement, the Sherburne County Corrections representative position is vacant. Dawn Nyhus motioned to vote Corey Mabis-Rowe, Director, into that open vacancy. Mary Jo Cobb seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion. Corey Mabis-Rowe is the new Sherburne County Community Corrections representative and Sherburne County Community Corrections Advisory Board (SCCCAB) member.
3. **Interim Comprehensive Plan Submitted to DOC:** Prior to J. Hancuch's retirement, the Interim Comprehensive Plan was sent to all members of the SCCCAB. Management received feedback from members, and appropriate adjustments were made. The approved and signed Interim Comprehensive Plan was submitted to Department of Corrections. At this time, Community Corrections has not received feedback from the Department of Corrections.
4. **Future Topics/Presentations:** Corey Mabis-Rowe listed multiple options in which information and further training, or briefing could be provided to the SCCCAB, such as risk assessments, Carey Guides, smart chronos, juvenile supervision, and pre-trial supervision. Judge Kaminsky indicated that a potential topic that is frequently discussed is Community Correction's early discharge policy, as well as how the length of supervision and probation terms are determined. On that discussion topic, Carter Diers indicated that it would be beneficial to discuss dosage supervision and what that model may look like. Overall, Mary Jo Cobb indicated it would be beneficial to review all the topics in which Corey listed due to the SCCCAB representative being newer.

5. **Agency Updates:**

- a. *Citizens:* No update.
- b. *County Board of Commissioners:* Commissioner Felber advised that at this time, the County Board has been working with AMC in attempts to get additional funding. Furthermore, Commissioner Felber insisted the Board is in support of getting Corrections additional funding.
- c. *Community Corrections:* Community Corrections staff are preparing for the Mass Case Resolution Day, scheduled for Monday April 3rd. Corey Mabis-Rowe indicated the internal Probation Supervisor interviews will be held tomorrow. Community Corrections will be testing new radio technology that will allow Probation Officers to potentially replace the Motorola radio. On March 21st and March 27th, Community Corrections in-house trainers will conduct verbal de-escalation training.
- d. *Department of Corrections:* Carter Diers indicated that the state is pushing for funding for all three delivery systems, and this is the first and closest anyone has been to receiving the funding that all delivery systems need to successfully monitor assigned caseloads. Additionally, funding for two different types of evidence-based practices are being investigated. One type would be within the Department of Corrections which would increase the skills of the case managers within the facility as well as agents in the community. The other type would be a centralized unit that would help connect all three delivery systems and support centralized training.

Over the past year, the facilities have been going through a change process. Previously, the correctional case managers were under the supervision of the supervision employees, and now they would be moving towards case managers developing a case plan and preparing clients to build their skills when they are coming in and preparing them to have a smooth transition when released from prison.

- e. *Education:* Nicole Stottlemyre expressed an increase of serious and negative behaviors occurring in the schools, resulting in more law enforcement interaction and discipline. Nicole indicated that recently, in Wright County, they are getting more frequent warrants that are being ordered to be executed within the schools which has caused additional behavioral and criminal activities.
- f. *Judiciary:* Recently, a directive from the Chief Justice was released indicating that districts should be caught up from any previous backlog by July 2023. On April 3rd, Sherburne County will be holding a mass case resolution day in which three Judges will be dedicated to handle nearly 100 cases in attempts to resolve or move towards resolution. Honorable Judge Kristi Stanislawski was officially sworn in last week. As Judge Stanislawski gets accumulated with her new position, retired Judges such as Judge Yunker have been assisting in case coverage and will continue to do so moving forward. Judge Kaminsky indicated that Judiciary staff are anxiously awaiting word on legislature's upcoming decisions.
- g. *Law Enforcement:* Sheriff Joel Brott advised that the Sheriff's Office is currently waiting to see what the Legislature does in upcoming decisions, especially regarding no knock warrants. Sheriff Brott was questioned about COVID procedures within Sherburne County Jail, in which he advised that staff are currently testing inmates upon admission. Sheriff Brott expressed a hesitation by inmates to report symptoms due to not wanting to be quarantined. Furthermore, there are higher requirements for ICE detainees, which requires inmates and staff to wear masks at all times. Currently, Sherburne County Jail occupancy is averaging around 500 inmates daily. Sheriff Brott indicated due to staffing issues, there is currently one housing unit that is closed and not being utilized, but he is hopeful to have enough staff to reopen the unit in June. Sheriff Brott explained within the last year, he believes that the Sherburne County Jail has been more consistent with retaining Correctional Officers, but they are seeing frequent internal promotions and movements. Sheriff Brott expressed struggles to hire licensed Peace Officers, and concerns for the future as PERA indicates 1,500 retirements are pending within the next five years.
- h. *Prosecution:* Recently, County Attorney's Office hired Attorney Sarah Kimball to handle Gross Misdemeanor and Felony cases. Dawn Nyhus indicated that the County Attorney's Office has also seen an increase of cases due to the increase of criminal activity and severity of crimes committed. County Attorney's Office is working to prepare cases for the mass case resolution day.
- i. *Public Defense:* Lisa Hallberg advised the Public Defender's Office is currently down an attorney in Sherburne County and Anoka County, and the opening has been posted for months with no applicants. At this point, Defendants are on their seventh or eighth defense attorney during their criminal process. Due to the differentiating procedures within each county, Lisa is seeing staff moving throughout the state to various agencies that are more appealing to them procedure-wise.
- j. *HHS:* Amanda Larson expressed concerns within hiring due to applicant pools becoming smaller, while the caseloads continue to increase significantly. Amanda indicated the recent posting for Data Redaction Specialist as these requests have consistently increased and are significantly time consuming. Amanda advised that the redaction backlog is currently out to October/November of 2022.

- k. *Rivers of Hope*: Hannah-Ruth Patterson indicated that Rivers of Hope has noticed an increase of Orders for Protection and Harassment Restraining Orders. In shared concerns with Nicole Stottlemire, Rivers of Hope's youth program has also seen an increase in youth involvement within the criminal justice system. Hannah-Ruth advised that Rivers of Hope will begin conducting presentations on March 31st within Sherburne County Jail regarding their programs and available resources. Rivers of Hope's Gala will be held May 4th, and tickets will not be made available to the public this year, however, community partners can reach out to Hannah-Ruth to receive tickets.

6. Other: None.

Upcoming Meetings:

June 13, 2023

September 12, 2023

December 12, 2023

Submitted by: Mia Higgins