

**LARIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

July 15th, 2025 – 200 W Oak Street, Fort Collins, CO 80525 – Hearing Room



Members Present: Sid Simonson, David Koons, Cyndi Dodds, Cedric Clark, Patti West, Ashley Morris, Emily Humphrey, Tom Hulse, Commissioner John Kefalas, Lorenda Volker, Gordon McLaughlin, Ed Seegrist, Jeff Swoboda, Kristine Miller, Stephanie Tolen, Jessie Harney

Staff Present: Alexis Ongley, Misty Perry, Jacob Hupp, Alex Danielson, Erin Caldwell, Ingrid Schroeder

Absent: Staci Shaffer, Melissa Divido, Heather O' Hayre, Judge Susan Blanco, Greg Otte, Steve Pietrafeso, Chris Hefty

Notes: Erin Caldwell

Meeting was called to order at 12:14 pm by Patti West

- **Introduction of New Board Members**
 - Stephanie Tolen has lived in the area for 4 years. She previously served as a program assistant for the 7th district. She is looking forward to getting to know everyone.
 - Jessie Harney is a Professor at CSU in the Political Science and Sociology department. She focuses on research in jails and prisons. Community Corrections is outside of her wheelhouse, but she is excited to learn.
 - The board introduced themselves to our new board members.
- **Conrad Ball Update – Erin Caldwell**
 - **Nominations:** Four nominations have been received so far. Board members and colleagues are encouraged to submit nominations via [Larimer County Conrad Ball Award](#).
 - **Deadlines:** Nominations close **July 21st**.
- **December Luncheon Planning – Erin Caldwell**
 - The annual luncheon will be held on December 16th at 12:30pm at Maida Trattoria.
- **BHA Audit – Misty Perry**
 - The Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) conducted an audit of our treatment programs at the end of June. The audit went well, and our programs are fully licensed
 - Misty Perry thanked the Treatment Services Supervisors, Kayla Helle and Ted Pierce for working closely with BHA during the audit.
 - They provided two corrective actions.
 - There is a new requirement for Tuberculosis (TB) testing. We have a plan for implementation and are working with the Wellness Clinic to get our current staff tested.
 - We did not have the BHA contact information on the treatment grievance notification posted for clients. This has since been resolved.
 - They also raised concern about the retention of our staff background checks. Per policy, these cannot be retained. We maintain that they are completed, but legally cannot hold onto the records.
 - Patti West asked why there is a need for TB testing?
 - Misty stated that it is because staff work in close proximity to clients within a residential facility. Many prisons and jails require the same of their staff.

- **Board Led Program Audit – Ingrid Schroeder**
 - During the KPI audit cycle, the board is also required by DCJ to audit the program on standards that are not covered by other audits.
 - The board selected the following standards for the upcoming audit:
 - **SD-071: Staff Training**
 - **Offender Medical Emergencies**
 - The audit will take place in October and must be completed by the end of the year.
 - Board members will interview 5-7 employees using the auditing tool provided to us by DCJ.
 - They will also review policies and files as part of the audit.
 - Ingrid suspects the audit to take about half a day if everything goes smoothly
 - At the completion of the audit, Ingrid will prepare a findings report for the board's review before submitting it to DCJ.
 - If anyone is interested in being involved, let us know to be included in the process.
- **DCJ Board Annual Report Feedback – Alexis Ongley**
 - We have the most active type of board (Type 3) and we must prepare a report each year detailing to DCJ that we are meeting our board requirements.
 - The feedback we received on the report was to have more board presence in the program.
 - Alexis Ongley reminds the board that they are welcome on campus at all times
 - They can meet with staff and/or clients, observe our processes, attend client celebrations, walk around campus on days we meet at LCCC, etc.
 - All of their involvement has to be tracked by board staff to report to DCJ at the end of the year.
- **Cost Evaluation Report – Alexis Ongley**
 - An independent consulting firm analyzed fiscal data from all Colorado Community Corrections programs.
 - Alexis Ongley reviewed PowerPoint with a summary of evaluation findings.
 - Emily Humphrey commented on the slide that stated, "government programs overspent".
 - Alexis Ongley clarified that this meant that government programs spent more than the state gave. Reasons for this varied from program to program, but it was mostly attributed to a larger investment in staff (wages, benefits, etc.)
 - Alexis Ongley added that LCCC has received all of DCJ's Performance Based Contracting increases this year because we excelled in our audit outcomes. We will be paid at 103%.
 - All recommendations born out of this cost evaluation will be run through Governor's Advisory Committee.
 - Emily Humphrey asked Alexis Ongley if she has talked to other programs about the evaluation.
 - Alexis Ongley stated that there are mixed feelings statewide.
 - Patti West asked Alex Danielson what the average wait time is for a client to enter our program after being accepted.
 - Alex Danielson shared that for male residential clients it is about 2-3 weeks after sentencing and 1-2 weeks for women. The wait for a DOC client is a little longer, but Alex balances this by bringing in moderate groups of DOCs client at once.
 - Patti West also asked Alex about the DOC Acceptance Rate Committee
 - Alex Danielson added that Larimer's suggestion is to allow boards to come up with their own auto accept criteria. She continued to say that all suggestions will be presented, and the committee did not need to settle on one solution.
 - An update to the Offender Letter is also being sent to DOC.
 - The committee is working on videos and in reach into DOC.

- The Coalition is compiling a fact sheet about the great work we do across the state.
- We were able to share our perspective on the matter with legislators yesterday; doing what we can to have our voice heard at the capital.
 - Commissioner Kefalas added that we hosted 6 legislators and gave them the opportunity to hear from our DOC clients and receive a facility tour. Productive conversations were had.
 - Lorenda Volker seconded that and shared that the clients were able to tour the legislators around their home.
 - She appreciated having conversations after the tour because they now have a frame of reference to see what is at risk. We showed them how they can help preserve our programming.
 - Emily Humphrey stated that having lawmakers experience our program helps us preserve local control. She reflected that they were all very engaged during the panel and the tour.
 - Lorenda Volker suggested that board members attend the next tour.
 - Gordon McLaughlin asked which lawmakers attended the panel and tour.
 - Commissioner Kefalas listed off the legislators that visited the facility.
 - Emily Humphrey stated that we invited members of the Joint Budget Committee, but they weren't able to attend.
 - During the presentation, the clients continued to express their thanks to LCCC and their stories were very impactful.
- **Driving Policy Review – Alexis Ongley**
 - The Board has been engaged in this policy and the program is soliciting more feedback about how to update this policy to better support client transition and re-entry.
 - Alexis Ongley explained that currently, we don't allow clients to drive if they are serving on a felony DUI conviction. That has caused issues when they transition to Community Supervision and can be a barrier.
 - Alexis Ongley asked the board if they would like to adjust the policy so clients can drive while under Community Supervision.
 - She offered a suggestion that when a client has a valid license, they could be required to use an interlock device for the remainder of their sentence.
 - Jeff Swoboda offers that he does not want a driving privilege to be automatic but would want it to be approved for specific reasons, such as work.
 - Alexis Ongley adds that we currently have a process to approve driving for specific occurrences (work, treatment, etc.) and their charges and risk level would be considered before driving approval is granted.
 - Tom suggested implementing a 'step down' process where clients can slowly earn privileges based on their progress in the program.
 - Alexis Ongley clarifies that something similar currently exists within the program when a client transitions from Residential to Non-Residential (Community Supervision).
 - Gordon McLaughlin inquired if there were any recent problems with people driving in the program?
 - Alexis Ongley recalled few issues over the last several years.
 - He then asked if clients are picking up new DUIs or hurting people while being allowed to drive within the program.

- Alexis Ongley shared that clients do receive minor traffic violations, but at the same rate as the general public. If bigger violations were incurred, they would be reviewed in Administrative Review and their program placement would be discussed.
- Jeff Swoboda asked if clients are told by the program that they aren't allowed to drive, are they abiding by that?
 - Alexis Ongley answered by saying, occasionally we see clients meet the DMV's requirement to reinstate their license and regain the ability to legally drive but do so without program permission. They are circumventing our system but doing it legally.
 - That's when we ask ourselves if we are we creating more hardships than support for the clients transitioning into the community?
- Should we consider allowing clients with vehicular assault/homicide/eluding charges to drive on Community Supervision?
 - Patti West recommended starting with DUI's, see how that goes, and then consider adding more charges to the list of clients allowed to drive under Community Supervision.
 - Alex Danielson added that many victims would likely be upset if they found out clients were driving that had vehicular crimes.
 - She suggested separating VRA driving vs. non-VRA cases
 - Jessie Harney asked about our clients financial responsibility in regard to driving.
 - Alexis Ongley explained that the DMV dictates whether or not a client is legally allowed to drive. Clients pay for their insurance and interlock. Case manager approval depends on many factors, but it does have to make sense for that client's budget.
- In summary, it was decided to allow felony DUI clients to drive while under Community Supervision with safety nets. The board would not like to permit those with eluding, vehicular assault, or vehicular homicide/manslaughter charges to drive while under our supervision.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:05 pm by Patti West.

Next meeting will be September 16th, 2025.