

**LARIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

January 20th, 2026 – 2307 Midpoint Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525

Powderhorn Room



Members Present: Cedric Clark, Emily Humphrey, Lorenda Volker, Stephanie Tolen, Greg Otte, Judge Susan Blanco, Ashley Morriss, David Koons, Jessie Harney, Patti West, Steve Pietrafeso, Commissioner John Kefalas, Kristine Miller, Heather O'Hayre, Gordon McLaughlin, Sid Simonson

Staff Present: Misty Perry, Jason Helms, Jake Hupp, Alex Danielson, Erin Caldwell, Taryn Giovenella

Absent: Ed Seegrist, Staci Shaffer, Alexis Ongley, Tom Hulse, Cyndi Dodds, Jeff Swoboda

Notes: Erin Caldwell

Meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm by Patti West.

- **Statewide Updates**

- This past Friday, Emma Hudson (Community Corrections Lobbyist) reported that the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) reviewed and approved a supplemental request from DCJ that included a per diem increase
 - Current year:
 - \$1.8M total General Fund increase to support both community corrections placements and is roughly equivalent to adding 39 standard residential beds at current per-diem rates, and to implement a 3.3% per-diem rate increase statewide.
 - FY 2026-27
 - \$4.3M total General Fund increase to continue support the 3.3% per-diem rate increase statewide, as well as adding 58 standard residential beds.
 - The State Report is attached with minutes.

- **Cordant**

- In November, there were 70+ substance testing samples that were lost by our testing lab, Cordant.
 - The samples were found months later and subsequently tested by Cordant. These samples were not usable as the chain of custody and testing timeframes were not upheld.
 - The clients affected were not sanctioned due to these results.
 - Moving forward we will not be using Cordant's courier and will be sending our samples to Cordant directly through FedEx.
 - Jake Hupp is working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new substance testing laboratory.
 - We are working to file a formal complaint against Cordant for their negligence.
 - Judge Blanco commented on their lack of transparency and not being a trustworthy partner.
 - Emily Humphrey confirmed that a letter will be sent to other effected stakeholders (probation, courts) and DCJ.

- We do not want Cordant's negligence to affect our funding or sustainability.

- **Decision-Making Tool Updates**

- We have been approved to work with Dr. Opsal with CSU again to help us update our Transition Structured Decision-Making Tool.
- Throughout her research she will be attending Selections and Advisory Board Subcommittee Meetings to ensure the accuracy of our updated tool. She will begin this project in summer 2026.
- Patti West brought up a concern about the change in the Board's decision making over the last year.
 - She notes that there aren't any cut and dry accepts anymore. The complexity has changed; severity of crime, mental health components, etc.
 - She asks the Board if they feel there is an established threshold to accept? At what point do we say that this is above the program's capacity?
 - Greg Otte asked if this applied to Diversion or only Transition.
 - Patti added that it is mostly Transition when you see them on paper during the screening process and don't always have the whole story.
 - Judge Blanco added that there is often outside pressure to accept these clients.
 - Patti's chief concern is the safety of staff and the community.
 - Emily Humphrey adds that if there are concerns, staff and voting Board members should voice those in the subcommittee meeting. The client profile has changed drastically over the last 5 years.
 - Alex Danielson adds that Selections is the first step in the acceptance process. For each case, the team considers if they can safely supervise this client in our program or in the community. Part of that decision considers program and community resources we routinely offer our clients.
 - Everyone on the Evals team has come from Security and they each bring this perspective when screening cases, presenting in Selections, and when presenting to the Board. They know what it is like to work in the facility and they take that into consideration when making these important decisions.
 - The Evals team will be participating in a Secondary Trauma training with the First Responder Trauma Counselors to address the signs and symptoms of burnout with this high stress job.
 - Misty Perry adds that we take high risk and high mental health clients because we have a lot to offer them within our program. We have developed an exceptional program, and we want to give that to our clients.
 - Greg Otte wanted the group to consider that if they aren't accepted to Community Corrections, what are the other sentencing options? If they don't go to Community Corrections and may end up on Probation instead, is that the best decision for the client and the community?
 - Alex Danielson said that during Selections, her team is also looking at facility trends (in-house use, staff management issues, etc.).
 - Jake Hupp stated that this is the most clients we've ever had in our program at one time. Having so many clients makes managing the milieu difficult.
 - Alex Danielson continued, if Transition/Probation clients are becoming an issue, we have solid community partnerships to place the clients in custody and ensure the facility/staff/clients aren't at risk.

- Misty Perry said that the caliber of our staff has also increased over the last 15 years. We have additional resources for our staff that we didn't before. Leadership trainings, First Responder Trauma Counselors, Crisis Intervention Training, etc.
 - Kristine Miller commended the program and the staff. The Board trusts the staff and the hard work that they do every day. She is constantly impressed by staff's knowledge and training in Community Corrections.
 - Jason Helms appreciated the Advisory Board Subcommittee groups that meet each week for their excellent work screening difficult cases.
- **Slide Updates**
 - Erin Caldwell has been working on making much-needed updates to the way monthly statistics are shared with the Board.
 - Erin asked how the Board would like to view out-of-county referral information. Either broken out by county or in totality alongside the other referral types.
 - They agreed they would like to see them in totality.
 - Erin went through the other data that will be presented each month. She will send out slide examples for feedback with the notes.
- **Peer Support Grant**
 - We applied for a Peer Support Grant through the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council.
 - We asked for funding to hire three Peer Support Specialists over the next three years.
 - Our first hired peer will work with Men's treatment and will set up how our Peer Support Program operates along with staff.
 - The second peer will work with women's treatment/residential and the third will support residential clients and ASD.
 - The long-term goal is to bill Medicaid and become self-sustaining.
 - We are hoping to know around May if we have been awarded the grant. The grant would begin July 1, 2026.
 - The Peer Support Program will focus on client re-entry and facilitating a smooth transition into community. They will also support our client mentor program.
- **New Evaluator Position**
 - 9 interviews were conducted last week for our 4th Evaluator.
 - Kristin Barner has accepted this position, and she will likely start sometime in February.
 - She has worked in Security (Women's Residential and the Day Reporting Center) since 2019.
 - The Evaluations team is excited to have her.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 pm by Patti West.

**Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, 2026
at 12:00pm at 200 W Oak Street – Hearing Room**