

**MEETING HANDOUTS**

- April 8, 2025 Minutes
- 2025 Legislative Session Review Slides
- Douglas Closeout Presentation Slides June 2025

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 11:06 am, by Susan Benkelman, Vice Chair. Quorum was established.**

**Agenda Item 1:        Approval of the April 2025 Minutes**

**Discussion:** April 2025 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) meeting minutes presented. No corrections were identified. Motion to approve was made by Pam Wiegand, seconded by Doris Ricks, approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 2:        Updates on Strategic Priorities 1 and 4**

**Discussion:** Katy Fitzgerald, Criminal Justice Coordinator, shared that related to Priority 1, she has continued to meet with identified staff in the first cohort of decision points for system measures, which include Pretrial Services, District Court, and the District Attorney's Office. It is anticipated to have a first working draft of quarterly measures for the CJCC members to review and provide feedback on in the August CJCC meeting. CJCC members were reminded that this strategic priority area will be longer-term work and that the first publicly available quarterly report is targeted for publication in January 2026.

Regarding priority area 4, developing a strategic communications plan, Katy shared that the workgroup members appreciated the feedback from CJCC members in the April CJCC meeting. The workgroup met in May and discussed how to address and incorporate feedback from the CJCC members into a communications plan. One of the workgroup members volunteered to provide a draft of a communications plan to the workgroup to begin to edit. The workgroup meets again next week and is on track to have a plan to the CJCC in the October meeting as outlined in the strategic plan.

**Agenda Item 3:        2025 Legislative Session Review**

**Discussion:** Stuart Little, of Little Government Relations, provided a review of relevant highlights from the 2025 legislative session. Slides are attached in the meeting invitation and posted to the CJCC website. Stuart highlighted changes related to juvenile offender code, funding changes to the evidence-based practice fund, and the challenges of effective advocacy due to the change in budget hearings in the Senate. In discussion after the presentation, District Attorney Dakota Loomis asked what opportunities Stuart and other advocates have in the upcoming year 2 budget process for advocacy. Stuart shared that related to the House, the process exists as it has, where there are budget hearings and the chance to provide testimony. However, in the Senate, there is no longer a formal hearing process and attendance in Ways and Means Committee meetings are now limited, thus, in this new budget process, access to legislators is limited, making advocacy efforts more challenging.

**Agenda Item 4:        Douglas County CJCC Project Closeout Presentation**

**Discussion:** Kristy Danford, with the Justice Management Institute (JMI) presented an overview of the agency's work with the CJCC over the last 22 months, as their contract with the County ends. Slides presented are attached in the meeting invitation and posted to the CJCC website. Highlights from the presentation included a review of the initial results from the assessment of the council's alignment with national standards, completed in the fall of 2023, the actions taken by the CJCC following that assessment, including revised

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bylaws and strategic plan development, and an updated assessment of the council, which reflects significant progress in most areas of the national standards.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Future Agenda Items**

**Discussion:** No items were shared by CJCC members for the Executive Committee to consider for future agendas.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Open Discussion/Agency Updates/Upcoming Events**

**Discussion:** Katy shared with the CJCC that community member Tim Shoulderblade graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University in the May commencement ceremony and that Karrey Britt, County Public Information Officer, published a story about Tim's journey in the Lawrence community. The story was distributed through the County social media channels, is featured on the County's homepage, and will be included in the next County newsletter. Katy also shared that Matt Cravens, data analyst for the County, has recently left his position to move to the east coast with his family.

Katy asked Judge Kopecky if Municipal Court would likely still do a school supply drive this summer in exchange for reducing certain fines and fees. He indicated that the court plans to. Dates and logistics are still to be determined, but Judge Kopecky will share those when he has them. He indicated that drop off logistics may be challenging due to the location of the court in city hall currently. Commissioner Shannon Reid asked Judge Kopecky if there are any updates to the location for Municipal Court, which he indicated there are not to date.

Commissioner Reid also asked DA Loomis if he could update the CJCC on weekend charging. This practice of having charges reviewed by the DA's office was suspended in the previous administration and DA Loomis has recently restarted it in the last approximately 3 months. On Saturdays, the on-call Assistant District Attorney will review the charges for individuals in custody who have not yet posted their bonds and if the DA's office will not pursue those charges, the individuals are able to be released from custody then. DA Loomis thanked the Sheriff's office, law enforcement partners, and the Court for their help in reinstituting this process.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Public Comment**

**Discussion:** Kirsten Kuhn provided comment encouraging the CJCC to bring the live stream of Zoom back for members of the public who may be unable to attend in person. She also asked about the status of the Probation Violation and Failure to Appear workgroups.

Ellen Johnson shared concerns about medical and nutritional care for inmates in the jail and provided copies of information related to medical services in jails. She also provided copies of information on individual justice plans.

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:10 pm.**

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**Member Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>
Sheriff Armbrister	Present
Chief Lockhart	Present
Judge McCabria	Absent
Judge Kopecky	Present
DA Loomis	Present
Jessica Glendening	Absent
Pam Weigand	Present
Susan Benkelman	Present
Patrick Schmitz	Present
Lori Alvarado	Present
Shannon Reid	Present
Brad Finkeldei	Absent
Doris Ricks	Present
Tim Shoulderblade	Present

**Others in Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Kristy Danford	Justice Management Institute
Stuart Little	Little Government Relations