



Agenda
Douglas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
April 14, 2026
11:00am-12:00pm
Douglas County Commission Room
1100 Massachusetts Street

Welcome and Call to Order

Jessica Glendening,
Chair, Chief Defender, BIDS

1. New Member Introductions

Jessica Glendening,
CJCC Members

2. Review and Approval of February 2026 Minutes

CJCC Members

3. Review and Feedback of 2025 Annual Report Draft

Katy Fitzgerald,
Criminal Justice Coordinator

4. Future Agenda Items

CJCC Members

5. Open Discussion/Agency Updates

CJCC Members

6. Public Comment

Members of the Public

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2026; 11:00am-12:00pm
Douglas County Commission Room
1100 Massachusetts Street
Contact: cjcc@dgcoks.gov

CJCC Mission: The Douglas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is an advisory board that provides an open, transparent, and collaborative forum for justice system partners, stakeholders, and community members to come together to share information, problem solve, and make evidence-informed recommendations to improve the criminal legal system.

HANDOUTS

- December 2025 Minutes
- Douglas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council 2026 Membership List

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 11:07 am, by Jessica Glendening, Chair, Chief Defender, BIDS

Welcome

Agenda Item 1: **New Member Introductions**

Discussion: Three new members have joined the CJCC in 2026, including Chief District Court Judge Mark Simpson, Douglas County Commissioner Erica Anderson, and City of Lawrence Commissioner Amber Sellers.

Agenda Item 2: **Review and Confirm 2026 Member and Meeting List**

Discussion: Per the CJCC bylaws, each February, the CJCC must review the council members, Executive Committee officers, and meeting dates and times for the upcoming year. The 2026 list was presented and no corrections were identified. CJCC website will be updated to reflect the current year's membership and meeting schedule.

Agenda Item 3: **Approval of the December 2025 Minutes**

Discussion: December 2025 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) meeting minutes presented. One spelling error was noted. No other corrections were identified. Motion to approve with the identified correction was made by Pam Weigand, seconded by Dr. Kirsten Watkins. December minutes were approved unanimously with that correction.

Agenda Item 4: **Data Workgroup Restart**

Discussion: Katy reminded the council that in the December meeting, the direction was to regroup with the first three decision points of this strategy, which are pretrial, prosecution, and the Court data. The goal was to at least have a meeting scheduled by the February CJCC meeting to restart work on the data strategy. There is a meeting scheduled to review the initial measures developed for these decision points. Additionally, County IT is beginning work with Pretrial to develop a database for that service, which will enhance measures and reporting capabilities for that unit. Since the initial data measures were collected for the strategic planning process, the Justice Management Institute (JMI) has been working with CJCCs to develop variations of key performance indicators that may be better suited for this council to consider. Katy will share these with the relevant decision points for their consideration. Discussion from new council members included how our data challenges compare to other CJCCs, whether there is buy in for a data lake or data warehouse, and whether there are other local CJCCs that could be leveraged to increase data capacity. Katy and Jessica shared that in conversations with other CJCC directors and chairs, the data challenges we have experienced are not unusual and that we do have buy in from stakeholders to provide/share data for system performance measures, which will help the jurisdiction build a stronger data foundation moving forward.

Agenda Item 5: **First Responder Blue Envelope Program Presentation**

Discussion: Officer Bailey Salsbury of the Lawrence Police Department presented to the council on the First Responder Blue Envelope Program. This program was

developed to provide individuals with autism or other neurodivergent diagnoses tools to have more seamless interactions with law enforcement and other first responders. Individuals who choose to participate can receive a decal that can be placed on the rear of their car windshield and a blue envelope which provides a space for the individual to write their care plan, emergency contacts, and to keep all their important documents to be provided in a traffic stop or contact with law enforcement. Participants in the program can use both or either of these tools as the program is currently designed. There is no registration process or tracking of individuals who choose to participate. It was also noted that the decals do not excuse an individual from following the law, it simply indicates to first responders that in a stressful situation, the individual may exhibit behaviors that could be seen as Officer Salsbury has presented to the other first responder agencies across the County, with the exception at this time of Consolidated Fire District, and the Chiefs of those agencies have all agreed to participate. Officer Salsbury is working with a local sign shop to develop the decals and the envelopes and is incorporating feedback to develop the accompanying program documentation that individuals would receive if they wanted to participate.

Council members shared concerns about the decals creating the potential for profiling by law enforcement officers, although Chief Lockhart shared that seeing the decal on a windshield should indicate to the officer that they need to tap into their CIT training and tools for working with individuals who have autism or other spectrum disorders. Council members also shared concerns that individuals would not have to at least take both the decal and the envelope. Members felt that individuals who have neurodivergent tendencies or diagnoses likely benefit more from the information in the envelope and likely have a care team or a care plan that would be most helpful in these situations; however, if individuals are not necessarily required to have both, it may feel that the purpose of the program could be watered down. Council members acknowledged that this program is an opportunity to build trust between law enforcement and community members, and that one way law enforcement helps to build trust is by sharing these types of initiatives with the public. This program is also an opportunity for law enforcement to partner with service agencies, such as Bert Nash, DCCCA, and Cottonwood, to better reach individuals who may benefit from this program.

Suggestions for implementation included sharing what information is and isn't tracked with the public and how that information is used and considering providing a packet for individuals that would include the program information sheet, the decal, blue envelope, and information about the Smart 911 program, which is a separate program individuals can choose to participate in through Emergency Communications. Chief Lockhart and Katy will keep the council updated as the initiative progresses.

Agenda Item 6: Future Agenda Items

Discussion: Items shared to be considered by the Executive Committee included a legislative update after the session closes to receive information on any relevant legislation that passed, particularly bills related to juveniles and prevention efforts; consider how the CJCC could begin sharing basic criminal justice information in the schools; and consider community engagement/education opportunities with the broader community.

Agenda Item 7: Open Discussion/Agency Updates

Discussion: The following events were shared:

Chief Lockhart shared the upcoming Valor Awards for Douglas County first responders, which will be held on Thursday, February 26, from 5-9pm. Katy will forward the invitation information.

Lori Alvarado shared that DCCCA will be hosting its ribbon cutting for its new transitional housing campus on Thursday, June 4, at 830am. Invitations will be sent to CJCC members as the event nears.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

February 10, 2026

MINUTES

Katy shared about Douglas County's upcoming Government Day celebration, which will be held on Tuesday, April 21, from 5-7pm, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

Agenda Item 8: Public Comment

Discussion: None

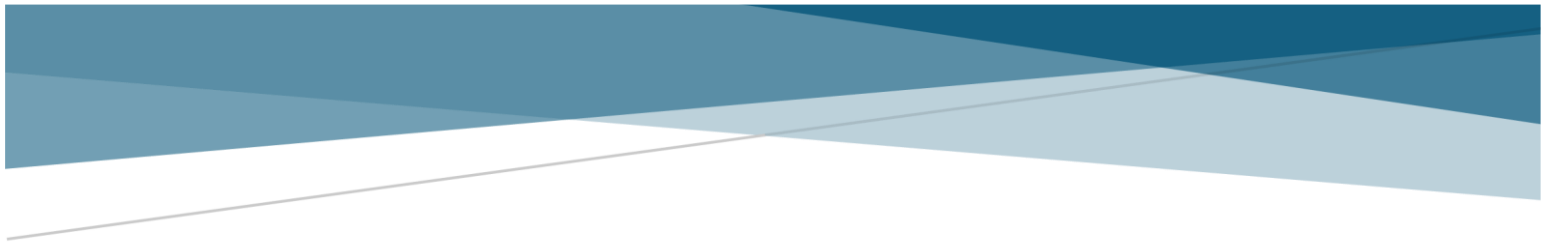
MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:17 pm.

Member Attendance:

Name	Present/Absent
Sheriff Armbrister	Absent
Chief Lockhart	Present
Judge Simpson	Present
Judge Kopecky	Absent
DA Loomis	Present
Jessica Glendening	Present
Pam Weigand	Present
Susan Benkelman	Present
Dr. Kirsten Watkins	Present
Lori Alvarado	Present
Erica Anderson	Present
Amber Sellers	Present
Doris Ricks	Present
Tim Shoulderblade	Absent

Others in Attendance:

Name	Agency
Karrey Britt	Douglas County
Officer Bailey Salsbury	Lawrence Police Department



DRAFT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Douglas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Katy Fitzgerald, Criminal Justice Coordinator,
On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Douglas County CJCC

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I. Introduction to the 2025 Annual Report

In the introduction to the 2025-2027 strategic plan, we shared the milestone that the adoption of the strategic plan represented: the end of a two-year journey wherein the Douglas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) completed an assessment, developed recommendations, and began implementing those recommendations to better align our Council with the National Standards for Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils. Implementing the recommendation to revise the bylaws that strengthen the structure, governance, and tasks of the Council were the beginning of the next phase for the CJCC.

As outlined in those bylaws, this is the first annual report of the CJCC. Readers will find that the focus is on the foundational groundwork laid by the CJCC during 2025. It is our hope that as we work through the objectives laid out in the strategic plan, we learn the necessary lessons to build a strong foundation for the future work of the council and our jurisdiction. We appreciate your joining us in this iteration of growth as we continue to work towards a brighter Douglas County.

II. Springboarding into 2025: Highlights from 2024

The Douglas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council spent much of 2024 developing a new framework within which to operate and a framework that is more aligned with the National Standards for Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils. This resulted in a significant revision to the bylaws of the Council and the development of a three-year strategic plan driven by data and grounded in SMART goals.

The most notable changes to the bylaws adopted by both the CJCC and the Douglas County Board of Commissioners were:

- Reduced, streamlined membership
- Clarity around the authority and guiding principles of the Council
- Defining the establishment of workgroups and committees
- Establishing an Executive Committee
- Establishing the process for strategic planning and annual reports

The revised bylaws were adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in June 2024 and went into effect on January 1, 2025.

Photo with JMI to Insert

Following the completion of the revised bylaws, the CJCC spent the last half of 2024 in the strategic planning process. With the technical assistance of the Justice Management Institute (JMI), the CJCC gathered feedback and data to inform a two-day strategic planning retreat. This grounding information included:

- 6 discipline-specific focus groups
- Community survey
- Systemwide data template

III. 2025: Year in Review

A. 2025 Officers

A primary change in 2025 for the CJCC was the establishment of an Executive Committee. Outlined in the revised bylaws, the CJCC is now guided by an Executive Committee that consists of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Member at Large. The inaugural Executive Committee was elected in the December 2024 CJCC meeting and included:

- Chair, Jessica Glendening, Chief Defender, Board of Indigents Defense Services
- Vice Chair, Susan Benkelman, Chief Court Services Officer
- Member at Large, Brad Finkeldei, City Commissioner, City of Lawrence

*** Photo of first EC to Insert***

The CJCC meetings returned to the historic courthouse in 2025, following the completion of renovations to the County Commission Chambers. In its February meeting, the CJCC welcomed two of the three community member seats with Doris Ricks and Timothy Shoulderblade.

Photo of 2025 CJCC to Insert

B. 2025-2027 Strategic Plan

Also in its February 2025 meeting, the CJCC formally adopted a three-year strategic plan. This plan outlines 4 priority areas of focus that aim to improve the understanding, outcomes, and communication of our local criminal justice system. These priority areas are:

- Enhancing the use of systemwide data
- Evaluating pretrial phase processes
- Identifying gaps between the needs of and services available for justice-involved individuals
- Development of a strategic communications plan

Photo of Vote Adopting the Strategic Plan to Insert

Following adoption, the CJCC set to work on the implementation of the strategic plan objectives, beginning with the first priority area related to systemwide data. Council members focused this work on decision points beyond law enforcement contact, which included pretrial, prosecution, and the District Court. Many of the desirable data fields from these decision points have been challenging to define and capture consistently; however, slow progress has been made. The use of data to assess system performance is foundational to any reform efforts we wish to undertake. It is imperative that system stakeholders can define, know, and trust the metrics that are both produced by and reported about their agencies. The process of building this infrastructure continues and we continue to work towards the development of key performance measures of our criminal justice system.

The fourth priority area, developing a strategic communications plan, began in late Spring 2025. This work was guided by the work group members:

- Karrey Britt, Public Information Officer, Douglas County
- George Diepenbrock, Public Information Officer, Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- Laura McCabe, Public Information Officer, Lawrence Police Department
- Captain Jack Campbell, Public Information Officer, University of Kansas Police Department
- Alex Wiebel, Public Information Officer, DCCCA
- Shannon Reid, County Commissioner, CJCC Member
- Timothy Shoulderblade, CJCC Member

Workgroup members spent the summer crafting, receiving feedback, and revising a communications plan to establish coordinated, consistent, and effective communications about the council, the criminal justice system, and council member agencies. The strategic communications plan was formally adopted by the CJCC in its October 2025 meeting. With the adoption of the communications plan, this priority area has been achieved, as the remaining objectives are related to the ongoing use of the communications plan and community engagement.

IV. Our CJCC Beyond Douglas County

As a member of the National Network of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (NNCJCC), which is supported by the Justice Management Institute, staff and members of the Douglas County CJCC have access to a broad reach of peer councils and audiences. JMI staff often highlight the work of NNCJCC member councils as examples to other CJCCs.

In 2025, Douglas County's CJCC was highlighted by JMI for:

- *View from 100: Episode 2.* In early 2025, Douglas County Sheriff Jay Armbrister started a podcast called View from 100. Katy Fitzgerald, Criminal Justice Coordinator, was a guest on the second episode. The article highlighting the podcast and this episode from JMI can be found here: [What We're Watching: Spotlight on CJCCs: A Sheriff Interviews a Criminal Justice Coordinator in this Must-Listen Podcast Episode | JMI Justice](#)
- *Communications Plan:* In the 2025 NNCJCC conference, Douglas County's communications plan was shared as an example for other CJCCs and Katy Fitzgerald, Criminal Justice Coordinator, served on a panel discussing the development of the plan from Douglas County.

Douglas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) 2026 Membership List:

Discipline	Member, Position
Law Enforcement (2)	Jay Armbrister, <i>Sheriff, Douglas County</i> Rich Lockhart, <i>Chief, Lawrence Police</i>
Courts (2)	Hon. Mark Simpson, <i>Chief District Court Judge</i> Hon. Beth Hafoka, <i>Judge, Lawrence Municipal Court</i>
Prosecution (1)	Dakota Loomis, <i>District Attorney, Douglas County</i>
Defense Counsel (1)	Jessica Glendening, <i>Chief Defender, Board of Indigents' Defense Services, Douglas County</i>
Community Supervision Services (2)	Pam Weigand, <i>Director, Criminal Justice Services Department</i> Susan Benkelman, <i>Chief Court Services Officer</i>
Community Treatment Providers (2)	Dr. Kirsten Watkins, <i>Interim CEO, Bert Nash Center</i> Lori Alvarado, <i>CEO, DCCCA</i>
Representative Members (5)	
Board of County Commissioners (1)	Erica Anderson
City of Lawrence Commissioners (1)	Amber Sellers
Community Member at Large (1)	Doris Ricks, 1 st Term (2/1/2025-1/31/2027)
Impacted Individuals (2)	Tim Shoulderblade, 1 st Term (2/1/2025-1/31/2027) Chaconie Baker, 1 st Term (3/11/2026-1/31/2027)

2026 CJCC Executive Committee:

Chair	Jessica Glendening, 1 st Term: 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2026
Vice Chair	Susan Benkelman, 1 st Term: 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2026
Member at Large	Lori Alvarado, 1 st Term: 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026

2026 CJCC Meetings:

Date and Time	Location
February 10, 2026, 11am	Commission Chambers
April 14, 2026, 11am	Commission Chambers
June 9, 2026, 11am	Commission Chambers
August 11, 2026, 11am	Commission Chambers
October 13, 2026, 11am	Commission Chambers
December 8, 2026, 11am	Commission Chambers

Commission Chambers: 2nd Floor of Historic Courthouse, 1100 Massachusetts Street,
Lawrence, KS 66044

CJCC Website: www.dgcoks.gov/cjcc

CJCC Email: cjcc@dgcoks.gov