

**Hamilton County Community Corrections
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2021**

The meeting, with approval of the Board of Commissioners, was virtual using Microsoft TEAMS. The following members were present: Honorable Gail Bardach, Jim Barlow, Bob Bragg, Lee Buckingham, George Buskirk, Steve Dillon, Roger Drayer, Honorable Paul Felix, Mike Fogarty, Stephenie Gookins, Kia Ireland, Leeann Murray, Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, Krista Radican, Steve Schwartz, and Dan Stevens.

A quorum was present. Executive Director Ralph Watson was also in attendance.

Mr. Watson began the meeting by welcoming the Honorable Jon Brown to the Board. Circuit Court Judge Paul Felix had informed Mr. Watson of his appointment of Judge Brown to the position once held by Judge Campbell. On May 18th Judge Campbell had informed Mr. Watson of his decision to resign from the Board as of May 18th.

Mr. Barlow called for the approval of the May meeting minutes. Judge Bardach made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Lee Buckingham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Watson summarized the April fiscal report. It reflects that the Grant fund has a negative balance, but this should be corrected with the June fiscal report. Just recently the agency reimbursed the Grant fund from Project Income to account for several employee's compensation funded by both the Grant and Project Income but paid solely from the Grant. It was noted that in April our Project Income revenue exceed projections by \$8,721.85. Roger Drayer made a motion to approve the report as presented. Leeann Murray seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

It was not possible to complete the May fiscal report prior to the Board meeting as the expense and revenue reports prepared by the Auditor's Office had only just been received.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Director's Report

A written report was submitted and reviewed by the Executive Director.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mr. Watson noted that recently the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) had chosen to continue awarding Community Corrections Grants on a calendar year schedule. The Board information packet had contained notice of the IDOC awarding the agency continued funding for July 1 thru December 31 of 2021. The amount of the award is for \$1,270,621 which is equivalent to the amount received for January 1st thru June 30th. The Board may recall, that because of accelerated time deadlines, the agency was required to submit a preliminary budget prior to having the ability to get it approved by the Advisory Board. Though the IDOC has officially made an award they have requested that the Board formally approve the budget that was submitted. Mr. Watson reviewed information in the Board packet that detailed the budget which had been submitted. Steve Schwartz voted to approve the budget as submitted and Bob Bragg seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

In addition to the award granted for the Community Corrections agency the IDOC had also sent notice of an award for Pretrial Services. The award was in the amount of \$96,862.50 which is equivalent to the amount awarded for the first six months of 2021. The preliminary budget that Pretrial Services Director Stephanie Ruggles had previously submitted to the IDOC also required the approval of the Advisory Board. Mr. Watson reported that Ms. Ruggles had provided a summary of the budget, which was included in the Board information packet, and that the requested funds were to cover employee compensation for the remaining six months of 2021. Stephenie Gookins made a motion to approve the budget as submitted. Judge Bardach seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of several Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) that are for services to be delivered from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Mr. Watson reported that MOUs similar to the ones being presented today had previously been approved for the first six months of 2021. The first was a continuation of the Financial Management class delivered by Mr. Paul Duke. Total cost for the six months would be \$900. Roger Drayer made a motion to approve, and Leeann Murray seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The second MOU was to continue the High School Equivalency (HSE) classes deliver by Hinds Career center with a 6-month cost of \$10,620. Susan Ferguson made a motion to approve which was seconded by Judge Felix. It passed unanimously. The third MOU was to continue the technical assistance and performance outcome measurement being conducted by the University of Cincinnati Center for Criminal Justice Research. The cost for the remaining six months of 2021 would be \$17,500. Stephenie Gookins made a motion to approve which was seconded by Dan Stevens. The motion passed unanimously. Finally, the continuation of faith-based services provided by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Chaplaincy at a cost of \$7,200 for the remaining six months of 2021 was presented for approval. Leeann Murray made a motion to approve it as submitted and Steve Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all being in approval except for Dan Stevens, Lee Buckingham, and Sheriff Quakenbush. They abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Recently the IDOC announced the release of the CY 2022 Community Corrections Grant application along with completion instructions and a summary of expectations for those receiving an award. Mr. Watson reported a couple of significant changes to the process. The first being a change of application software with the hope that the process will be improved from previous years. The second is that any County planning to operate a Residential and/or Work

Release facility will need to submit an application and budget that is separate from any submitted for other Levels of Supervision. Our agency will need to complete an application and budget for our Residential Level of Supervision as well as one for our Electronic Monitoring Level of Supervision. The applications will be due by July 9th and the IDOC is hoping to notify award recipients by September 1st. Mr. Watson plans to submit the application for approval at the July 1, 2021 Board meeting.

There was no further business to be brought before the Board and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be **July 1, 2021 at 12 noon** at Hamilton County Community Corrections.