

El Paso County Community Corrections Board
MINUTES
August 12, 2020

Board members present: Rose Roy, Mark Allison, William Bain, Janice Hellman, Chris Sandrolini, Lt. Darren O’Driscoll, Jillian Freeland, Ann Rotolo, Billie Ratliff, Brian Makofske, Lori Griffith, Pat Kelly, and Tiera Wright

Excused absence: Gilbert Suazo, Kim Kitchen, and Jahna Pusedu

Unexcused absence: None

Staff present: Christine Burns, Lori Seago, Scot Smith, Lexi Spadi, and Tiffany Weaver

Guests present: Kim Branham, Victim Rights Act Specialist, Division of Criminal Justice
Sean Foster, Community Alternatives of El Paso County (CAE)
Mark Wester, ComCor, Inc. (CCI)

- 1. Rose Roy, Board Chair called the virtual meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.**
- 2. Kim Branham** the Victim Rights Act Specialist at the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice addressed the board and provided a brief overview of the Victim Rights Act. She stated that victims have a right to know the screening process, facility placement, projected release date and when released, any transfers, and of an offender’s death. Ms. Branham discussed Victim Impact Statements, addressing the Board, and the importance of treating victims with fairness, dignity, and respect.
- 3. Attendance:** Rose Roy called roll. Absences for current and future meetings were ratified.
- 4. Minutes:** Pat Kelly moved to approve the meeting minutes for July 8, 2020 and the electronic meeting minutes for July 1, 15, 22, and 29, 2020. Chris Sandrolini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- 5. Case Review:** Rose Roy asked for case discussion. No cases were discussed. Voting procedures were addressed by Lori Seago. Lori stated that votes can only be cast by those members attending the meeting; that ballots cannot be submitted or collected until after all victims have been heard and the agenda item for Case Discussion has been called; and that constitutional principles of due process require that all voting members have access to the same information before casting their votes.
- 6. Program Reports:**
 - a. Sean Foster reported for CAE. Mr. Foster reported a decreased facility census of 182 resulting from reduced Colorado Department of Corrections offender movement due to the pandemic. He stated that there were 15 escapes, 100 positive drug tests, and several open security and case management positions; that these increases might be attributed to pandemic impacts, employment and resident coping skills, increased drug dependency during times of stress and uncertainty, and the fact that escapes are now misdemeanor (not felony) charges. Board member Pat Kelly asked about the recent media attention to COVID-19 cases at the facility. Mr. Foster stated they have a classified outbreak; that they have separated clients into cohorts and have moved clients to the Cheyenne Mountain Reentry Center (CMRC) facility located next to CAE; that the organization tested residents and staff on August 5th and plan to test again on August 13th. He stated that there has been limited movement and passes at this time. He stated that there has been strong collaboration with the county and his counterparts.

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- b. Mark Wester reported for CCI. Mr. Wester reported the average facility census at 269 with 56 new admissions and 49 terminations, and that of those terminations, 25 were successful and 24 were unsuccessful. He stated that there were 19 escapes; that positive UAs were 8.6%, down from a 9.1% positive drug rate in June; that they currently have seven open positions; and that the client employment rate was 82%, whereas during the previous report month it was 74%. Mr. Wester stated there were three staff misconduct cases and highlighted that they were due to internal performance issues and that staff are increasingly being held accountable for their actions. Mr. Wester reported on continued renovations at Roberts Road, with completion expected in early October; that renovations will allow for increased capacity at Roberts Road; that offenders will move from their 3808 facility and that specialized program locations will be rearranged.

7. Department Reports:

- a. **Financial Report:** Scot Smith reported that at the end of June 2020, which was also the end of the State Fiscal Year 2020 contract, the jurisdiction's contract with DCJ was over expended. ComCor Inc. was 15.6% over expended and CAE was .75% under expended. Mr. Smith stated that the Division of Criminal Justice will provide additional allocation to cover the over-expenditure.
- b. **Unauthorized Absence Report:** Scot Smith reported the successful completion rate for Diversion clients at 47.3% at the end of June 2020 and the unauthorized absence rate for Diversion clients was 21%. He also reported the successful completion rate for Transition clients was 62.3% and the unauthorized absence rate for Transition clients was 19.2%.

Board member Kelly asked for potential reasons for the increase in unauthorized absences (escapes). Mark Wester stated that the majority of escapes happen within the first two weeks of placement; that having a spouse, girlfriend or close loved one is a factor in escape; that the recent change in law making unauthorized absences a misdemeanor versus a felony may have an impact; and that COVID may be a factor, but this would be difficult to assess. Mr. Kelly stated he would be interested in knowing the escape rates in other jurisdictions and Mr. Wester stated he will reach out to the coalition. Board member Sandrolini stated that recent escapes was a factor in his decision-making process. Scot Smith stated there is some research suggesting that the case manager relationship is a pivot point to help offenders make better decisions.

- c. **Staff Report:** Scot asked board members for input on the types of training that would be of interest. Scot read a letter from a grateful citizen for the time and effort Lexi Spadi spent in helping the citizen understand the process.

8. **Other Reports:** None

9. **Old Business:** None

10. **New Business:** None

11. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Scot Smith, El Paso County Community Corrections Program Manager

Confirmed:

Rose Roy, Chair
El Paso County Community Corrections Board

El Paso County Community Corrections Board
Electronic Screening Minutes
August 5, 2020

Staff present: Lexi Spadi
Others present:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Ballots: Lexi Spadi tabulated ballots.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lexi Spadi
Community Corrections Specialist
Community Outreach Division

Confirmed:

Rose Roy, Chair
El Paso County Community Corrections Board

El Paso County Community Corrections Board
Electronic Screening Minutes
August 19, 2020

Staff present: Lexi Spadi
Others present:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Ballots: Lexi Spadi tabulated ballots.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lexi Spadi
Community Corrections Specialist
Community Outreach Division

Confirmed:

Rose Roy, Chair
El Paso County Community Corrections Board

El Paso County Community Corrections Board
Electronic Screening Minutes
August 26, 2020

Staff present: Lexi Spadi
Others present:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Ballots: Lexi Spadi tabulated ballots.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lexi Spadi
Community Corrections Specialist
Community Outreach Division

Confirmed:

Rose Roy, Chair
El Paso County Community Corrections Board