

El Paso County Community Corrections Board
MINUTES
January 9, 2019

Board members present: Rose Roy, Mark Allison, Jennifer Dabros, Janice Hellman, Kim Kitchen, Lori Griffith, Darren O'Driscoll, Jessica Curtis, Scott Whittington, Kim Whisenhunt, Christopher Sandrolini, Jillian Freeland, and William Bain

Excused absence: None

Unexcused absence: None

Staff present: Scot Smith, Megan Nelius, Lexi Jeffries, Christine Burns and Lisa Kirkman

Guests present: Gwen Barlow, Community Alternatives of El Paso County (CAE)
DeAnna Stalbert, Community Alternatives of El Paso County (CAE)
Gerald McCormac, ComCor, Inc. (CCI)
Michele Legette, Citizen

1. Rose Roy, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. Attendance:

- a. Introduction of members, guests, and new members.
- b. Ratified absences for current and future meetings.

3. Minutes:

- a. Scott Whittington moved to approve and Mark Allison seconded the screening reports for the meetings of December 5, 12, and 19 in calendar year 2018. The motion passed, Judge Curtis abstained and the rest of the board approved.

4. Case Review: No discussion concerning cases on the ballot.

5. Program Reports:

- a. Jerry McCormac reported for ComCor, Inc. Mr. McCormac reports that the board has vendor reports for the months of November and December. He points out the increase of fighting and assaults are misleading. ComCor Inc. staff has taken a loose interpretation of the fighting, in that they are accounting for verbal altercations, verbal disagreements between clients that begin to escalate. Jerry states that they have talked to staff once seeing that trend from November into December and that is not the most appropriate way to categorize that. Jerry appreciates what they were attempting to do but on paper, it looks a lot different from what it actually is in the facility. Jerry reports that with new staff and managers, they were using the threat of a level 100 write up for fighting as a quick way to end things before it escalated. They are introducing training in verbal de-escalation, or "verbal judo", as a way to teach prosocial skills, proper ways to express concerns, and deal with disagreements. They are working with staff to better categorize those instances. Mr. McCormac reports that the decision to call law enforcement is based on if hands are placed on another client, even if only horseplay. He reports that in the month of December, ComCor held a Christmas event for their clients and their families. He stated that Megan Nelius and Lexi Jeffries came as representatives from the county and participated in arts and crafts with the clients. They had a turnout of a little over 100 family members. It was the fifth event held in 2018, to include the Eagles Superbowl party, Easter event, Thanksgiving event, and now Christmas. Jerry reported that participation has been growing, even if it is a little forced at first. They received great feedback from the family members and clients alike. He emphasized the importance of

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- getting staff involved to break the barrier between being an authority figure and being a mentor or role model. He reported that they had an all staff meeting where they recognized 30 and 25 years of service all the way down to the new hires, which make up about 50% of staff from 2018. He reported that compared to 2017, escape rates went down about 2%, from 17% to 15%, despite the larger population. The average population went from about 222 from the suspension in 2017, to an average of 283 in 2018. Mr. McCormac reported that the success rate went up from about 35-40% in 2017 to 57-58% in 2018 for all populations combined. He reported that he felt that 2018 overall, as an agency, was a year of growth and change for ComCor Inc and the product is getting better. He reported that a new citizen board member came by and did a walkthrough of the facility with Maurice Motley. Mr. McCormac reported that the decrease in positive UAs could, in part, be attributed to the consistent canine walkthroughs that are done, about 15 in the last 12 months, as well as the presence that is being made on the grounds. He said that according to DCJ, the frequency of testing is dependent of LSI score, so they are actually conducting more UAs, with a lower positive testing rate. He reports that there are still some growing pains to get through, but 2019 should be a year of progress and professional development.
- b. DeAnna Stalbert reported for CAE. Ms. Stalbert reported that Charity Bellerdine, the previous Facility Director for CAE, has moved on. She reported that, for November, family services was their largest group. They made a “Thankful Tree” where clients and their families could write something they were thankful for on a paper leaf and put it on the tree. For December, family services did pictures of families with Santa and his elf, as well as Christmas decoration activities. Ms. Stalbert reported that CAE had the largest group for Restorative Justice Circle. An offender came in and discussed his crime and that he was a victim of that same crime after he completed his community corrections sentence. She reported that CAE had Evidence Based Training and MI training that staff attended in the effort to get all staff on board with the new DCJ Standards. Ms. Stalbert that an assault occurred at the facility on Christmas Eve. Law enforcement was contacted and the DOC client was taken into custody and charged with 3rd degree assault.
- c. Christine Burns reported that Gateway served faithfully until DCJ asked that community corrections funds not be utilized for that type of program. Gateway continued to serve their clients through December 12th, as their last client graduated through the program. They will no longer be a part of the community corrections side, but their service was greatly appreciated.

6. Department Reports:

- a. Financial Report: Scot Smith reported that numbers would be shared for both November and December 2018. He reported that for November, ComCor Inc. was 3.53% overspent, Community Alternatives of El Paso County was 0.97% overspent, and Gateway was nearly 24% overspent. Overall, for the FY 18-19, after November, community corrections was 43.6% spent on the DCJ contract. In December, ComCor Inc. was 3.73% overspent, Community Alternatives of El Paso County was 1.49% overspent and Gateway was 31.97% underspent. Overall, for the FY 18-19, community corrections was 52.0% spent on the DCJ contract.
- b. Escape Report: Scot Smith reported that in November, there was a 15.3% escape rate for Diversion clients and a 9.5% escape rate for Transition clients. The successful completion rates in November were 41.1% for Diversion clients and 54.3% for Transition clients. In December, there was a 14.8% escape rate for Diversion clients and a 9.4% escape rate for Transition clients. The successful completion rates in December were 42.4% for Diversion clients and 54.8% for Transition clients.

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- c. Staff Report: Christine Burns recognized two new board members, Jillian Freeland and Christopher Sandrolini. She thanked them for their service on the board as well as the service everyone does for the County and for community corrections.

7. Other Reports: None

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business:

- a. Sunshine Act 2019 Memorandum: Christine Burns reported that the Sunshine Act Memorandum is annually endorsed and provided to the clerk to the Board and addresses where notices of public meetings and locations are posted, currently being downtown in Centennial Hall. She requested that the board endorse this new Sunshine Act Memorandum. Rose Roy made a motion to endorse and Kim Kitchen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Subsistence Support Funds: Scot Smith reported (starts at 7:35 on second recording) that there was a statewide policy established for 2019 Subsistence Support Funds for Colorado Community Corrections. The project actually commenced on November 1st. These are subsistence funds for transition clients into ComCor Inc. and CAE. El Paso County was allocated \$36,594.09. Subsistence funds will be directed through the local community corrections board of the funding letter and allocation. The boards with multiple providers will allocate subsistence funds to providers at their discretion. Scot stated that we are asking for an endorsement to allocate the \$36,594.09 at a 50% rate to be split between ComCor Inc and CAE. Scott Whittington made a motion to endorse and Mark Allison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Chair and Vice Chair Positions: Christine Burns reported that the Community Corrections By-Laws state that in February the board vote on a chair and vice-chair to serve from March through the following February. Mr. Kelly, the previous chair elected, was no longer able to continue his service. Christine states that Rose Roy was gracious enough to fill-in for Mr. Kelly as chair of the Community Corrections Board through February. We will hold an election for the chair and vice-chair at the next in-person meeting in February. Christine suggests that everyone considers the chair and vice-chair spots and if anyone would like to volunteer, they can let Scot Smith know of any intentions to run.
- d. HB 18-1251 DOC Transition Denials and SDM Tool: Scot Smith reported that local community corrections boards were to provide Department of Corrections reasons for rejection for transition offenders. The Community Corrections Department e-mailed board members and asked for feedback about anything board members wanted to see added to the list that was e-mailed out. Rose Roy asked if DOC was asking for everything on the e-mailed list to be included and Scot Smith responded and said yes, these are going to be established reasons for rejection and DOC is asking for additional reasons. Judge Bain asks who would be filling out the reasons for rejection for transition offenders and Christine Burns responds and states that County Government would be giving the explanation to DOC, but board members are giving the explanation and reasons for rejection. Rose Roy asks if there is a possibility that DOC comes back with the rejection reason and says that the reason for rejection is not a good one and Scot says that it is possible. Rose asks why would it be helpful to put additional reasons for rejection if DOC has already created a list. Megan Nelius states that DOC wants reasons for rejection so that offenders in facilities know what they need to work on the next time they are referred for Community Corrections. Christine Burns says that there may be a majority of reasons for rejection, but we are going to have to find a way to compile that information and there are going to have to be some new processes for that but they are not in place as of yet. Scot states that if board

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members have ideas along the way, board members can send those ideas to the Community Corrections Department and the department may be able to send those up to DOC. Chris Sandrolini states that this has been an interesting area for him, because it is not quite clear. He states that the packets are not identical from one offender to another and he is still trying to determine his own sense of what the common expectations are for what is okay and what is not okay. Chris says that if there is a sense by the board for guidelines for making decisions, that it may be useful. Jillian Freeland states that she is appreciative of the rejection reasons to use as a guide when making placement decisions for offenders.

Scot states that on the other side of the transition denials there is a second part around the structured decision making tool under HB1251. Scot states that El Paso County is going to collaborate with Boulder County and hire a consultant for the SDM tool. The consultant is an expert in the field and does excellent work. She is going to send El Paso County a proposal and Scot will bring that back to the board to be reviewed. Judge Bain asks why El Paso County is collaborating with Boulder County. Scot Smith states that Boulder reached out to multiple counties and Scot said that he was interested in talking about the possibilities. With Christine's support, Scot did meet with Boulder to discuss the decision-making tool and they decided that the philosophical differences on both ends will make for a stronger tool and a stronger product. EPC and Boulder County thinks that there are some checks and balances as well as fresh ideas shared. Scot states that when you take on a project and you have a partner that is going through that same project with you, it is not just safer, but it is also sounder. Each team will think of things that the other would not.

- e. CACCB Winter Meeting: Christine Burns reported that the CACCB's winter meeting is coming up on Friday February 8th in Arapahoe County. One of the topics of discussion that affects the board directly are board performance measures, the Division of Criminal Justice through performance based contracting and through their contract, DCJ is going to expect performance measures from the board themselves. Christine states that previously DCJ has been doing performance measures from the vendors and reporting and how we are doing in El Paso County on the programmatic side of things. There is now going to be an expectation from the board side for performance based measurements also. DOC and the courts are concerned that we are not accepting at the rate that we need to be accepting at. Christine is constantly telling them that we have fully utilized our funded beds. Our vendors have more beds available for use, but they are not funded. The numbers they have been using at DOC and legislatively are the number of bed that our vendors have to fill; they are not utilizing the number of beds funded. Our vendors are filling the beds, hoping that DCJ will fund them and DOC still says that community corrections are not utilizing the beds. Christine states that we would like to have some board members attend the CACCB winter meeting and the Board administrative funds pay for the CACCB registration fees. Mark Allison and Janice Hellman volunteer to go and Rose Roy states that she may be able to attend as well.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scot Smith, El Paso County Community Corrections Program Supervisor
Community Services Department

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Confirmed:

Rose Roy, Chair
El Paso County Community Corrections Board

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Electronic Screening Minutes
January 2, 2019

Staff present: Megan Nelius
Others present:

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m.

1. Ballots: Megan Nelius tabulated ballots.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Nelius
Community Corrections Specialist
Community Outreach Division

Confirmed:

Rose Roy, Chair
El Paso County Community Corrections Board

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Electronic Screening Minutes
January 16, 2019

Staff present: Megan Nelius
Others present:

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

1. Ballots: Megan Nelius tabulated ballots.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Nelius
Community Corrections Specialist
Community Outreach Division

Confirmed:

Rose Roy, Chair
El Paso County Community Corrections Board

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Electronic Screening Minutes
January 30, 2019

Staff present: Megan Nelius
Others present:

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

1. Ballots: Megan Nelius tabulated ballots.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Nelius
Community Corrections Specialist
Community Outreach Division

Confirmed:

Rose Roy, Chair
El Paso County Community Corrections Board