

**Minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting of the Sawyer County
Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee
of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members Present:

1. ☒ Non-voting member - Chair: Monica Isham
2. ☐ Vice Chair: Julia Lyons
3. ☒ Grant Gerber
4. ☒ Andy Albarado
5. ☐ Mike Woller
6. ☐ Tweed Shuman
7. ☒ Doug Mrotek
8. ☒ Bruce Poquette
9. ☐ Katie Belanger
10. ☐ John Yackel
11. ☒ Marc Helwig
12. ☒ Elaine Smith
13. ☒ Marshal Savitski
14. ☒ Kathy McCoy
15. ☐ Bill Trepanier

Others Present:

Joyce Knowlton
Liz Klein
Kenneth Rice- Virtual

Call to Order – Chair Isham called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call was taken. Quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda – Set

Public Comments – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: December 11, 2024

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Albarado Second by: Mr. Mrotek

Motion carried without negative vote.

Jail Report -

A written jail report was provided showing the daily average jail population is declining, inmate unemployment rate remains at 71%. Race statistics are being included again per terms of the MOU with LCO.

Criminal Justice Coordinator -

Mr. Albarado reported that Becky Barry, Mike Woller and Julia Lyons were in a virtual conference and not able to make the meeting. Justice Point has 102 pre-trial cases. Diversion program has 8 cases with 28 pending. Separate offices will be built for JP staff in 2025.

Health & Human Services Report

Ms. Knowlton provided and reviewed a written report on Substance Use statistics with updates on a new billboard campaign for 2025, targeting alcohol use in addition to fentanyl. A major problem among Sawyer County youth is vaping; a poster contest for students is planned, and efforts to reach parents and adults on vaping dangers were discussed. Vaping is illegal on LCO. Juveniles are obtaining vapes from unknown and potentially dangerous sources.

Homemade vapes sometimes contain illicit drugs. There has been an increase in vaping citations issued by the courts.

Youth Justice Update -

Mr. Albarado shared that there are 35 ongoing cases in the YJ program. Out of county placements are costly and the 2025 budget has been adjusted to cover them going forward. The Truancy Diversion program is addressing the 10 day drop policy and will aim to educate parents and adults on the importance of school attendance where possible. Judges Smith and Isham expressed hope that the program will make a difference for youth.

NACO CJCC Peer Exchange Selection –

Mr. Albarado reported that after five years of cooperative programs in Sawyer County, our CJCC was chosen to attend a National Association of Counties sponsored peer exchange event in Arapaho County, CO next month. Julia Lyons and Judge Smith will attend. Mr. Albarado asked for the committee to create a one page list of programs from all the departments working on CJCC goals.

Community Services Updates – Mr. Gerber reported an open bed at House of Hope. A non-profit board is providing blankets, rides and raising funds to purchase a warming house to help at risk members of the community who lack shelter.

Outside Committee Reports - None

Future Agenda Items – None

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings - None

Adjournment – 12:43 pm

Next Meeting: February 12, 2025

Time: 12:00 pm

Location: Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk