



**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 7, 2023**

ROLL CALL:

Present: Greg Hockemeyer, Judge Matthew Rentschler, Judge Doug Fahl, Sharon Persons, Mista Lauber, Anthony Churchward, John Barrett, Ed Beber, Sheriff Spencer, Todd Cook, Billy Madux, Jennifer Reiff, Ian Desch, Amanda Herendeen, Amy Motter, Sean Martin, Lindsey Grossnickle, Liz Deckard, Paula Worden, Ken Scheele, Tasha Springer, Vicki Burney, Elizabeth McIntosh, Virgil Fulk and Julie Jensen-Kelley.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Fourteen voting members were present meeting the requirements for a quorum. Greg Hockemeyer called the meeting to order.

MINTUES:

The minutes from the June 2023 meeting were previously e-mailed out to all board members. Judge Rentschler made a motion to accept the minutes. Lindsey Grossnickle. The motion carried.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS:

No reports from officers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Heather Henry and Mary Pappas-Finch from Parkview Health Systems gave a presentation on the SOS Mobile Intervention Team Program. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Julie Jensen-Kelley gave a report on the Alcohol and Drug. To date there have been 130 referrals to the program. This is a 78- referral decrease from 2022. Julie reported that the treatment referral trend has continued. The next round of substance abuse education classes begins in October. In 2009, the Relapse Prevention Program began at WCCC. To date, 330 have been

successfully completed. The program is being used both by WCCC and the Probation Department.

Virgil Fulk reported that there are 21 individuals on home detention. Of the 21, there are 18 adults and 3 juveniles.

Tasha Springer was not present at the meeting. Paula Worden reported there are 347 participants on the Pretrial Services Program.

Vicki Burney reported there are 70 participants currently at the Residential Work Release Program (55 males and 15 female) There are four people on transitional living.

Elizabeth McIntosh reported there are currently eleven Veterans Treatment Court participants in the program at this time. One is a transfer-in from Huntington County, one is a transfer-in from Noble County, three are transfer-ins from Kosciusko County, and five are Whitley County cases. We also currently have one participant transferred out to St. Joseph County Veterans Treatment Court. There are currently seven individuals with pending cases that have been given information about the VTC program. Two of them have been screened and accepted and are awaiting their Change of Plea Hearings. Earlier this year, all the veterans were CPR/AED certified as part of a planned group activity. Another group activity is planned for 09/21/23 and will be a financial workshop conducted by the Purdue Extension Office. Whitley County Veterans Treatment Court alumni continue to lead the Facebook support group called Warrior Task Force. They also continue to hold planned events for veterans and their families monthly at a minimum, with the goal being bi-weekly get togethers. The next Whitley County Veterans Treatment Court graduation ceremony will be held at the Peabody Library on 11/09/23. It is an event that is open to the public, but invitations will also be sent out in the next few weeks. The Indiana Department of Corrections has funded the program through 2024. Program Auditors from Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS) were on site observing, auditing, and conducting interviews on 08/17/23. We are still awaiting their official recommendations for revisions, but once completed, recertification will be granted for another three years.

Ed Beber reported that there are 300 people on probation with many of them being transferred out to other counties. The department is now fully staffed after hiring the field officer. The department is working on planning pro-social activities with the probationers. Amy Motter reported that she has planned a cooking class for probationers on October 25, 2023.

Paula Worden previously emailed the Board on a proposal to raise the daily Residential Work Release Daily Fee to \$28 (flat fee to cover all costs). A discussion followed. Judge Rentschler made a motion to raise the fee to \$28 per day. Judge Fahl seconded the motion. The motion carried. Paula provided a written update on funding sources for fiscal year 2024.

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Alyssa Hodges was not present at the meeting. Paula Worden gave the Board an update on the Re-entry/JCAP pilot. Seven males are currently participating in the program. She expressed her appreciation for the support of stakeholders, and volunteers. A copy of the programming chart was provided to the Board. JCAP graduation is scheduled for October 27, 2023, at the Peabody Public Library.

Paula Worden reported on Next Level Whitley County. She plans to resume meetings to discuss next steps now that new jail is under construction which includes male and female housing units for JCAP, and Mission 25 has secured funding and land for a new facility. Transitional housing for participants being released from community- based supervision continues to be a need.

MEETING DATES:

Executive Committee Meeting:	November 1, 2023
Advisory Board Meeting	December 7, 2023

The meeting was adjourned.