



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, June 27, 2022**

**Welcome & Introductions**, Commissioner Dr. Garcia, called the meeting to order at 2:32 PM. All in attendance made customary introductions.

**Membership & Infrastructure:**

There were no changes to membership or infrastructure at this time.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on March 28, 2022, were made a part of the packet. A motion was made to approve minutes; the motion was seconded and approved.

**Presentations:**

**The Southeast Alliance Community Care Team– Melissa Carr**

Commissioner Garcia introduced the presenter, Melissa Carr.

Melissa Carr began the presentation by giving a brief description of her role as the Program Manager of the Southeast Alliance Community Care Team. The Southeast Alliance is comprised of four cities, Mesquite, Balch Springs, Seagoville, and Sunnyvale. The Care Team is funded by the Dallas County New Directions grant. The objective of this grant is to reduce 911 call volume for fire, police, and hospitals, in addition to stabilizing the scene in these four cities.

Ms. Carr stated that the Care Team started out on November 8, 2021. When the team first went live, there was one Care Team made up of a paramedic and social worker. They were able to get funding from the Mesquite City Council and Governance board to add an additional team, Care Team 2. They will expand their hours to 8am-8pm. They have an internal referral system for afterhours and they try to see those patients within 24 hours.

Ms. Carr reported this team is governed by the Southeast Governance Board, this board has a total of 8 representatives, 2 city employees of each city partner. They also have an advisory board made up of 8 citizens appointed by each city manager.

Ms. Carr continued and reported on Phase 1 of the grant, which was the response to 911 calls for mental health. In Phase 2, they implemented homelessness outreach and education for people experiencing homelessness. Phase 2 started on February 7, 2022, during the Texas freeze, and they were able to get people to warming stations. Phase 3 of the grant, which will go live in August 2022, is for the education of police departments and fire departments. The Care Team has been able to see the needs of the community, the police departments, and fire departments in the past 10 months and will be able to expand their training based on those findings.

Ms. Carr reported Care Teams 1 and 2 are subcontracted Parkland employees. The patients are not seen in Parkland, they are seen at their office in Mesquite. The staff was hired in October and went live in November. Since then, the Southeast Alliance Community Care Team has made contact 444 times, with new and repeating clients. Commissioner Garcia asked about the number of new patients in the last four months; Ms. Carr shared that there are about 160 new clients. The Care Team received roughly 4.4 calls a day. Through May, they were averaging 5.8 calls a day. Ms. Carr shared she believes that this is due to agencies becoming familiar with the program and calling them on the scene.

Ms. Carr stated they are starting year 2 of this program. Care Team 2 will be out as soon as they are done with training. Ms. Carr has gone out to local partnerships and nonprofits to see how they can partner. In the eastern side, there are no large entities to provide mental health services for these individuals. Ms. Carr also mentioned the lack of public transportation in this area. She concluded the presentation by stating with the use Parkland Epic and data, they will have a cost analysis to see how much it would cost the Care Team versus police and fire department to be sent to these calls. Ms. Carr opened the floor for questions.

Lynn Richardson asked to be walked through the process of calling the Care Team. How would an individual have access to this service? Ms. Carr shared, the police and fire department would arrive on scene and notify the Care Team if there is a mental health or homelessness component. That may change in the future, once there is more staff. Ms. Richardson also asked about how we can educate the public about this service through police and fire departments? Ms. Carr shared that the caller could ask about the Care Team when making the 911 call. Ms. Carr stated they are in the process of getting dispatchers trained. Commissioner Garcia asked about plans to market this service to the community as well as the accessibility and demand for these services. Ms. Carr stated they have bilingual individuals on team. The Care Team works Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm. When asked about the time they spend in the field, Ms. Carr reported the Care Team are on scene about 45 minutes to 1 hour to assess the patient. They will follow up by phone, if needed. She estimates about 2 hours for each case. Commissioner Garcia's last question was regarding how the officers are receiving this change. According to Ms. Carr, police agencies have received

this well and often call for advice. The cities have started to look for a way to budget in an additional team. LaShonda Jefferson asked about data regarding the number of individuals assisted instead of going to jail. Ms. Carr did not have those numbers specifically; however, they have tracked the number of patients not taken to the hospital with the Care Team's intervention. The discussion ended with Commissioner Garcia emphasizing the importance of reducing jail population to show the effectiveness of the services offered.

### **Committee Project Updates:**

#### **Criminal Justice Administration & Jail Population Management Update:**

LaShonda Jefferson gave the update. The Jail Population committee meeting was held on June 10, 2022, excerpts from that packet can be found on pages 18 through 25 of the CJAB packet. The jail population for today is 6,071, which is 84.2% of our total jail capacity. The Criminal Justice Department continues to collaborate with stakeholders to manage our jail population. The average jail population for May 2022 was 5,547 and our yearly average for 2022, so far, is 5,644. Jail population has increased due to individuals in jail with unfiled cases as well as delays in transfers to state facilities and state mental health hospitals.

#### **Fair Defense Committee:**

Lynn Richardson gave the update. The Public Defender's office received ARP grant from Dallas County to hire staff to take care of the backlog of cases that have been increasing due to COVID. The Public Defender's Office was most recently awarded funding, also an ARP grant, from Texas Indigent Defense Commission, to staff the misdemeanor courts. The Public Defenders will be hiring 19 positions, which include lawyers that will be embedded in the misdemeanor courts, investigators, paralegals, case managers, and social workers. This is a 2-year grant, however TIDC could continue funding depending on the success of reducing the backlog. The Public Defender's Office hopes to make an impact and provide data to Dallas County and their funders to show they are resolving cases and still able to provide effective legal representation. Commissioner Garcia asked about a timeline for the 19 positions available. Lynn Richardson shared that there is a meeting with TIDC next week to collect the portion of the funding to start the hiring process for half of the staff and will hire the other half of staff the following year.

#### **Justice of the Peace:**

Judge Steve Seider was unable to attend today's meeting. Commissioner Garcia asked about the IT Justice of the Peace Integration System that Judge Seider had concerns about. Melissa Kraft gave the update, the integration system is on time and on schedule, it will go live soon.

#### **Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence:**

Ellyce Lindberg was unable to attend today's meeting. No report available.

**Pretrial:**

Duane Steele gave the update. Pretrial Services was requested by judiciary to look at their staffing ratio. Of the 3,000 people being supervised, 800 plus are on Electric Leg Monitors. Please see the minutes for details on the subcommittee meeting held on March 29, 2022. Pretrial Services was awarded a total of 12 positions: 10 ELM officers, 1 supervisor and 1 trainer. Mr. Steele anticipates receiving position numbers soon to begin the hiring process. Pretrial attended the job fair this past week and had a good prospect.

**Reentry:**

Christina Crain was not able to attend today's meeting. She sends her regards and reports no updates at this time.

**Research:**

Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez was not able to attend today's meeting. An update was not provided.

**Program Update:****Local Data Advisory Board:**

LaFayne McCall gave the update. Dallas County met the 90% compliance rate on June 17, 2022. The goal was met several weeks earlier than last year's July 3, 2022, date. This was a collaborative effort by many departments and police departments. The LDAB continues to meet biweekly. The work continues and they are currently at 78.98% compliance for next year.

**Public Comments:**

None.

**Announcements:**

The next CJAB meeting will be held on September 19, 2022, at 2:30pm.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:20PM.