

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 5, 2026 | 12-1:30 pm

Location: Government Center – C-1291 Amdahl Conference Room

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Eric Werner, Ingrid Kubisa (proxy), Mary Moriarty, Elie Farhat (proxy), Kevin Anderson, Chela Guzman-Wiegert, Elizabeth Hogan (proxy), Leah Kaiser, Mary Ellen Heng, John Freude (proxy), Erick Fors (proxy), Michael Rainville, Jamison Whiting, David Bernstein (proxy), Kerry Meyer, Todd Fellman, Sara Gonsalves, Nikki Appelbaum, Jason Nelson, Julie Maas-Kusske, Kadra Mohammed (proxy).

Staff: Jackie Braun-Lewis, Susan Winterfeld Thompson, Roberta Groening, Liz Mohr & Heruy Damer.

Notes: Qulmie Abdi

5 minutes | Roll Call & Old Business

Lead: Chief Werner, CJCC Chair

- Meeting called order; quorum confirmed. Roll was called and quorum was present.
- January meeting minutes approved.
- Welcomed new member: Council Member Jamison Whiting.

20 minutes | AI Ethics and Legal Discussion

Lead: Chief Werner, CJCC Chair

Continued discussion following prior expert presentations. Members noted AI's potential for tasks like transcription and drafting but emphasized the need for human review due to reliability and legal concerns. Consensus to continue monitoring AI use and develop guidance as needed.

30 minutes | Subcommittee and Work Groups Update

Lead: Chief Werner, CJCC Chair

- **Corrections Advisory Board (CAB):**
 - Current comprehensive plan approved in 2024; update due every two years, full revision in 2027.
 - Reviewed membership requirements; CJCC-approved members advanced through required processes. Motion passed to accept the slate.
 - Expected timeline: Board approval in spring 2026; plan update mid-2026; full revision in 2027.

- **Behavioral Health Leadership Group:**
 - Ongoing work using the Sequential Intercept Model for early intervention and diversion.
 - Expanded use of behavioral health professionals with emergency responders including the jail.
 - Continued development of youth assessments and crisis stabilization services.
- **Regional Working Group:**
 - Subcommittees focused on legislation, placement, and prevention continue to meet.
 - Ongoing challenges: youth placement shortages, staffing issues, and program eligibility barriers.
 - Prevention efforts emphasize stronger community partnerships; data-sharing barriers persist and may require legislative solutions.
- **Jail Population Oversight Committee:**
 - Jail population rose in 2024 after pandemic declines; with increases requiring additional capacity in other facilities. Recent months have indicated a slight decline.
 - Felony population continues to increase; misdemeanors remain below pre-pandemic levels.
 - Pilot program for faster substance use disorder assessments shows early success in reducing jail stays.
 - Broader pressures noted: extended case processing times and increasing volumes of digital evidence required for case preparation.

30 minutes | Open Forum/Information Sharing

Lead: Chief Werner, CJCC Chair

- Civil Commitments: Reviewed strategic framework emphasizing collaboration, community safety, and reducing disparities.
- System-Involved Youth: Priority areas include civil commitments, youth system improvements, data sharing, and bench warrants.
- Data & Information Sharing: Persistent gaps hinder coordination and delay treatment placement for individuals waiting in custody.
- Bench Warrants: Discussed long-term impacts on housing, employment, and access to services.

5 Wrap-up and next steps

Lead: Chief Werner, CJCC Chair

- Discussed identifying both ongoing and new priority areas.
- Future topics may include bench warrant practices, improved interagency data sharing and system impacts on case processing timelines.
- Next Meeting: May 21st in the new conference room.