

Cache County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Time: Approximately 12:00 PM - 1:07 PM (MDT)

Place: Cache County Council Chambers (199 N Main St., Logan, UT, 84321)

Present Committee Members/Attendees

- Sandi Goodlander (Cache County Council, Chair)
 - Jordan Mathis (Bear River Health Department)
 - Sarah Owen (Victim Services Supervisor)
 - Taylor Sorensen (Cache County Attorney's Office)
 - Beth Smith (Bear River Mental Health)
 - Josh Barson (Bear River Health Department)
 - Lee Edwards (Logan Justice Court Judge)
 - Jared Bowman (Bear River Health Department)
 - Shannon Dimler (Public Defender's Office)
 - Michael McGinnis (Public Defender's Office)
 - Bruce Logan (Justice Corps)
 - Jeff Simmons (Logan Police Department)
 - Bill Cox (Rich County Commissioner)
 - Andrew Erickson (Cache County Council Policy Analyst)
-

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Sandi Goodlander at approximately 12:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented for approval.

- **Motion:** To approve the agenda. (Jordan Mathis)
- **Second:** The motion was seconded.
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the June 4, 2025, meeting were presented for approval.

Cache County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes from the June 4 meeting. (Sarah Owen)
- **Second:** Lee Edwards
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

Key Discussion Items

1. Strategic Plan Update and Recidivism Data

Sandi Goodlander noted that the updated strategic plan is due by November 1. The immediate goal is to gather hard data to inform the plan's objectives.

- **Recidivism Data:** Michael McGinnis reported reaching out to a state contact to request court data but has not yet received a comprehensive response.
- **Definition & Request:** The committee agreed to adopt the State's definition of recidivism (reoccurring offense within three years) for current work. Judge Edwards clarified that CCJJ (Criminal Justice Council) is the statewide clearinghouse for broad data (including law enforcement sources like Spelman), while Court Data Request is for specific court filing numbers.
- **Action Item: Andrew Erickson** will follow up with Judge Edwards for the court data contact information and be assigned to pursue a data request for both Cache and Rich counties. The data will be distributed electronically before the next meeting. The committee acknowledged that the data is necessary to effectively assess and reduce recidivism.

2. Receiving Center and Housing Update

- **Receiving Center:** Beth Smith announced that the building permit for the facility was received the day prior. Construction is now expected to begin, with a projected completion timeline of approximately one year. A link to track the construction progress is available on the Bear River Mental Health website.
- **Housing Facility:** Plans for the adjacent 20-unit supportive housing facility remain on hold. State funding of \$3 million was retracted and must be reallocated post-July 1 due to changes in state leadership (Office of Substance Use and Mental Health). Once verification of the funding reallocation is secured, the housing project will move forward.
- **Supportive Housing Use:** Beth Smith detailed current usage (approx. 24 units across Cache/Box Elder), emphasizing that case management is provided. The new units would likely mirror the severe and persistent housing model, allowing long-term stay as long as the arrangement is successful. The committee discussed using this resource for individuals exiting the criminal justice system with co-occurring mental health issues.

3. Justice Reinvestment Initiative (Medicaid/Justice Waiver)

Cache County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

Meeting Minutes

- **Update:** Jordan Mathis and Jared Bowman explained that state legislation passed over a year ago allows incarcerated individuals to maintain or qualify for Medicaid within 90 days of discharge. This allows for the maintenance of substance abuse and mental health care while incarcerated and provides a warm handoff to community treatment upon release.
- **Implementation:** The state is currently piloting this initiative in counties like Weber and Salt Lake. Bear River Mental Health (Jared Bowman) already has a strong relationship with the jail and existing eligibility staff, positioning the county well for implementation.
- **Future Mandate:** The committee noted that while this is currently a pilot/waiting game for statewide implementation, the legislation is in place and will eventually become an obligation for all counties.
- **Action Item:** Jared Bowman and Jordan Mathis will share the operational draft document and will continue to track state-level progress.

4. County-Wide Justice Court Discussion

- **Current Status:** Judge Edwards noted that Logan, Hyrum, Providence, and Wellsville maintain their own Justice Courts. The state may be moving toward requiring county-wide Justice Courts.
- **Concerns:** Taylor Sorensen expressed concern that if cities unilaterally dissolve their courts (as North Logan did, sending 1,200 cases to District Court), the prosecution burden will fall to the County Attorney's office without compensation, leading to significant case backlog in District Court.
- **Proposal for Education:** Judge Edwards suggested an Interlocal Agreement to funnel all cases into a centralized Logan Justice Court, requiring additional staff/judges and shared funding from participating cities. This would be more cost-effective through economies of scale.
- **Action Item:** Jordan Mathis and Judge Edwards will meet with County Executive George Daines and begin preparing a strategic plan to educate the City Managers (who handle the fiscal impact) on the costs and benefits of a county-wide or interlocal Justice Court system. This discussion is tentatively planned for the City Managers' October meeting.

5. Opioid Settlement Funding

- **Status:** Jordan Mathis reported that the county receives 15% of the settlement funds, which are held in a restricted fund designated for opioid-related expenditures (which can include mental health and substance abuse disorders generally). The last year's payment was the largest to date.
- **Potential Use:** The committee discussed the potential to use these funds for Peer Support Services for individuals exiting incarceration. Josh Barson estimated the full-time salary and fringe for one specialist at approximately \$70,000 annually.

Cache County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

Meeting Minutes

- **Action Item: Sandi Goodlander** will talk to the Cache County Auditor to determine the current amount of funds in the restricted account and review the MOU with Jordan Mathis to assess the viability of funding a peer support program. The state is also discussing cutting loose some of its larger portion of settlement funds for treatment and prevention.

6. Other Updates and Discussion

- **Homeless Council:** Sandi Goodlander reported that Louise Beth (CAPSA), who is involved in the Local Homeless Council, will be invited to join the CJCC.
- **Cache Valley Unified Support Program (CVUSP):** Jordan Mathis reported that the multi-disciplinary council continues to meet monthly, staffing 3-8 cases to connect individuals with resources. Funding for CVUSP ends in December 2026, but some of its coordinating capacity may be absorbed by the Receiving Center.
- **Behavioral Health Advisory Council:** Josh Barson announced they are organizing a new Behavioral Health Advisory Council (9 members: 5 Cache, 4 Box Elder, 1 Rich) and is seeking recommendations for law enforcement/justice-involved representatives, including a representative for Rich County.
- **Public Defender Input:** Shannon Dimler and Michael McGinnis stressed that mental health issues are prevalent among defendants, making resources and treatment accessibility a continuous challenge. Judge Edwards noted the Receiving Center offers law enforcement an option other than citing or booking, which will be less costly to the system.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** Sandi Goodlander briefly raised the need for PSH for the chronically mentally ill/homeless, which requires case management and long-term care beyond transitional housing.

Future Business

- **Next Meeting:** The committee tentatively scheduled the next meeting for Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at noon, to focus on finalizing the strategic plan update before the November 1 submission deadline.
- **Assignments:**
 - Andrew Erickson: Make request for recidivism data from the state.
 - Andrew Erickson: Explore grant opportunities to support the CJCC's initiatives.
 - Jordan Mathis: Follow up with the state on the Justice Waiver program and its implementation.
 - Lee Edwards: Research the feasibility of a countywide Justice Court system and discuss with city managers.

Cache County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

Meeting Minutes

- Sandi Goodlander: Determine the available opioid settlement funds and potential uses.
- Josh Barson: Research the cost/feasibility of a peer-support service program.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:07 PM.