

**North Carolina Criminal Justice Information Network  
Governing Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:00 AM  
901 Corporate Center Drive  
Magnolia/Dogwood Conference Rooms  
Raleigh, North Carolina**

**CJIN Governing Board Members Present:**

Allen Baddour	Laura Fahnestock	Michael McArthur
William Bryan	Torre Jessup	Ivy McMillan
Joe Burns	Ryan Kokajko	Kimberly Quintus
Tare Davis	Steve Lingerfelt	

**CJIN Staff:**

Dr. LaVonda Fowler	Emilee Parker
--------------------	---------------

**Guests:**

Linda Hodgson	George Tkach	Vinay Kancharla
Nitya Gawapathy	Demetrius Deloatch	Marie Evitt
Caroline Valand	Dennis Reynolds	Elizabeth Patel
Marc Erickson	Mitch Cunningham	John Maultsby
Jackie Schmitt	Kathy Kieffer	

**Board Activities and Announcements**

CJIN Chairman Steve Lingerfelt Called the North Carolina Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) Governing Board meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Chairman Lingerfelt noted that the sign-in sheets have are circulating the room and to please sign in.

Chairman Lingerfelt acknowledged the CJIN Advisory Board members who were present and thanked them for their continued support.

Chairman Lingerfelt reminded everyone that the CJIN Website has been updated.

**Folder Materials**

Chairman Lingerfelt stated that the following items were contained in their folders: Meeting Agenda, Draft Executive Summary of the CJIN Electronic Monitoring Program Annual Report, Draft Executive Summary of the CJIN Annual Report, Draft Mission and Vision Statement, and Draft Minutes from the February 3, 2022, Meeting.

Chairman Lingerfelt also noted that Travel Request Forms were available if needed, and that the presentations from the meeting will be posted on the CJIN website.

## **Ethics Awareness**

Chairman Lingerfelt informed the Board that per NC State Ethics Commission guidelines; all Board members are required to attend an ethics training course at least every two years. He stated that the course offerings and locations are available on the Ethics Commission website.

Chairman Lingerfelt gave an ethics reminder that is required to be presented at the beginning of any Board meeting. He read into record the following, "In accordance with G.S. 138A-15, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearance of conflict. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Board today? If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved."

Chairman Lingerfelt also reminded the Board Members that their Statement of Economic Interest documents are due prior to April 15<sup>th</sup> and that they can be completed manually or electronically, please see LaVonda regarding any questions.

## **Travel**

Chairman Lingerfelt stated that for travel reimbursement, please find a copy of the form in your folder, any questions please see LaVonda.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the February 3, 2022 Meeting were approved.

## **Update on Executive Director Position**

Chairman Lingerfelt asked that the Executive Board of CJIN to briefly step out of the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Chairman Lingerfelt made a motion "to authorize DPS to pay in a lump sum amount the difference in salary of Dr. Fowler's original salary on July 1, 2021 and her adjusted salary approved by the CJIN Board on that date for the period of 6 months from July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021."

The motion was seconded by Mike McArthur. The motion made my Chairman Lingerfelt was approved.

## **Meeting Format**

Chairman Lingerfelt stated that the meeting format would consist of having a variety of updates on the CJIN Board Initiatives and projects that have significant interest to the criminal justice community. These presentations will include: Jackie Schmidt and Kathy

Kieffer with the New Leash on Life Program, Dr. Lavonda Fowler with various updates including the CJIN Electronic Monitoring Program, Annual Reports, Conferences attended, as well as other presentations and initiatives, and Mitch Cunningham with the National Sheriffs Association with Initiatives Impacting NC.

### **New Leash on Life**

LaVonda Fowler introduced Jackie Schmidt and Kathy Kieffer who gave a presentation to the board on the New Leash on Life program. Jackie and Kathy were joined by Hudson the Boston Terrier who is a current participant in the program. The program is operated jointly by the Pamlico Animal Welfare Society and Veterinary Outreach and Rescue of NC. Currently, the program is in its 10<sup>th</sup> operation having returned from a two-year COVID hiatus.

The program was started due to research that wardens heard about dogs being a calming influence. Over the course of 8-10 weeks, shelter dogs are given a second chance when they are paired with an inmate trainer. During the course of the program, the inmates learn teamwork, patience, and responsibility. Some have even gone on to become certified dog trainers with is a transferable skill following release. The program focuses on teaching the dogs to be good household pets working on skills such as crate training, obedience, and agility so that they are sought after upon graduation from the program.

Jackie and Kathy participated in a discussion with Ryan Kokajko.

### **Board Updates**

LaVonda began her presentation with a brief agenda of her talking points including: going over the mission and vision statements, update on the CJIN Electronic Monitoring Program, presentation given to the Joint JPS Subcommittee, CJIN Annual Report and CJIN Electronic Monitoring Report, and conferences attended.

When going over the mission and vision statement, LaVonda and several attendees discussed the drafts with suggestions being taken. During the update on the CJIN Electronic Monitoring Program, LaVonda showed the Board and attendees on of the weekly reports given to the Executive Director from the 24/7 call center that handles the day-to-day operation of the program. The reports display devices in use per judicial district and county, as well as the violations and types of violations. LaVonda explained that the program has expanded to 16 judicial districts and 39 counties. Several unique features of the program were also highlighted including that the program allows for a fully customizable usage per defendant/victim according to judicial discretion. The program is also fully funded with state funds meaning that there is no expense to the defendant/victim to participate in the program. LaVonda pointed out that the program services as an alternative to pre-trial detention.

LaVonda shared with the Board how, serving as her role as Executive Director, along with Chairman Lingerfelt and Board Member Galen Braddy presented the Electronic Monitoring Program updates to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on September 15, 2022. The program updates were positively received by the committee with several questions raised that are addressed in the annual report.

Addressing the two Annual Report Executive Summaries in the folders, LaVonda presented a quick overview. This included the background and recommendations of the Electronic Monitoring Report, as well as the recommendations, activity, and transfer from the Department of Information Technology to the Department of Public Safety in the CJIN Annual Report. LaVonda let the board know that the two reports are not ready for a vote as they still need adjustments, and that the final reports will be distributed to the board via email in the next 1-2 weeks and that following the distribution there will be a vote via email.

In her role as Executive Director, LaVonda attends various conferences spanning topics in the Criminal Justice community. Some of the conferences attended since the last board meeting included the NC Clerks of Superior Court Conference, the Crimes Against Women Conference, the National Institute of Crime Prevention- Domestic Violence Training, National Association of Justice Information Systems (of which she is a Board member), among others.

LaVonda presented the Electronic Monitoring Program to the National Association of Justice Information Systems Conference where it was very positively received. As a result, she has been contacted by several states including Iowa and Arizona on how the program got started as well as how they could possibly implement a similar program.

LaVonda participated in a discussion with Joe Burns, Allen Baddour, Michael McArthur, Ryan Kokajko, Marc Ericson, T. Davis, Laura Fahnstock, Mitch Cunningham, and Chairman Steve Lingerfelt.

### **Initiatives Impacting NC**

Mitch Cunningham with the National Sheriffs Association presented on several initiatives currently impacting North Carolina. Formerly Mitch served Deputy Chief for Wilmington Police Department. Mitch shared that he wanted to share information with the board on current technology projects that the National Sheriffs Association is involved in. The first is a laptop project that helps with the worsening opioid epidemic. He explained that this epidemic is becoming an increasing burden on sheriffs across the country, particularly in smaller agencies with fewer staff/resources. The project involves laptops and helps to bridge some of the challenges that can occur since this is typically health or mental health information. The project allows for officers, when having an interaction with someone struggling with opioid addiction or mental health problem, to engage with an individual who is a mental health clinician or other individual via zoom to

do an on-the-spot assessment. This is creating a closer working relationship between public health and public safety while helping with arrest deflection. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is involved and there are currently several grants available to help.

The second project Mitch presented on is a pilot project in the greater Atlanta area of Fulton County. Mitch explains that the project is a pilot dealing with the iris scan process within correctional systems. The pilot connects a number of iris scan networks and allows for different jurisdictions to track offenders as they move through the various jurisdictions. The pilot is leading to increased information sharing increasing public safety.

### **New Business**

Chairman Lingerfelt asked if there was any new business.

LaVonda Fowler asked Caroline Valand with the Department of Public Safety if she could give an update on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CJIN Board and DPS. Caroline Valand told the board that the MOU is in the works and may be ready for presentation by the next Board meeting.

LaVonda Fowler reminded the Board of the next meeting December 1, 2022.

Chairman Lingerfelt adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.