

**The McDonnell Center CBCF  
Facility Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
April 12th, 2024● 9:30 am  
3540 Croton Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115**

**Present FGB Members:** Al Sanchez (Chair), Vincent Holland, Greg Popovich, Myriam Miranda, Charles See, Jeff Shivley, Brandy Carney, Colleen Brown, Luis Vazquez, Stephania Pryor, Tammy Sherman

**Present Oriana House:** Molly Gauntner, V.P. Correctional Programs – Cuyahoga | Mike Randle, Executive V.P. of Operations | Carl Ebner, V.P of Finance, CFO (via Zoom) | Pamela Cardinal, Program Manager | Pam Shury, Administrative Assistant (recorder)

**JAB Members via Zoom:** Judges Maureen Clancy and Deborah Turner

**Welcome and Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Al Sanchez motioned to approve the October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded. All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.

**Recognition of Newly Appointed FGB Members, Meeting Overview & Objectives:**

Greg Popovich welcomed Collen Brown, Tammy Sherman, Jeff Shivley, and Stephania Pryor to the board. Luis Vazquez and Greg Popovich's positions on the board were extended by the Court.

Charles See will be leaving the FGB after serving Since January 2011. Charles See spoke, stating that when the board started, it was done with the intention of being a different form of corrections, which was a struggle. He was thanked for all the work he has done while serving on the Board.

**Facilities Governing Board Overview:**

Myriam Miranda brought to attention the By Laws, which were revised last year in order to ensure compliance. She also discussed the Ohio Law Ethics Training that will be required of new board members to complete. Myriam requested that everyone review the By Laws to ensure the board is in compliance and everyone understands how the board functions. Charles See questioned the mission statement, specifically the wording "local punishment". He stated that the mission statement should perhaps be amended to state "local detention and support". Myriam and Molly Gauntner agreed, and Al Sanchez proposed a committee be formed to work on refreshing the mission statement. Greg, Myriam, Vince, and Molly volunteered to work on refreshing the mission statement.

**McDonnell Center Community Based Corrections Facility (CBCF) Program Overview:**

Mike Randle reviewed the history of the McDonnell Center for the new board members. Al Sanchez interjected regarding the recent changes to the number of beds the state will fund. He stated that at the start of the McDonnell Center CBCF, there was funding for 215 beds. Recently the state has decided to reduce funding from 169 beds to 100 beds. The state provides funds for felony clients and some misdemeanor clients.

**Mental and Physical Health Services:**

Pamela Cardinal explained to the board the policies and procedures that we use for our mental health clients. At the facility we have Dr. David Lopez, who has worked with the McDonnell Center and the Summit County female CBCF facility since 2023. Molly added that the judges benchmark clients with mental health issues and refer them to CBCF or the MAT program. We have a Crisis Counselor on staff who handles counseling, as well as emergency situations at the facility. The Peer Support Specialist who works for Thrive, provides support to clients. Additionally, we have two Licensed Nurse Practitioners on staff to help manage client health in-house.

**Eligibility, Referral, Screening, Admissions and Intake:**

Pamela Cardinal discussed changes to operations at the McDonnell CBCF Center. Oriana House will continue to admit clients based on their Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) and will continue to program clients for a maximum of 6 months. All passes have been removed from client's programming, and we will implement further changes regarding community access for clients. We plan to only allow community access in the last 30 days of client's placement, and the community access will be strictly for education and employment. Clients will be allowed to leave the facility in the case of a medical emergency, but they will be escorted to help reduce the risk of AWOL. Myriam added that these changes are due to requests from the judges of Cuyahoga County, and are intended to increase the number of successful completions from the program. Stephania Pryor questioned what compromises structured time, as well as if the structured activities were based on a client's discretion; Pamela replied, stating that caseworkers typically assign activities after reviewing the client's placement, but clients normally want structured time activities. The McDonnell Center has tablets for clients to utilize, whether that's for them to attend virtual program, seek information, or zoom with their family.

**Drug and Contraband Deterrence Efforts:**

Pamela Cardinal discussed drug deterrence efforts at the McDonnell Center CBCF starting in January. The January- March Notable Contraband Dashboards were reviewed. The dashboards for Urine Drug Screens (UDS) were also reviewed for January through March and the number of positive tests had significantly decreased from 22 positives in the month of January to 3 positives in March. Pamela Cardinal discussed tools the McDonnell Center CBCF utilizes to ensure drugs and contraband are not brought into the facility. The facility has increased the number of random alcohol tests as well as the number of alcohol tests performed on clients returning from community access. When clients enter the facility they are subject to an extensive body scan to ensure they are not storing contraband on their person. Pat downs and enhanced pat downs are required when a client enters the facility, as are alcohol tests and urine drug screens. The McDonnell Center CBCF utilizes random and scheduled K-9 searches of the facility to ensure contraband is found when present. When drop-offs come in, they are sent through the scan to ensure contraband is not concealed within the drop-offs. The McDonnell Center CBCF is currently considering eliminating drop-offs with the exception of clothing. Myriam questioned if that means that the facility will switch to commissary, Pamela confirmed, stating that she and Molly are currently looking into the possibility. If implemented the commissary would likely be purchased through Aramark. Greg Popovich questioned the number of intake denials for the McDonnell CBCF after reviewing the facility dashboards from January to March; Pamela provided that these were most often due to a lack of records, a history of mental health and/or aggressive behavior(s). Luis questioned if there is data specifically pertaining to the number of

clients with MH who successfully complete the program; Pamela stated that currently they do not separate MH clients from the overall population when considering the number of successful completions. Pamela Cardinal stated that for the next FGB meeting, she would work with research to attain statistics regarding the number of clients with MH diagnoses who successfully complete the program. Stephania questioned why low risk clients aren't separated from the rest of the client population and if they attend IOP sooner than clients with other risk levels; Mike Randle responded that there is a deviation cap for low risk clients. Stephania Pryor also questioned why employment rates for clients are low; Pamela Cardinal explained that clients are only able to work at the end of their placement.

#### **Court and Probation Collaboration:**

Tammy Sherman and Molly discussed efforts to expedite Journal Entries. They are working with the IT department to put a watermark to on expedited referrals to be accepted into the CBCF. Greg Popovich added that PO's have been assigned to clients and continue to be assigned to the same clients following their release from the program. Greg discussed how in recent times CBCF staff have been attending violation hearings for clients. Myriam questioned if clients have to meet with judges if they are successfully released from the program; Judges Clancy and Turner discussed their typical requirements. Judge Clancy stated that she requires all of the clients she's presided over to attend a pre-release hearing. Judge Turner stated she's done it, but assesses it on a case-by-case basis rather than requiring it for every client. Tammy Sherman also discussed the number of AWOL/failure to return clients, and members of the board agreed that the new changes to facility operations would likely reduce or eliminate this issue.

#### **Operating Agreement Status:**

Greg Popovich informed the board that the operating agreement ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, following that date there is no contract. A motion was proposed to add a one-year amendment to the contract. The motion was seconded. All were in favor, the motion was passed unanimously.

#### **Court and Probation Update:**

JAB Board Member Judge Clancy requested that Oriana House provide more information to the JAB regarding Oriana staff efforts to reduce the amount of drugs being brought into the facility. Many judges have concerns over drugs being present in the facility, which impacts the number of referrals to the program. She also requested that members of the JAB Board be provided more information on the programming and structure of the McDonnell CBCF. The information requested would be regarding how soon programming begins after clients arrive as well as the program schedule. Both judges expressed concern over others perceiving the JAB as though they have authority as opposed to an advisory role. Judge Clancy stated that the Court needs to approve of community access for clients, and that there also needs to be more clarification on community access. Judge Clancy also brought up that some judges would like to meet more often. Greg Popovich raised the issue of the ODRC, and the fact we need to increase our numbers, which requires judges referring a larger number of clients to the McDonnell Center CBCF. Judge Clancy responded by saying that the CBCF has so much to offer, and we need to meet with the judges again. Luis Vazquez stated that the FGB needs to be proactive, and that starts with having the doctors and staff meeting with the judges to better inform them about the facility and the efforts that are put forth by staff. Al Sanchez and Molly Gauntner decided that they would reach out to the judges within the next 2 weeks to set up meetings. They expressed

that we need to talk to the judges, advocate for the facility, and increase the number of beds. Myriam apologized to judge Clancy, stressing the importance of the Judge Advisory Board. Myriam expressed that we have to work in tandem with the JAB; want their advice, opinions and concerns. Judge Turner asked that an effort be made to talk to the new judges, as more effort needs to be taken to inform them of the benefits of the CBCF if we are attempting to increase our numbers.

**Operator Report:**

Al Sanchez motioned to approve the Quarterly Financial Report. The motion was seconded. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned.**

**Next meeting to take place on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**