



Maine County Corrections Professional Standards Council

County Corrections Professional Standards Council – Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2025

Sheriff Lancaster called to order at 11:03. Council members Steve Gordon, Tim Curtis, Steve French, Sheriff Lancaster, Sheriff Samson and Nathan Thayer were present. Council Clerk Mary-Anne LaMarre was present. Guests included Mitch Boynton, Scott Ferguson and Jim Cohen.

A motion to accept minutes from January 23, 2025, meeting was made by Steve French and seconded by Tim Curtis – motion carried.

The MDOC county jail report was submitted in October to CJ, Steve French will forward to Council members. Sheriff Lancaster asked for clarification. Sheriff Brackett offered details of the mandated report such as reporting, revenue, & population trends. There is also an MAT quarterly report and inspection results for counties and holding facilities and alternative sentencing programs. Statute referenced: Title 34-A 1402, 1210D.

Mitch indicated that he needs data by the end of September to create report for October. Sheriff Lancaster asked about the calendar data for this report and Mitch indicated it's reporting out from previous year. Sheriff Brackett noted that one of the requirements of Council around financial accounting needs to be implemented.

Commissioner Gorden, CRAS reports must be submitted by counties. Tim noted that each county has a designated person to submit that information. He said MCCA needs to stress the importance of county participation. Tim will provide a list from each county that shows who is responsible in their county.

Tim asked Mitch to send out information on who is responsible for CRAS reporting from each county. Sheriff Brackett referenced statute "The Council shall report rules (subsection 7) "and asked if Scott Ferguson's subcommittee would explore. Tim will send to administrators and filter down to the appropriate staff member.

Steve French added that we need to have all three groups work together to create this report. Revisit title 34-A section 10. Tim suggested we create a plan now to implement these requirements for 2025. Reporting shouldn't be a problem as the numbers are required for payments.

Steve French notified the Council that the jail standards changes have gone into effect. No one who has offered comments received notification from submissions. There was much conversation regarding concerns. Steve stepped away and learned that he was mistaken, and the changes have not yet gone into effect.

Tim – recommend that Commissioner Gorden send a letter to Commissioner Liberty asking for required feedback. Steve will create communication and will ask for responses. Ask for copies of responses to each Council member. Clarify we want responses to both public hearings.

Jail Funding formula – Tim Curtis: the formula for distribution is based on county origin count collected from BARS. If counties plug in the last year's distribution payments, you won't have the correct number. Is there a way that we use the count from the previous year because this will be a number that accounting can rely on. This past funding cycle was 1.5m in shortages around the state. Tim indicated that this doesn't need a statute but interpretation of statute. Scott Ferguson noted that anything not covered goes straight to the property taxpayers.

Tim: should we ask MDOC to change from July to June? MCCA will discuss internally.

Commissioner Gorden began the discussion surrounding jail funding bills currently in the 132nd. The MCCA bill asks for a 35% responsibility from the state, MMA's bill to fund county jails has not yet been scheduled. Representative Milliken is sponsoring a third bill but as a concept draft, we are unable to discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 12:21.