Maine County Corrections Professional Standards Council

Minutes from the CCPSC Strategic Planning Session
Thursday June 11, 2026, 9:00am
MCCA Conference Room - 4 Gabriel Drive Suite 2 Augusta

A. Welcome and Introductions: Meeting was called to order at 9:05am. Council members included Androscoggin Sheriff Eric Samson, Somerset Sheriff Dale P. Lancaster, Somerset Administrator Tim Curtis, Farmington Town Manager Erica LaCroix, former Oxford Sheriff Lloyd 'Skip' Herrick and Steve French and Nathan Thayer with the Department of Corrections. A quorum was met. As a new appointee to the Council Skip Herrick led the group introductions.

Others in attendance included Penobscot Commissioner Andre Cushing, Maine Municipal Legislative Advocate Amanda Campbell, Somerset/Waldo Jail Administrator Matt Magnusson, Corrections Service Center Director Mitch Boynton, Kennebec Administrator Scott Ferguson, Sheriff Todd Brackett, Jim Cohen and Sam Hamilton with Verrill Dana, and Council Clerk Mary-Anne LaMarre.

B. Appointing a Chair and Vice Chair for 2026/2027: Motion by Sheriff Lancaster to appoint Tim Curtis as Chair and Sheriff Eric Samson as Vice Chair, seconded by Steve French. Motion carries.

C. Review of Council Duties: As outlined in Title 30-A S. 1210-F, duties include ***evaluating programs and services*** to include but not limited to inmate transportation, MAT, Mental Health treatment, Community Corrections and Technical Assistance for Health Care Screenings. The group discussed whether some of those categories should be changed due to updated priorities. The consensus was to evaluate and publish findings like the LD719 report that was produced last year.

Steve French suggested that the Council begin ***reviewing at certain standards*** in January 2027 to prepare for updates. Steve, Amanda, Erica, Matt and Tim have ***created rules regarding financial reporting*** and the draft rules will be posted for public comment this summer.

Budget recommendations and ***submitting legislation*** round out the council's duties.

D. Review of Council Action Plan: The group reviewed a timetable which includes anticipated deadlines for Financial Rulemaking and reminders to counties about submitting for reimbursement for money spent on special jail audits. The group discussed updates to the current management system (JIMS), and speculated about the likelihood that the state would build a standardized system for record/data management or Offender Management System (OMS). It was determined that this should be a talking point with the next Administration.

The group also discussed collaborating with the state to find a more efficient way to communicate decisions and findings of the council with a wide audience of County officers and officials (also known as an interested parties list).

E. Discuss improvements to Transportation Hub: The term hub refers to a practice that was in place of formalizing agreements between counties to coordinate inmate transfers to the State Prison. It was discussed that this practice has been reduced to a very informal practice for a variety of reasons. During COVID, inmate housing was completely disrupted as jails worked to handle outbreaks through quarantine. Once the State resumed taking inmates certain counties were assigned certain days. This practice conflicted with some of the standing transport arrangements and as a result the hub concept was abandoned.

Currently the state works on a schedule where female inmates are accepted on Tuesday afternoons, and male inmates are taken on the other weekdays in both am and pm shifts. It was discussed that an additional day to accept females would relieve a burden on the jails where female beds are a premium.

The Council will release an official findings paper on Inmate Transportation.

Lunch Discussion: The Future of Jails (Regionalization/Collaboration): As lunch approached, the group began by reviewing a draft report on Jail Boarding Rates. Steve French compiled data from all 15 jails and found rates ranging from $65 per day to $100 per day for county inmates. Formalized agreements have been made between Knox and Two Bridges Regional Jail and Waldo and Somerset. There are several inconsistencies with the current practices of jail boarding and the requirements as set in statute (Title 30-A S.1557-B.). The Council will create recommendations for legislative updates and technical changes to be included with the Department's Report on Boarding Rates which is due January 15th.

The lunch discussion continued to include the potential impact of new facilities. Aroostook has chosen an architect and meetings to discuss site selection, and bond referendums are underway. Penobscot continues to discuss options as does Androscoggin, which seeks a partnership with Oxford and Franklin. Somerset's arrangement with Waldo boards 40 inmates which saves Waldo approximately $500,000 and provides Somerset with $1.5M in additional revenues. Knox is seeking to become a regional partner with Sagadahoc and Lincoln in the Two Bridges Regional Jail Authority.

There was a reference made to the 2018 MDOC Proposal for the Restructuring of County Jails. This document may prove helpful in furthering discussions.

F. Budget Initiative FY28

Jail Operations Fund $30M: The Council agrees that the upcoming MDOC budget should include an initiate to raise the Jail Operations Fund to $30,000,000. The justification will be based primarily on the bipartisan support of LD2232 in the most recent legislative session. Mitch Boynton has already created a placeholder for this initiative which needs to be submitted by September 1st.

Funding of Council Operations (Audits, Admin, Fees): The group discussed a separate initiative that would fund council operations through the MDOC including the $30,000 that has been paid to the Maine Sheriff's Association for administrative services. The $30,000 payment for 2025 is waiting on additional justification data that Mitch and Mary-Anne are working out. In addition, there should be funds identified in the MDOC budget to reimburse counties for the additional cost of stand-alone jail audits which will begin this fall. In a phone conversation with Deputy Commissioner Cantillo, Tim relayed that Tony believes there is enough justification for the $30,000 admin budget but since the reimbursement for audits doesn't have any historical data it may be premature to create an initiative. It was the consensus of the Council to create an initiative to include both costs.

G. Discussion of Legislative Priorities

Title 34-A S. 1210-E.2 Jail Operations Fund: The consensus was to work with sponsors of LD2232 to draft a nearly identical bill for the upcoming legislative session. In addition, there should be meetings with House and Senate Leadership over the summer and fall. The council will look to MCCA and Verrill Dana to set up those meetings. Sheriff Brackett urged the council not to lose sight of the work done to establish the cost of state sanctioned inmates (Administrative inmates).

Title 30-A S.1662.1 Boarding Rates: The report generated by Steve French brings the Council and the Department into compliance with this requirement.

Title 30-A S. 1557-B Boarding Rates: When the report on Boarding Rates is submitted in January, it will include several changes to this section to match state policy with current practice.

Title 30-A S. 701. **Tax Cap:** According to the current law, counties that wish to raise their jail tax cap will have to submit legislation to do so. The group discussed submitting legislation to amend or remove the tax cap provision. The consensus was to hold any action on jail caps until an increase to the Jail Operations Fund is established in statute.

Title 34-A S. 1208 B.4.D Community Corrections (Tabled)

Title 34-A S. 1210E Community Corrections (Tabled)

Title 30-A 1659 Community Corrections (Tabled)

H. Adjourn: For the good of the order, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.