

🏠 **Location:** JFS 1345 Lagonda Ave, Springfield OH

📅 **Date:** October 21st

🕒 **Time:** 8:30-9:30 AM

Meeting Minutes

- I. The meeting was called to order at 8:30AM with 20 people in attendance.
 - a) We went around the room, and everyone introduced themselves.
- II. Coalition reviewed the minutes from September. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Casey Rollins and seconded by Abby Glaser. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. Sheriff Clark reported that the Clark County Jail, built in 1977, has long failed to meet Ohio's minimum jail standards and is significantly over capacity (approx. 204 inmates vs. 167 beds). The aging structure has major safety, maintenance, and infrastructure issues, including outdated security systems, insufficient program space, and plumbing/structural concerns. A consultant assessment determined the jail is at end-of-life; renovation would be costly and reduce capacity. A new facility is recommended (approx. 454 beds; ~\$100M). Sheriff Clark emphasized that overcrowding limits accountability for low-level offenses, contributes to high recidivism, and restricts rehabilitation services due to lack of space. He also reported that rising crime rates in Springfield, particularly theft and drug-related offenses, heighten the need for additional capacity and programming. A modern facility would expand rehabilitation space, improve supervision and safety, and better support mental health and reentry services. Funding is proposed through a 0.5% sales tax and potential state grants. Sheriff Clark noted the need to build proactively rather than risk a federal court mandate.
- IV. Updates
 - a) Casey Rollins provided updates on the Haitian Coalition. She reported ongoing preparation for expected deportations in early February, including efforts to secure and expedite passports for children and develop family plans. She encouraged referrals of Haitian families needing support. The next coalition meeting is anticipated the week of November 11 at the Library Resource Center.
 - b) Meredith Carter provided Partners in Prevention (PIP) updates, noting Thomas Rollins has reached 300+ students with banking and "Catch My Breath" programming. PIP is planning a parent program for families involved with children's services and a family night at Lincoln Elementary on November 11.
 - c) Criminal Justice: No updates.
 - d) Brooke Wagner reported there has been no Transportation Council meeting since the last update. She shared that Glenn has gathered new field-trip usage data and offered to present the findings in early spring. The group expressed interest in this presentation, and Brooke will follow up to schedule it.
 - e) Brooke Wagner announced that longtime ODRC representative Ernest is leaving for a new role as Director of Justice and Policy in Franklin County. He could not attend this meeting and will not be present in November. ODRC has not yet posted his position, so a new representative may not be in place until early next year. Brooke noted appreciation for Ernest's service.
 - f) Other Community & Coalition Updates
 - i) Anissa Younts shared that VSC and VA partners created outreach materials and notified local justice stakeholders about establishing a Veterans Treatment Court in Clark County. A luncheon sponsored by the Marine Corps League will be held Nov. 4 at the Marriott to promote the initiative. Data shows an increase in justice-impacted veterans (4 in 2022; 14 in 2025). The court would serve as a structured diversion program with required programming.
 - g) Reentry Committees:
 - (1) CAP
 - (a) Continued progress was reported on CAP's strategic plan. A working draft of the first half of the report is complete, and a retreat is scheduled for November 13 to develop action items for the next 3-5 years.
 - (2) Education
 - (a) A Trauma-Informed Care training will be held November 5 from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM at the Emerge Institute in Xenia. Coalition members and partner organizations are invited, and a facility tour will be available afterward.

(3) Access to Services

- (a) Preparations are underway for Fair Chance Wednesday on November 19 (held earlier due to Thanksgiving). Vendor registration emails have been sent, and reminders will follow. The committee is also reviewing Justice-Impacted Survey results to guide service-access improvements.

(4) Housing

- (a) An eviction documentary screening and panel will be held on November 20 at the Clark County Public Library, featuring filmmaker Dr. Kathy Rowell and local community leaders, in partnership with the Education Committee. Light refreshments will be provided. Volunteers are needed to help lead small group discussions.

h) Legislative Update

- i) HB 461 would require correctional facilities to provide teletypewriters to inmates with hearing or speech disabilities. She also noted that HB 179 would require verification of veteran status for incarcerated or justice-involved individuals. In addition, she reported that several bills related to dangerous dogs and marijuana laws are currently being discussed.

V. New Business

- a) The Clark County Department of Reentry is coordinating a food drive to support local families, with St. Vincent's distributing donations to the community and partner food pantries. Interested organizations may request a collection bin for November, and donations will be picked up in early December. To set up a collection bin at your organization, contact Brittany Kidder at bnburks@clarkcountyohio.gov.
- b) The Rise and Build Leadership Breakfast with Nehemiah Foundation event will be held November 6 at 7:30 AM. The Department of Reentry is hosting a table with six available seats; anyone interested in attending should contact Brooke Wagner (bwagner@clarkcountyohio.gov) or Brittany Kidder (bnburks@clarkcountyohio.gov).
- c) "Evicting the American Dream: Film Screening and Discussion" will be held on November 20 from 4–6 PM at the Clark County Public Library. Panelists will include Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Tackett, and Lynn Payton, Coordinator of Family Outreach Connections.

VI. Old Business

- a) Chair and vice chair nominations will be collected for next month's meeting. An email has been sent, and another reminder will follow. Members may nominate themselves or others.

VII. For the good of the order

- a) Upcoming events
- i) The Trauma-Informed Care training will be held on November 5 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM.
- ii) The legal clinic will be held on November 8 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- iii) Fair Chance Wednesday will take place on November 19 at Recovery X from 1:00–3:00 PM.
- b) Donations are needed for the Citizens' Circle holiday event, including small gift cards, useful home goods, and bulk items (20+). Items are used as bingo prizes and take-home bags. Donations are requested by December 1. Contact Brittany Kidder (bnburks@clarkcountyohio.gov) to coordinate pick up of donations.
- c) Reminder: The next meeting will be held on November 18 from 8:30–9:30 AM, in person at CCDJFS, 1345 Lagonda Ave, Springfield, OH 45503.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 AM.



Attendees:

Abby Glaser

Amy Bracken

Andrew Ferguson

Annisa Younts

Bonita Sedora

Bonita Vangorden

Brittany Kidder

Brooke Wagner

Casey Rollins

Christopher Clark

Deric Nichols

Jacob Clark

Mandy Adkins

McKenzie Burton

Meredith Carter

Merri Shearer

Scot Donley

Sheri L Haines

Tricia Griffin

Victoria Sinift

