

The Cuyahoga County Criminal Justice Council (CJC)

Collaboration Agreement

I. System Overview:

While the Criminal Justice System is established and organized under the authority of the State of Ohio, the administration of the justice system is primarily a responsibility left to local government through the efforts of multiple justice system entities and stakeholders. In Cuyahoga County the administration of the criminal justice system includes both the General and Juvenile Divisions of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, the 13 Municipal Courts and a number of Mayor's Courts across the County which are supported by its clerks' offices, probation departments, and pretrial services offices. These court systems include the operations of various diversion courts, drug courts, mental health courts, veteran's courts, re-entry courts, and other specialty dockets. The system also involves the County Prosecutor's Office and the work of Municipal Prosecutors across the County's 59 jurisdictions. It involves the County Public Defender's Office and the work of hundreds of private local criminal defense attorneys. The criminal justice system also includes the involvement of the County Sheriff's Department, the County Medical Examiner's Office, and the local police departments of the 59 municipalities in the County as well as other jurisdictional police departments covering universities, park districts, and housing and transit authorities. Further, the system includes the County Witness/Victim Center and the Family Justice Center and on-going involvement of the Cuyahoga County ADAMHS Board and a number of social service agencies from across the County. Additionally, the County criminal justice system runs parallel and works cooperatively with the state and local federal criminal justice system including the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, ATF, DEA, and Attorney General's Office. And finally, integral to the criminal justice system is the involvement of numerous community institutions, agencies, organizations, alliances, groups, and individuals that have an abiding interest in public safety and criminal justice for all our citizens.

II. System Challenges:

Among the challenges confronting this complex criminal justice system include the impact of societal and behavioral health issues on judicial system outcomes including the persistence and insidiousness of substance abuse and addiction, the institutionalization of the mentally ill into our jails, questions of access to justice and the impact of poverty and the disproportionality of contact and/or outcomes in classifications such as race, nationality, gender, income, education or family setting. Other challenges include the prevalence and impact of domestic violence, gun violence, delinquency and gang violence, and the potential for occurrences of victimization, recidivism, and collateral consequences as a result of criminal convictions.

III. Mission:

Building on the long tradition of system collaboration in Cuyahoga County and the progress made under the Justice System Reform Committee and other County-wide criminal justice initiatives, the undersigned criminal justice system stakeholders wish to continue their commitment to making a positive difference in the Cuyahoga County Criminal Justice system by creating a Criminal Justice Council (CJC) in order to communicate, coordinate, plan and advocate for system improvements, programs, and policies in the interests of advancing justice, fairness and public safety.

IV. Goal and Objectives:

The goal of the CJC is to coordinate the overall Cuyahoga County criminal justice system to make it more efficient, effective, and productive. Based on this goal, the objectives in no specific order are:

1. To bring together key decision makers on a regular basis to openly discuss issues that affect the criminal justice system.
2. To identify problems and issues, and to proactively address those issues through planning, coordination, and cooperation.
3. To generate agreed upon system-wide data that increases knowledge of the criminal justice system and strengthens decision-making.
4. To initiate programs and policies which enhance the functionality of the criminal justice system and increase public safety.
5. To review costs related to criminal justice agency activities, identify possible savings, and to help prioritize the use of limited funds in the most effective and equitable ways possible.
6. To identify potential grant opportunities, identify eligible agencies and programs, and maximize collaboration in the grant application process.
7. To interconnect and possibly consolidate, existing criminal justice groups and committees operating in the County to avoid redundancy of efforts and to ensure cohesive systemic planning.
8. To respond to critical issues and collectively develop solutions.

V. Organization:

The CJC consists of four parts: 1) an Executive Committee, 2) Council Membership, 3) Standing Committees, and 3) Task Groups.

1. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of key stakeholders in the criminal justice system. The Executive Committee will meet quarterly or as needed and there is no voting since the group is collaborative in nature and based on mutual interest and no stakeholder will be compelled to follow any particular course of action. The County Executive and the Court of Common Pleas Presiding Judge will serve as Co-chairs of the Executive Committee. One Executive Committee meeting each quarter will be designated as a public forum open to all justice system stakeholders and interested parties to hear and discuss committee and task force reports and related issues where members of the public will be encouraged to participate. The Executive Committee members are selected based on the position they hold, and include the following individuals:

1. County Executive
2. Administrative Judge Common Pleas Court
3. Administrative Judge Juvenile Court
4. Administrative Judge Cleveland Municipal Court
5. Representative Judge of the Northern Ohio Municipal Judges Association
6. County Prosecutor
7. County Public Defender
8. County Sheriff
9. Public Safety Chief Cuyahoga County
10. Public Safety Director City of Cleveland
11. Chief Prosecutor City of Cleveland
12. Representative Prosecutor of the Northeast Ohio Municipal Prosecutors Association
13. Representative Chief of the Police Chiefs Association
14. Representative Attorney of the Cuyahoga County Defense Lawyers' Association

Additional members may be added if the Executive Group deems the positions beneficial to the planning and coordination process. Executive Group members may appoint an alternate to attend any meeting scheduled by the Executive Group.

2. Council Membership

In addition to the members of the Executive Committee, the Coordinating Council Membership will include any interested County or Municipal Court Judge and also include the following:

1. County Medical Examiner
2. County Clerk of Court
3. County Director of Regional Corrections
4. County General Division Court Administrator
5. County Juvenile Division Court Administrator
6. County Chief Probation Officer

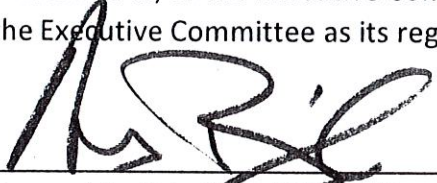
7. County Bond Commissioner
8. County Chief Pretrial Services
9. County Director of Office of Re-Entry
10. County Witness/Victim Director
11. County Family Justice Center Director
12. County Council President/representative
13. County Chief of Staff
14. County Law Director
15. County Chief Information Technology
16. County Director of Justice Affairs
17. County ADAMHS Board Director
18. Cleveland Municipal Clerk of Court
19. Cleveland Municipal Court Administrator
20. Cleveland Municipal Chief Probation Officer
21. City of Cleveland Mayor
22. City of Cleveland Council President
23. City of Cleveland Chief of Police
24. City of Cleveland Law Director
25. City of Cleveland Community Relations Director
26. Mayors & Managers Association representative
27. United States Marshal at U.S. Department of Justice
28. Legal Aid Society representative
29. Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association representative
30. Norman Minor Bar Association representative
31. Hispanic Alliance representative
33. United States Attorney and/or representative
34. Attorney General Office representative
35. FBI representative
36. ATF representative
37. DEA representative

3. Committees

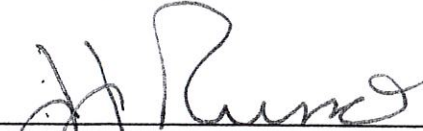
The Executive Committee may create committees to coordinate and oversee designated elements of the criminal justice system or to conduct research and recommend a solution to an agreed justice system issue to meet the goals and objectives of the CJC. Members and meeting times will vary.

4. Task Forces

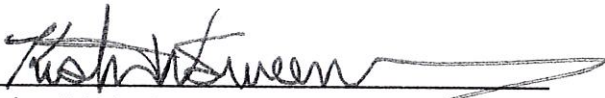
The Executive Committee may create "Task Forces" to investigate and analyze specific issues within the criminal justice system as determined by the Executive Committee. Task Forces will include CJC Members and other interested individuals from the public, non-profit, and private sectors. They will help identify best practices, form recommendations and submit them, in written form, to the Executive Committee for consideration. Task Forces will report quarterly to the Executive Committee as its regularly scheduled public meetings.



Armond Budish, County Executive



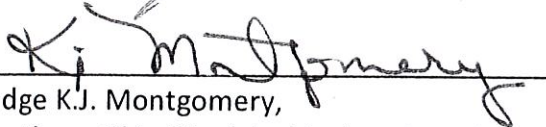
Judge John Russo, Administrative & Presiding Judge, Court of Common Pleas



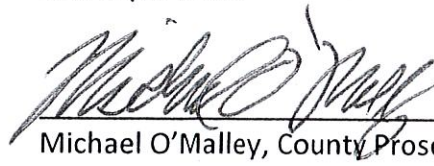
Judge Kristin Sweeney,
Administrative Juvenile Court Judge



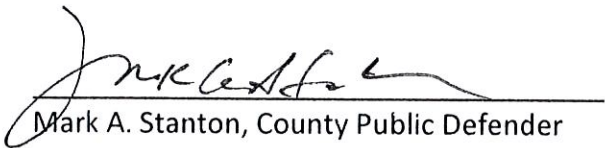
Judge Michelle D. Earley
Administrative & Presiding Judge, Cleveland Municipal Court



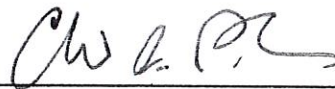
Judge K.J. Montgomery,
Northern Ohio Municipal Judges Association Representative



Michael O'Malley, County Prosecutor

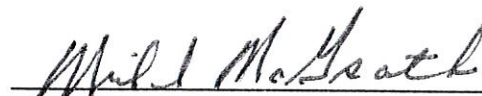


Mark A. Stanton, County Public Defender

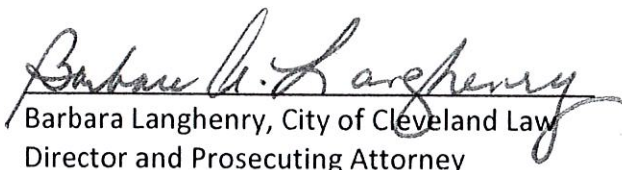


Clifford E. Pinkney, County Sheriff

County Chief of Public Safety



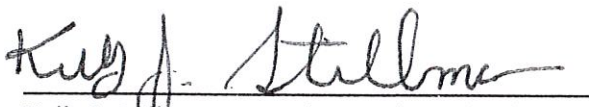
Michael McGrath, City of Cleveland
Director of Public Safety



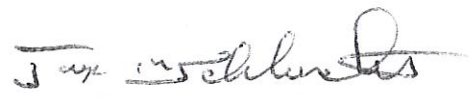
Barbara Langhenry, City of Cleveland Law
Director and Prosecuting Attorney



Northeast Ohio Municipal Prosecutors Association Representative
Lorraine Coyne



Kelly J. Stillman, President Police Chiefs



Cuyahoga County Defense Association
Lawyers Association Representative