



Dane County, WI
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703



January 30, 2023

Dear Community Partner:

The Dane County Board of Supervisors recently approved legislation to expand the membership of the Dane County Community Justice Council (CJC) to include community members with lived experience. The website of the CJC (cjc.countyofdane.com) details the CJC's current membership, as well as past and current work.

Ordinance Amendment 28, Amending Chapter 15 of the Dane County Code of Ordinances, Regarding the Name and Membership of the Criminal Justice Council was approved by the County Board late last year and published last month (<https://dane.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11477636&GUID=2D1B3903-5ACD-4B18-9DA6-18539840EAB3>). It requires additional members appointed by the Chair of the CJC as follows:

- Two members impacted by incarceration or directly impacted by the criminal justice system chosen from a list submitted by relevant community organizations including but not limited to Nehemiah, JustDane, Moses, EXPO, FREE, Focused Interruption, and Centro Hispano.
- One member with behavioral health expertise appointed from a list of recommendations submitted by relevant community organizations including but not limited to Recovery Coalition, NAMI, Homeless Services Consortium, and Chrysalis.

Additionally, there are three subcommittees to the CJC, and the membership of each is to expand as follows:

- CJC- Pretrial Subcommittee: Two persons from diverse backgrounds who have lived experiences of incarceration or have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system selected from a list of applicants and appointed by the Chair of the CJC.
- CJC- Racial Disparities Subcommittee: Two persons from diverse backgrounds who have lived experiences of incarceration or have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system selected from a list of applicants and appointed by the Chair of the CJC.
- CJC- Behavioral health Subcommittee: One additional public member with behavioral health expertise selected from a list of applicants and appointed by the Chair of the CJC.

I am writing to ask your organization to submit nominations of individuals impacted by incarceration or directly impacted by the criminal justice system, as well as individuals with behavioral health expertise by Friday, February 17, 2023.

Please include the names of the recommended individuals, a short biography of each, and phone and email contact information. Note that meetings are held between noon and 2 PM monthly. Please provide contact information to Sarah Jensen at Jensen.sarah@countyofdane.com.

From the nominations I intend to appoint six individuals with lived experience (two each to the CJC, CJC-Pretrial, and CJC- Racial Disparities) and two individuals with behavioral health expertise (one each to the CJC and to the CJC-Behavioral Health Subcommittee).

CJC staff will assist with onboarding to include CJC background, Roberts Rules, and current CJC initiatives. Members should plan on attending meetings beginning in March. If you have any questions, please contact CJC Coordinator Colleen Clark Bernhardt at clark.colleen@countyofdane.com.

Thank you for your partnership in helping the CJC further embrace the voice of community as integral to our work.

Sincerely,

Carlo Esqueda
Chair, Dane County Community Justice Council
Dane County Clerk of Circuit Courts