

4th Judicial District Community Corrections Board (CCB)

MINUTES

August 20th, 2025

Board Members: Chantel Bruce, Judge Samuel Evig, Brent Nelson, Deana O’Riley, Lt. Robert Harris, Lt. Derek Mower, LeeAnn Ortega, Ryan Graham, Erin Bents, Michael Publicker, and Jerry Jones.

Excused absences: Judge Cynthia McKedy, Manuela Reising, Lorena Gray, and Colleen Layman.

Unexcused absences: None.

Staff present: MaCain Hildebrand, Daniel Huddleston, Tiffany Weaver, Cassidy Keltner, Kristin Cronk, Mark Allison, Terry Sample, and Christine Burns.

Guests present: Mark Wester, Steve Owens, and Jenner Behan.

1. **Chantel Bruce called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.** The Board meeting was held with members attending virtually or in person.

2. **Attendance:** Chantel Bruce called roll.

3. **Case Review:**

- a. **VRA Statements:** Statements provided by victims or victim representatives for offenders.
- b. **Discussion and Balloting:** No Discussion. Balloting was opened.

4. **Approval of Minutes and Presentation:**

- a. **Brent Nelson moved, and Lt. Robert Harris seconded, ratifying the meeting minutes for July 16th and the electronic meeting minutes from July 2nd, 23rd & 30th, 2025; the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

5. **Program Reports:**

- a. **Embrace (ECC):** Mark Wester reported for Embrace; he reported that their residential average daily census in July was 273 with 234 beds allocated by DCJ; that the child support collected was \$3,569.00, and restitution collected was \$4,050.00; he reported that Embrace had 69 admissions with 56 residential terminations during July; that the successful completion rate was 50.0%, totaling 28; that the negative terminations were 50.0%, totaling 28; the negative terminations included 32.1% for escapes, totaling 18; and 17.9% for technical violations, totaling ten.

Mr. Wester reported that Embrace received 51 Diversion and 31 Transition referrals in July; he reported that Embrace accepted 100% of auto Diversion referrals and 76% of criteria Diversion referrals, as well as 100% of auto Transition referrals and 91.3% of criteria Transition referrals.

Mr. Wester reported that current staff vacancies include five security positions, six case management positions, one Admin position, and three support staff positions; Mr. Wester reported that the current client employment rate is 69.26%, and that the positive UA rate for the month is 1.6%; he reported that Embrave imposed 130 client sanctions in July; that there were five medical emergencies during July; he reported ten client grievances.

Mr. Wester reported that Embrave held a case management meeting in July to promote team building and identify successful case management practices; that in July, Embrave became aware of several clients who were dealing and/or using drugs extensively while in-program; that Embrave responded by increasing UAs, staffing those individuals involved, and terminating clients where appropriate; Mr. Wester stated that he believes the number of absconds increased as a direct result of this incident; Mr. Wester stated that Embrave moved the location of its corporate offices this month; he provided information about a client death which occurred last month, and the steps that have been taken to provide support to clients and staff; that the client's cause of death is pending an autopsy, and results would be reported to the board when they are received; Board staff asked about the status of the PREA allegation reported during a previous meeting; Mr. Wester stated that the law enforcement investigation was still ongoing at this time.

- b. **Community Alternatives of El Paso (CAE)**: Steve Owens reported for CAE; he reported that their current bed count is 236, with 240 allocated by the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ); that the total child support collected was \$2,450.00 and restitution was \$13,948.00; that there were 47 admissions and 35 terminations in July; that the successful program completion rate was 54.3%; and that the negative termination rate was 45.7%, which included nine escapes, six technical/house violations, and one new crime committed; he reported that there were three medical emergency incidents and 18 client sanctions imposed; he reported that the current staff vacancies include two security positions, two support staff position, and one case management position.

Mr. Owens reported 40 Diversion and 38 Transition referrals in July; he reported that CAE accepted 78.1% of Diversion auto referrals, and 100.0% of Diversion criteria referrals; that CAE accepted 100% of both Transition auto referrals and Transition criteria referrals in July; that CAE's client employment rate was 85.0% and their UA positivity rate was 7.1% in July; Mr. Owens reported that five residents graduated from IRT in July.

Mr. Owens reported that in July, the DCJ conducted the PACE audit at CAE, and the results are still pending; that case managers and the case manager supervisor attended a virtual training course with GEO's corporate office; that a large-scale facility search was conducted with support from the CDOC's Division of Adult Parole and K-9's from the Inspector General's Office.

Mr. Owens stated that the July All Staff meeting included training on suicide prevention, a refresher on how to conduct a pat search correctly, and discussions on professional communication during resident interactions.

6. Monthly Reports:

- a. **SFY24 Financial Report:** MaCain Hildebrand reported that July 2025 marked the start of the new state fiscal year; he reported that Embrave was at \$605,442.59 expended, representing 0.70% overspent; and that CAE was at \$543,446.06 expended, representing 0.22% underspent.
- b. **Provider Termination Report:** MaCain Hildebrand reported that for July 2025, Community Alternatives of El Paso County had a 54.29% positive/successful termination rate, a 25.71% unauthorized absence termination rate, a 17.14% technical violation termination rate, and a 2.86% committed new crime termination rate; he reported that Embrave had a 50.0% positive/successful termination rate, a 32.14% unauthorized absence termination rate, and a 17.86% technical violation termination rate.
- c. **Staff Report:** MaCain Hildebrand reported that Board staff observed the Embrave IRT and SOSTCC Specialized audit on August 4th to the 6th; that Cassidy Keltner and Mark Allison provided training on the El Paso County reporting requirements to Embrave staff during their monthly All Staff Meeting on August 12th; Mr. Hildebrand provided a summary of the 4th Quarter SFY25 Activity Report and DCJ Referral Report; Mr. Hildebrand reported that citizen board member Colleen Layman has moved out of district and resigned effective August 18th, 2025; that citizen board member Erin Bent's term ended in August and that she has chosen to step down; he thanked them both for their service and contributions to the board.

7. Old Business:

None for this month.

8. New Business:

- a. **Request to Reconsider Community Corrections Placement After Rejection:**
MaCain Hildebrand presented to the Board a Reconsideration After Rejection request submitted by Public Defender Monica Uzpen on behalf of Carolyn Murray, seeking Community Corrections placement reconsideration following the rejection of her Diversion referral on June 11, 2025. The Board reviewed the "newly discovered relevant information" cited in the request. A motion to approve was made by Lt. Derek Mower and seconded by Brent Nelson; however, the motion failed to achieve unanimous approval and was therefore denied in accordance with the Offender Placement Review Procedures.

9. Case Review – Ballot Results: The Chair read the ballot results.

Board/Staff Comments:

10. Adjournment: Chantel Bruce adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

Additional Information: Board member Jerry Jones was confirmed present online at the commencement of the meeting; however, he was unable to respond when called upon, and his presence for the remainder of the meeting could not be verified. The meeting was further impacted by substantial technical difficulties, which resulted in the absence of a recording and required the video call to be restarted/reset several times.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

By MaCain Hildebrand at 2:24 pm, Sep 11, 2025

MaCain Hildebrand, Justice Services Manager
El Paso County Community Corrections

Confirmed:

Chantel Bruce, Chair
El Paso County Community Corrections Board

El Paso County Community Corrections Board
Ballot of August 20, 2025
MANDATORY BOARD REVIEW

Pursuant to Section E16 of the OFFENDER PLACEMENT REVIEW PROCEDURES adopted by the El Paso County Community Corrections Board on July 25, 1997 and amended on January 17, 2024, the results of the ballot are reported to and ratified by the El Paso County Community Corrections Board on September 17, 2025.

Accept									
Offender Name	CCD #	Referral	IRT	WRP	JD	Provider*	Approve	Reject	Abst
BRADY, AMANDA	26-0178	D	☐	☐	4th	ECC	11	0	1
BORREGO, JERRY	26-0179	D	☐	☐	3rd	CAE	7	4	1
RAMIREZ, VICTOR	26-0181	D	☐	☐	3rd	ECC	11	0	1
TAFOYA, DONAVAN	26-0182	D	☐	☐	4th	CAE	8	3	1
COOK, ERNEST	26-0183	D	☐	☐	4th	CAE	6	5	1
CORNELIUS, KHRISTOPHER	26-0184	D	☐	☐	15th	ECC	11	0	1
HARMON, LARRY	26-0185	D	☐	☐	4th	ECC	7	4	1
SING, MIGUEL	26-0186	D	☐	☐	3rd	ECC	8	3	1
GORDAINER, CAMERON	26-0187	D	☐	☐	11th	ECC	9	2	1
MARTINEZ, TONY	26-0188	D	☐	☐	15th	ECC	7	4	1
VALDEZ, MARCUS A	26-0189	D	☐	☐	4th	ECC	10	1	1
WRIGHT, CONYUS	26-0190	D	☐	☐	4th	ECC	10	1	1
RYINES, MARCUS	26-0191	T	☐	☐		CAE	8	2	2
KOHNE, CHRISTOPHER T	26-0192	T	☐	☐		ECC	11	0	1
LAVATY, VANESSA R	26-0194	T	☐	☐		ECC	6	5	1
CABRAL, MARK A	26-0195	C	☐	☐		ECC	9	2	1
SMITH, DESHAN	26-0197	D	☐	☐	4th	ECC	6	2	1

Reject									
Offender Name	CCD #	Referral	IRT	WRP	JD	Provider	Approve	Reject	Abst
ARNELL, TREVON	26-0176	D	☐	☐	4th	ECC	5	6	1
CORNETT, JOSHUA	26-0177	D	☐	☐	4th	CAE	5	5	2
BRACY, ALAN	26-0180	D	☐	☐	11th	ECC	5	6	1
LAMBERT, CHAD E	26-0193	T	☐	☐		ECC	5	5	2
WARREN, STEPHEN	26-0196	D	☐	☐	4th	ECC	2	6	1
MATTA, MATTHEW A	26-0198	T	☐	☐		CAE	1	7	1
SMITH, DEAVONE D	26-0199	T	☐	☐		ECC	2	6	1
SANCHEZ, JACOB	26-0200	T	☐	☐		CAE	1	7	1

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Legend:

- CAE = Community Alternatives of El Paso County**
- ECC = Embrace**
- C = Condition of Parole with or without IRT**
- D = Diversion Residential and NonResidential**
- T = Transition with or without IRT**
- * = Or another Community Corrections Program within the Jurisdiction**