



Community Representatives

Frequently Asked Questions

- What is a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)?
 - A criminal justice coordinating council is the general term used to describe a body of elected and senior justice system leaders that convene on a regular basis to coordinate systemic responses to justice problems.
- Who is on the CJCC?
 - The CJCC includes members of state, county, and municipal courts, county council, county and municipal law enforcement, circuit defender, circuit solicitor, behavioral health professionals, legal and victim advocates, probation and parole, and various community leaders.
- What is the mission of the Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council?
 - To assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to Charleston County's criminal justice system and thereby improve public safety and community well-being.
- What is the vision of the Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council?
 - To foster a criminal justice system that is fair, just and equitably applied.
- What does the CJCC do?
 - The CJCC works collaboratively and utilizes data to identify system challenges, enact solutions and monitor progress with an ongoing commitment to accountability and transparency. Examples of results achieved include:
 - Build a robust data system for combining data from across the criminal justice system (CJS)
 - Prioritized alternatives to jail for lower level charges that were most frequently booked and disparately impacting the Black community
 - Increased law enforcement's use of community-based services so people could get the help they need rather than a jail bed
 - Made bond hearings fairer with public defender representation and Pretrial Service Reports to better inform the Court about the risks of re-arrests and/or missing court
 - Helped improve the time it takes to get a case moving with attorneys assigned faster and evidence transferred more efficiently
 - Annual reports to inform and update the community about system

progress and challenges

- Engaged the community throughout, including active leadership by community representatives, regular community justice forums, and engagement of over 1,200 community members in development of the Fiscal Year 2021 – Fiscal Year 2023 Strategic Plan
- Recognized locally and nationally for achievements to-date. For example:
 - Received \$6.4 million in grant funding from the John D. and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation's Safety + Justice Challenge
 - Competitively selected to the National Network of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils which includes 30 counties recognized for well-developed and high functioning CJCC's
 - Featured in numerous publications, trainings and events
 - Routinely sought out to provide assistance to other jurisdictions
- How many representatives will be selected?
 - There are twelve community representatives rotating in odd and even years.
 - Odd year terms include:
 - local faith community
 - local nonprofit community
 - local healthcare community
 - local business community
 - local defense bar community
 - local crime survivor community
 - previously incarcerated community (24 hours or more in the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center)
 - Even year terms include:
 - local civil rights community
 - local Hispanic community
 - local graduate program community in related fields of study
 - local community-at-large
 - one designated liaison from any other entity deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee
- What is the role of a community representative?
 - Community representatives voice the diverse needs and concerns of Charleston County residents within the CJCC.
 - Representatives attend and participate in CJCC monthly meetings, gather and share community input, and provide voice and feedback from the community in the CJCC decision-making process.

- One member of the community representatives has full voting rights as elected by the other members of this group and serves as the Community Representative Co-Vice Chair of the Executive Committee.
- How does someone apply to be considered for a community representative position?
 - During a call for applications, applicants can fill out a community representative application and email it to cjcc@charlestoncounty.org, or mail it to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council at 3831 Leeds Ave, North Charleston, SC 29405. Annually, applications are processed during the last quarter of the fiscal year and community representative announcements are made shortly thereafter.
- Who has a vote on the CJCC?
 - Positional members have full voting authority on the CJCC plus one community representative elected to serve on the Executive Committee.
- How many of the twelve community representatives get a vote?
 - One. The community representatives elect this person to have full voting rights and will be expected to actively participate in the CJCC's voting process.
- How long is the term of commitment for a community representative?
 - Community representatives will serve one, two-year term. A community representative may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.
- Are CJCC meetings open to the public?
 - Yes.
- How many meetings are community representatives expected to attend each year?
 - The CJCC meets 6-12 times per year. In addition, an average of four community representative meetings are held each year (one each quarter).
- When does the CJCC meet?
 - The CJCC typically meets once a month. The schedule for the upcoming calendar year is established each December and is posted to the website.
 - Community representatives will also meet throughout the year at a time conducive to the group. For example, community representatives may meet during evening hours approximately once per quarter or as needed/requested.
- Does the CJCC have staff, and will they support community representatives?
 - Yes. The CJCC has a small team of full-time dedicated staff. CJCC staff will be available to assist community representatives as needed throughout their term of commitment. For example, staff will provide community representatives background materials and be available for briefings on key issues.

If you have questions about the community representative application or the CJCC, please contact the CJCC at 843-529-7307 or by email at cjcc@charlestoncounty.org.