

# CJCC OVERVIEW

Lafayette Parish Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

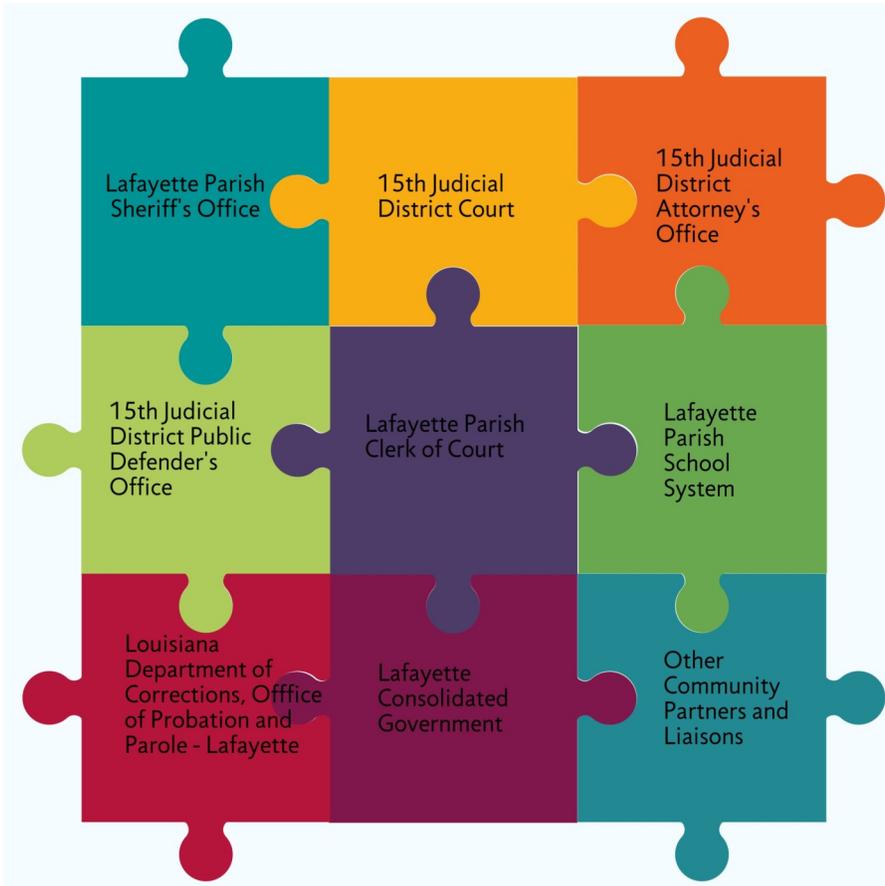
## Organization and Structure

The Lafayette CJCC is currently made up of 8 voting members (6 voting members for budgetary matters) and other community partners and liaisons including Lafayette Police Department, UL-Lafayette Criminal Justice Department, and Acadiana Area Human Services District. In the near future, other parish municipalities may be represented as a voting member.

The members meet bi-monthly and are currently focused on mentally ill who are entangled in criminal justice system, police-community relations and juvenile justice.

## Mission

The principal mission of the Coordinating Committee is to study the Lafayette Parish juvenile and adult criminal justice system, gather data, identify deficiencies, and propose formulated and coordinated plans for change when opportunities present themselves.



## Vision

Working together for public safety and justice.

## Goal

The general goal of Lafayette Parish CJCC is to develop a coordinated planning effort in making policy recommendations on vital criminal justice system issues.

In Lafayette Parish, there are 1,067 outstanding warrants in misdemeanor probation.

**\$481,597**  
in  
outstanding  
fines



**\$211,453**  
in  
outstanding  
fees

These warrants represent \$693,140 in unpaid fines and fees.

## Court Costs: Fines and Fees

In 2014, several Lafayette criminal justice agencies visited the 24th judicial district (Jefferson Parish) to learn about their court cost compliance process which has dramatically increased court cost collections including fines, fees and restitution.

Recently research was also completed on court cost collection in Lafayette Parish. In 2013, district court assessed \$4,420,654 in court costs. During that same year, LPSO only collected \$1,187,243.

A closer look at Misdemeanor Probation indicates almost \$700,000 in unpaid court costs with outstanding warrants. The District Court and Misdemeanor Probation department began new processes to increase court cost compliance in fall 2014. This includes addressing court costs and fines as a sentencing condition rather than a probation condition.

Probationers are now required to surrender their driver's license and be issued a temporary driving permit for the duration of their probation. Also all misdemeanor probation warrants are now being entered into NCIC which results in termination of federal assistance.

## Fiscal Analysis

CJCC is collecting fiscal information from key criminal justice agencies in a staged sequence. Step One of the Fiscal Analysis was completed earlier in 2014. Estimates indicate Lafayette Parish spends over **\$126 million dollars** on criminal justice annually.

- **Law Enforcement:**  
**\$56,848,577**
- **Prosecution and Adjudication:**  
**\$20,310,464**
- **Corrections:**  
**\$48,887,247**

**TOTAL**  
**\$126,046,288**



# Court System Sub-Committee

This committee meets bi-monthly and investigates ways to improve the court system. To date, the arraignment process for inmates has been improved. Other current projects include addressing high failure to appear rates in pretrial hearings. These include changes to the subpoena form and calling defendants before hearing dates. Additionally, a court security process to reduce the number of inmates being brought to the courthouse is being piloted. The analysis of court cost collections is also ongoing.

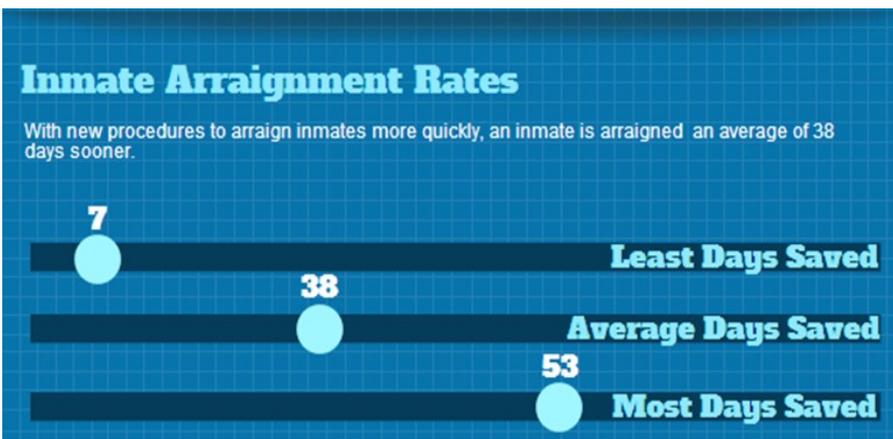
## Failure to Appear

Last year, LPSO began working with Clerk of Court to call all pretrial defendants approximately 1 week before their court date. Preliminary analysis shows this to improve court appearance rates with traffic, misdemeanor and arraignment hearings.

- Overall, court appearance for all court hearing **increased** from an average of 48% to 63% which is an increase of 15%.
- Overall, court appearance reminder phone calls have an **extremely significant statistical** impact on all court appearance. A t-test was significant at the  $p < 0.0001$ . In other words, there is about a 99% percentage change that the increase in appearance rates was due to phone calls.
- Court appearance reminder phone calls appear to have **no impact** on felony pretrial hearings which already had high appearance rates.

## Inmate Arraignment Process

Several criminal justice agencies piloted and are now participating in a process to arraign inmates within a week of the bill of information being filed. Estimated savings could be \$1 million annually with the average inmate being arraigned 38 days sooner.



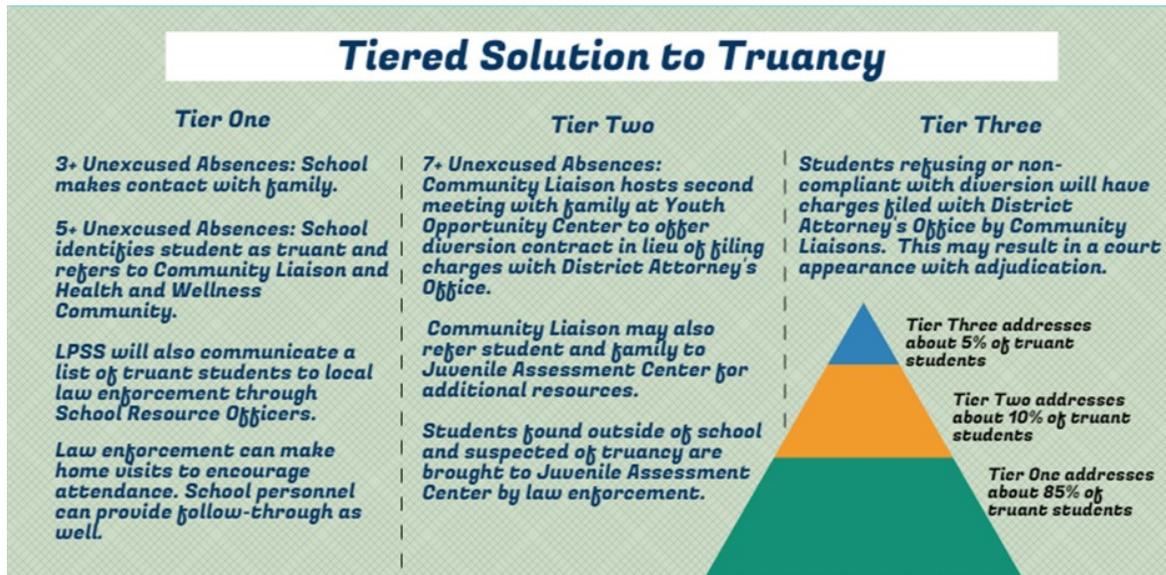
### Arraignment Process is Cost-Efficient Too.

Estimated savings is \$2,000 per inmate.

Estimated annual savings is \$1 million.

# Juvenile Justice Sub-committee

This committee meets bi-monthly and investigates ways to improve juvenile justice. Currently, this committee monitors the Juvenile Assessment Center data and makes recommendations for improvement. Last year, the committee piloted a Collaborative Truancy Intervention Initiative between the school system, law enforcement and the courts to reduce the number of truant students and get students and families needed services earlier.



## Collaborative Partners

The CJCC works with multiple agencies and organizations in our community and across the state and nation to gather information and share resources. Some partnerships include:

- The Knowledge Effect
- Lafayette Domestic Violence Council
- The Picard Center of UL-Lafayette
- The Family Tree of Acadiana
- The Extra Mile
- Institute of Public Health and Justice at LSU
- National Alliance for Mental Illness, Acadiana Office
- Office of Juvenile Justice, Lafayette
- Lafayette Child and Youth Planning Board
- Lafayette Detention Home
- United Way of Acadiana
- Stepping Up Initiative for Mental Illness
- National Criminal Justice Association

## CJCC

## Contacts

Sheriff Mike Neustrom,  
Chair

[mike.neustrom@lafayettesheriff.com](mailto:mike.neustrom@lafayettesheriff.com)

Dr. Holly Howat,  
Executive Director  
[hollyk.howat@gmail.com](mailto:hollyk.howat@gmail.com)

