



# Blount County Government

359 Court Street  
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

## Meeting Minutes

### CARES Committee

*Dave Bennett, Business Leader*  
*Robbie Bennett, Commissioner*  
*Chris Cantrell, Deputy Chief Sheriff's Office*  
*Rick Carver, Commissioner*  
*Tom Cole, Business Leader*  
*Jeff French, Chief Deputy Sheriff's Office*  
*Jackie Hill, Commissioner Tammy Lynn, Health Care*  
*Professional Tom Stinnett, Commissioner*  
*Jerry Vagnier, Health Care Professional*  
*Ex Officio: Judge William R. Brewer, Jr. and Judge Tammy Harrington*

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Tuesday, January 15, 2019

5:30 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 433

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#### A. ROLL CALL

**Present** 10 - Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Judge William R. Brewer, Vice Chair Richard Carver, Committee Member Thomas Cole, Chief Deputy Jeff French, Judge Tammy Harrington, Commissioner Jackie Hill, Committee Member Tammy Lynn, Commissioner Tom Stinnett, and Chairperson Jerry Vagnier

**Absent** 2 - Committee Member Dave Bennett, and Deputy Chief Chris Cantrell

#### B. EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

#### D. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 23, 2018 MINUTES

##### 1. [October 23, 2018 Minutes](#)

**Title:** October 23, 2018 Minutes

Commissioner Carver made a motion to approve the October 23, 2018 Minutes.  
Commissioner Stinnett seconded the motion. Minutes approved by voice vote.

#### E. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

##### 1. REVIEW OF BLOUNT COUNTY COMMUNITY JUSTICE INITIATIVE (CJI) FEASIBILITY STUDY SUMMARY - C. STERLING

[Feasibility Study Summary](#)

Title: Feasibility Study Summary

**a. Commission Action - Adoption of Option F**

**b. Update/Status**

**2. CURRENT STATUS OF BLOUNT COUNTY JAIL - CHIEF DEPUTY FRENCH**

Update on average jail population

-number of beds

-by gender

-by class (felony/misdemeanor)

**3. COMMITTEE GOALS DISCUSSION - COMMITTEE CHAIR J. VAGNIER**

Goals discussed included:

-Jerry Vagnier: Look at other population groups similar to Recovery Court group, that could also benefit from having alternatives to incarceration

-Jackie Hill: Look into developing a process/changing law to assist in allowing us more discretion to accommodate different classifications of inmates in different locations/programs; more rehabilitation programs; more "Preventative" programs; education of the community

-Tammy Harrington: proper assessments (and needed accommodations to do so); partnerships with organizations/employers in the community; create productive individuals that contribute to the community; long-term support to allow for long-term change (and again, the resources to do so---people, places, programs)

**4. NEXT STEPS**

Next Steps discussed included:

-Site Visits - Rutherford County Jan. 23rd and DC4 Feb. 6th

-Continue to Collect Data and Research/Report on Best Practices

-Tour the Jail

-Attend a Recovery Court Session (Wed mornings) and other court sessions (Brewer to recommend/schedule)

-Hear from a Recovery Court participant

-Hear from a recently released inmate

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

6:35pm