



Social Services and Public Safety Committee

February 17, 2026

Summary and Motions

Chair Jennifer Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Vice Mayor Dan Wu and Committee Members Chuck Ellinger, Tyler Morton, Shayla Lynch, Tom Eblen, Lisa Higgins-Hord, Joseph Hale, and Whitney Elliott Baxter were in attendance as voting members. Committee Member Amy Beasley was absent. Council Members Emma Curtis and Dave Sevigny were present as non-voting members.

I. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 13, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Motion by Morton for approval of the January 13, 2026 Committee Meeting Summary. Seconded by Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

II. NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) UPDATE

Connie Milligan, Clinical Director of the Fayette Mental Health Diversion Court and District Court Judge John Tackett provided an annual update regarding the 2025 performance of the Fayette Mental Health Diversion Court. Milligan reported that 2025 was a record year for the program, highlighting significant growth in participation, strong retention rates, and measurable cost savings to the community. The Court reached a peak caseload of 40 participants and graduated 25 individuals during the year.

The program focuses on addressing the intersection of serious mental illness and addiction through structured supervision, clinical assessment, sobriety monitoring, stable housing support, and an alumni mentorship component. Officials emphasized that more than 80% of participants remain in the program, with reduced recidivism attributed to peer support, structured accountability, and consistent judicial oversight.

From a fiscal perspective, the Court diverted 25,450 days of incarceration in 2025. Based on an estimated daily incarceration cost of \$115, this resulted in approximately \$2.9 million in jail savings. Additional law enforcement savings were estimated at approximately \$240,000, bringing total public safety savings to more than \$3.16 million for the year. Milligan reported a calculated return on investment of 1,073%.

In addition to direct program participants, the Court conducted 623 detailed mental health assessments for referred individuals in 2025. Clinical recommendations were provided to judges, prosecutors, and defense counsel even when individuals were not eligible for the Mental Health Court program, further extending the Court's impact across the justice system. Tackett characterized the Fayette Mental Health Court as a model program demonstrating both public safety benefits and strong fiscal stewardship. He thanked the Committee for its continued support. No action was taken on this item.

III. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

No action was taken on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm.