



MARATHON COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 am
 Courthouse Assembly Room, (B105), Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Suzanne O’Neill	X	
Vice Chair Kurt Gibbs	X	
Lance Leonhard	X	
Matt Bootz	X	
Michelle Van Krey	X	
Chad Billeb	X	
Matt Barnes		X
Theresa Wetzsteon	X	
Kelly Schremp	X	
Kat Yanke	X	
Cati Denfeld-Quiros	X	
Vicki Tylka	X	
Christa Jensen	X	
Jane Graham Jennings	X	
Yao Yang		X
Kenneth Grams		X
Liberty Heidmann	X	

Also present: Ruth Heinzl, Michal Schultz, Laura Yarie, Matt Bores, Sandra LaDu, Dawn Paglini, Andrea Aderman, Kelsey Thompson, Matt Thompson, Garrett Donovan, Judge Todd Bjerke and Erica Lakowske

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order Judge O’Neill at 8:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment (not to exceed 15 minutes)

No public comment received.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the January 18, 2024, CJCC meeting

MOTION BY GIBBS TO APPROVE, SECOND BY DENFELD-QUIROS TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 18, 2024, CJCC MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Operational Functions Required by Bylaws – None

5. Operations Issues and Potential Council Action - None

6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Potential Council Action - None

7. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. La Crosse County Veteran’s Court Program Presentation – Kelsey Thompson

Discussion:

Kelly Thompson and team presented regarding La Crosse County Veteran’s Court. The program began in November 2010 and serves veterans with a minimum disability of 50%, with AODA and or Mental Health issues that are involved in the criminal justice system. The program takes referrals from throughout the State and relies on federal funding to provide services through the VA. Team members have a military background, including Judge Bjerke who has 30 years of military service. The team consists of the typical treatment court members such as prosecutor, defense, law enforcement and probation. In addition, they have peer support and mentoring programs involved as well as a benefit specialist. The average length of program participation is 21 months, but actual completions range from 13 months to as long as 4 years. The program works closely with the jail to screen for referrals. Matt Thompson from the mentoring program looks for mentors with similar combat areas and history to match with participants. Mentors work with participants at a minimum of once per week. Garrett Donovan – Peer Support assists with outreach visits, release planning, transportation, and housing. Erica Lakowske a Benefits Specialist works with participants to make sure they receive all benefits they are eligible for. Judge O’Neill questions how out of County individuals participate. Judge Bjerke explains that the State Courts transfers jurisdiction to the treatment court temporarily during successful participation.

Participants are required to appear weekly, some zoom is allowed, but participants must have transportation to court and a testing plan where they reside. Participants are required to cover the cost of their testing. In La Crosse they use Justice Programs. Residential services in Tomah are utilized for treatment. The program also utilizes the “Strength at Home Program” for couples counseling.

B. Dashboards as Communication Tools/2023 Justice Programs Data Example – Michal Schultz

Discussion:

Presentation attached to minutes. Overview of types of dash boards and use of data. Infographics provided as an example.

C. Update on Youth Opportunity Center (YOC) Pilot – Christa Jensen

Discussion:

Christa presented this program through Social Services which is currently operating as a pilot program alternative to Shelter Care. The pilot program officially opened on June 3rd, 2023. Ben Jansen was hired as the Lead Youth Social Worker. There are no fees for families of the youth. The program serves youth aged 12-17 who are moderate to high risk, not in compliance, and are a community safety risk. The youth require extra supervision to remain in the community. Youth are court ordered to the program which can serve up to 10 at a time. The program operates Monday through Friday from 10am – 6 pm. The program works closely with parents, foster parents, CCS services through NCHC and Positive Alternatives Group Home. Previous shelter care services were \$620,000 and the current YOC budget is \$312,000. \$448,000 can be saved per year by avoiding 2 youth residential placements. \$267,000 can be saved by avoiding 2 youth group home placements per year. The pilot does not include formal schooling services, but assistance is offered for homework completion.

8. Adjournment

MOTION BY TYLKA, SECOND BY SCHREMP TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:30 A.M. MOTION CARRIED.