



MARATHON COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, January 19, 2023, 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 (Craig McEwen)	
Michelle Van Krey	X	
Chad Billeb	X	
Ben Bliven	X (designee Todd Baeten)	
Theresa Wetzsteon	X	
Kelly Schremp	X	
Kat Yanke	X	
Cati Denfeld-Quiros	X	
Vicki Tylka	X	
Social Services Director	VACANT	
Jane Graham Jennings		X
Daniel Tyler	X	
Yao Yang	X	
Liberty Heidmann	X	

Also present: Ruth Heinzl, Nikki Delatolas, Laura Yarie,

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 is received.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 17, 2022, CJCC meeting

MOTION BY GIBBS, SECOND BY HEIDMANN TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 17, 2022, CJCC MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Operational functions required by bylaws – None

5. Operations Issues

- A. Defense Attorney Whitepaper-** Judge O'Neill reports that she will be leading the development of a recommendation whitepaper strategizing solutions regarding the lack of defense attorneys locally. The goal would be to have this completed by the end of the year. She is requesting assistance from Yanke and Wetzsteon on this project and will keep the CJCC updated on the progress of this project.

- B. Opioid Funding Work Group-** Yarie reports that she has been assigned to gather information regarding use of settlement funds and assist with structuring a group process to make recommendations to the board regarding the use of funds. Yarie reports that her findings indicate that other counties have created official task forces to accomplish this. She mentions Eau Claire County as one that prepared official recommendations within their county. Yarie states that funds must be used for purposes outlined in the settlement only and detailed tracking of expenditures must be reported on a yearly basis. Heinzl suggests using existing High Utilizer Group for this purpose and stresses frustration with leaving funds unused. Group discussed including Veteran Services and the Health Department in the discussion. Gibbs discusses a statewide focus and WCA meetings, he mentions media campaigns and

school literature and the importance of a statewide perspective. He reports that the funds are spread over 18 years, and we must have a long-term approach. Gibbs states there is another settlement coming with an even more significant amount of dollars. Leonhard states the need to engage the County Board in the discussion as they will ultimately decide how funds are spent. Gibbs recommends that this topic be moved to the Executive Committee of the County Board in order to discuss the development of a task force and next steps.

6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Potential Council Action-

A. Root Cause Analysis on Marathon County Arrests- Ruth Heinzl

Discussion:

Heinzl provides the group a handout titled "Arrest Analysis" (attached). She discusses the implementation of the proxy tool that assisted law enforcement with decisions regarding who to detain. She also discusses the COVID restrictions put into place at the jail regarding who would be detained. There was discussion about the inability to track and validate the proxy tool and the system developing a framework for detention decisions. Billeb notes that jail numbers are increasing again after a significant decline due to proxy and COVID protocols. Further evaluation is needed to determine if law violations are more severe, or if law enforcement is shifting back to old practices. While utilizing these practices it was determined that not bringing people to jail does not increase warrants for missed initial appearances. Heinzl reports the number of arrests are up but the severity of those offenses is unknown. Jail booking numbers and jail length of stay have also increased. It is unclear if stays are longer due to severity of offense or other factors. Probation holds have been ruled out as the issue. A deeper dive into the data is needed to understand the correlation between arrests, charges and individuals cited in to court. Are the substantial number of increased bookings the same individuals staying longer? Wetzsteon questions whether bail jumping charges are down and wonders if individuals having other open cases is causing an officer to arrest rather than cite. The group feels further investigation is needed on these data questions.

Action:

Law Enforcement and the District Attorney's Office will continue to research the issue in order to answer these questions.

Follow Up:

A discussion to follow at the local Chiefs meeting once questions are answered. Update to the CJCC in the future.

7. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Marathon County D.A. Theresa Wetzsteon – 2022 District Attorney of the Year.

Discussion:

Judge O'Neill and the group congratulate D.A. Wetzsteon on this award.

B. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity ACT (WIOA) Presentation – Nicky Lindman

Discussion:

Lindman reports that she recently began employment at Forward Services within the Job Service Center. Her office is in the former Graebel building by Peaceful Solutions counseling. She states that the Job Center has not had individuals coming for services as they had before the move from Grand Avenue office and notes this may also be due to COVID and moving away from in person services. She reports that individuals are not regularly referred from Probation and Parole, and they are missing out on services and funding through WIOA. She requested to present to the CJCC to improve communication on what resources are available in order to improve collaboration within the community. Lindman states her program focuses on getting good paying jobs that support families, not just a job. They can provide funding for schooling; job training and they focus on employment barriers of all kinds. She mentioned recently assisting a single mom with tuition, books, scrubs, mileage and childcare. The program can assist with any barriers including housing and transportation. Lindman reports she works with individuals whose resume may be getting ignored due to lack of experience or criminal history. They offer paid for

work internships for young adults aged 16-24 where Forward Services pays the employee salary for up to 300 hours while a company gives them a trial hiring. There is also an opportunity for individuals over the age of 18 to have 50 % of wages reimbursed to an employer willing to hire them. Forward Services also offers fidelity bonding for the individuals where the employer can be reimbursed up to \$5000 for theft or other issues brought on by the hiring of an individual in the program. Lindman discusses on ongoing issue with individuals losing benefits when going to work, but not making enough to have a reasonable standard of living. She also mentions those that fear garnishments and losing benefits if working. She feels the community needs to better collaborate to improve employment and stabilization in people's lives. Lindman offers to provide presentations to agencies upon request.

C Public Defender Project Position: - Kat Yanke

Discussion:

Yanke reports that a staff member from the Public Defender's office has been working at the courthouse two days per week on Wednesday and Thursday from 2-3:30. This is a project position to assist with screening defendants for eligibility for services. She reports that numbers screened have not been as high as they could be and asks for the branches and clerks office to remind individuals screenings can take place in the conference room by the clerks' window. Wetzsteon questions if security can escort them there after they sign their bond. It is mentioned that groups are brought over together, and this may not work well for the individual screenings. There is discussion about possible solutions including staff reminders, posting signs, and marking arrows to the room.

D. Update from NCHC Managing Director of Community Programs – Vicki Tylka

Discussion:

Tylka introduces herself as the new Managing Director of Community Programs at NCHC. She distributes a handout titled "North Central Health Care Desired Future State" (attached). Tylka praises the hard-working staff she has encountered since starting her position and acknowledges the amount of learning she has ahead. Tylka states she is confident the newly aligned leadership team will be successful in reaching their goals. She indicates that she will be meeting with many other departments and organizations to focus on the work ahead.

8. Adjournment

MOTION BY BILLEB, SECOND BY WETZSTEON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:20 A.M. MOTION CARRIED.