



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

WEBEX/Assembly Room, B-105, Courthouse, 500 Forest St, Wausau

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Matt Bootz, Chair	X	
Brent Jacobson, Vice-Chair	X	
Jenifer Bizzotto	X	
Bruce Lamont	X	
Jean Maszk	X	
Allen Opall		X
Arnie Schlei	X	

Others Present: Lance Leonhard, Kurt Gibbs, Jason Hake, Laura Yarie, Toshia Ranallo, Mary Palmer
Via Web or Phone: Ruth Heinzl, Theresa Wetzsteon, Sandra LaDu, Chad Billeb, Dan Karchma, Kara Weiland, Mike Puerner, Mai Thao. John Happli, Kelly Schremp,

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Matt Bootz at 2:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment (15 minute limit) – None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Meeting on November 4, 2020

MOTION BY J. MASZK; SECOND BY J. BIZZOTTO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration

A. Proposed Amendments to marathon County Code of Ordinances – Chapter 9 (Public Peace and Good Order)

Discussion:

Mike Puerner explained the purpose of the proposed changes to *Chapter 9 Public Peace and Good Order* is not to expand the amount of offenses that are prosecuted, but instead to enhance the toolkit for officers to use more discretion when they are in the field. The committee reviewed the recommended amendments linked to the [packet here](#).

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Resolution amending Chapter 9 Of The General Code Of Ordinances, Relating To Regulations Relevant To Public Peace And Good Order Within Marathon County

Discussion:

See above.

Action:

MOTION BY J. MASZK SECONDED BY B. LAMONT TO APPROVE RESOLUTION AMENDING CHAPTER 9 OF THE GENERAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATING TO REGULATIONS RELEVANT TO PUBLIC PEACE AND GOOD ORDER WITHIN MARATHON COUNTY. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

Forward to County Board for approval.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Diversion Programs – What are they, who do they serve, and how do they impact our justice system?

Discussion:

A presentation was given by District Attorney Theresa Wetzsteon and Ruth Heinzl. Diversion Programs are not mandated by state statute and are solely the discretion of the District Attorney's office. The District Attorney prioritizes public safety first, victim rights, then harm reduction.

The purpose of Diversion programs is to give options to the normal criminal justice process. Offenders are treated as individuals instead of presuming they are all doing the same type of crime.

The first decision point is the arrest decision. Marathon County's Law Enforcement uses two alternative diversion programs. The Crisis Intervention Team who responds to mental health crises which officers try to deescalate a situation or take the person to treatment, versus taking them to jail. The second is the Proxy Program which helps law enforcement use discretion whether or not to give a citation versus arrest.

The charging decision is the second decision point. The prosecutor uses their discretion to determine whether or not to charge the case or if they should refer to diversion. Marathon County is one of very few counties to have a Pre-Charge Diversion Program. This helps defendants keep their records cleaner as well as de-clogging the Clerk of Courts and District Attorney's offices.

The third decision point is at the plea negotiation stage. The prosecutor uses their discretion on whether to propose an alternative plea offer of diversion, allowing the defendant to complete treatment and repair harm in lieu of a criminal conviction.

Wetzsteon encouraged the committee to reach out to her or Heinzl if they have further questions. The YouTube video presentation can be assessed [here](#).

Follow through:

No follow through needed.

B. Law Enforcement Appreciation Project (LEAP)

Discussion:

Kara Weiland gave a brief overview on a new nonprofit organization through the Community Foundation called Law Enforcement Appreciation Project (L.E.A.P). Dan Karchma further explained the mission is to show appreciation and support for the law enforcement community throughout Marathon County. They intend to raise funds to show appreciate in ways such as providing beverages or snacks for all patrol officers while on duty on a regular basis throughout the county. Additionally, this project will provide the citizens of Marathon County the opportunity to anonymously show their financial support for Law Enforcement. More information can be obtained on the Community Foundation website or on the L.E.A.P Facebook page.

Follow through:

No follow through needed.

C. Update on our Evidence-Based Decision-Making Pretrial Assessment & Case Management Planning and Pilot

Discussion:

Laura Yarie gave a [presentation](#) on Pretrial Assessments and Case Management. She has been working with the National Institute of Corrections and the WI Dept. of Justice for five plus years discussing decision points within the criminal justice system. Marathon County has many options for diversion and individualizes the process for those coming through the system. In 2007 a coordinator position was added to the District Attorney's office to expand the number of people being diverted. Case Management was also expanded through ATTIC Correctional Services. A full YouTube presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Follow through:

No follow through needed.

D. Review of Draft System Budgeting Approach and Timeline

Discussion:

Chair Bootz, explained Supervisor Jacobson and he are moving forward with the plan discussed at the last budget meeting. They will be sitting down with all parties and will have something in June. Administrator Leonhard and Deputy Administrator Hake will be putting together system budgeting strategies and will be looking for feedback from the committee and stake holders. Deputy Administrator Hake gave a brief [presentation](#) of the timeline for systematic budgeting. Administrator Leonhard indicated there are groups working well together and coming up with good ideas that generates solutions, savings, and investment in culture. Chair Gibbs thanked Leonhard, Hake, and department heads for their participation.

Follow through:

No follow through needed.

7. Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items

- A. Next meeting: January 6, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
- B. Announcements: None

8. Adjournment

**MOTION BY A. SCHLEI; SECOND BY J. BIZZOTTO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 3:41 P.M.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted by,
Toshia Ranallo