



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 2:00 pm**

Meeting Location **WebEx/Courthouse Assembly Room, (B105), Courthouse, 500 Forest St., Wausau**

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

Others Present: Lance Leonhard, Kurt Gibbs, Jason Hake, Laura Yarie, Toshia Ranallo, Aaron Trotzer, Clint Ruesch, Judge Huber, Ted Teske, Aaron Franson and Shane Hardrath.

Via Web or Phone: Ruth Heinzl, Craig McEwen, Public Defender Kay Yanke, Angie Wanta, Trevor Peterson, Erika Braatz, Trevor Peterson, six unidentified call-ins.

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

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

2. **Public Comment (15 Minutes) - None**

3. **MOTION BY B. LAMONT SECOND BY J. MASZK TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for Consideration: - None.**

5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**

- A. Resolution – Support for Amendments to 2019 Wisconsin Act 106 and WIS. STATS. § 343.31(1M)(B) Regarding Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) Offenses

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard provided a brief overview of the OWI Treatment Court operations and recent WIS. STATS. § amendments relating to 5th and 6th OWI violations.

Judge Huber and Justice Coordinator Laura Yari reported on benefits and statistics supporting the program and urged the committee to approve the resolution.

Marathon County Jail Administrator Sandra La Du gave a brief presentation on positive outcomes of recidivism rates and jail cost savings when compared to housing these offenders while they wait to go to prison, versus sending them to treatment court. She urged the committee to pass the resolution.

Public Defender Kat Yanke spoke in favor of the resolution stating the Marathon County Treatment Court is working. She is a liaison with state legislators and reported this topic will be discussed at their next session.

Testimonies were given from the following participants who have successfully completed the program. Clint Ruesch, Arron Trotzer, Aaron Franson, Shane Hardrath and Ted Teske. Letters were submitted by Erika Braatz and Wayne Baierl. They all shared their stories from hitting rock bottom to celebrating many years of sobriety and acclaimed their accomplishments to the OWI Treatment Court. "It is not about just keeping me sober, it helped me be successful and responsible in the world, it repaired my relationships that had suffered greatly. If I would have

been sent to prison instead, today I would have nothing. No wife, no job, no home, no reason to stay sober.” All participants praised the OWI Treatment Court and requested the committee to pass the resolution in hopes it would help to continue the program.

Numerous supervisors thanked and commended the participants for coming forward and sharing their stories and questioned whether the WI County Association would be lobbying in favor to continue treatment for 5th and 6th OWI offenders.

Action:

MOTION BY J. MASZK SECONDED BY B. LAMONT TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS TO 2019 WISCONSIN ACT 106 AND WIS. STATS. §.343.31(1M)(B) REGARDING OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED (OWI) OFFENSES. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow Through:

Forward to County Board for approval. Administrator Leonhard will follow up with the WI County Associations to see if it is on their docket for discussion.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

- A. Update on System Budgeting Progress

Discussion:

Chair Bootz reported the criminal justice workgroup met on 1/19/21. Jason Hake gave a brief overview of the highlights of the meeting which included participation from the Sheriff's and District Attorney's offices, County Administration, Clerk of Courts, Judges Huber and Moran as well as Supervisors Jacobson and Bootz. The focus of the discussion were goals, needs, and opportunities which lead to reduction in expenditures, creating efficiencies, sharing positions, and increasing revenues. Another meeting is scheduled for 2/15/2021 to continue the process to meet the June deadline discussed at a previous meeting.

Follow Through:

No follow through needed.

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

- A. Next meeting: **Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 2:00 pm**

8. Adjournment

MOTION BY J. MASZK SECOND BY B. LAMONT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 3:15 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by,
Toshia Ranallo