



**MARATHON COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 1:30 pm

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

| Members | Present/Web-Phone | Absent |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Chair Matt Bootz | X | |
| Vice Chair Jennifer Bizzotto | W | |
| Brent Jacobson | W | |
| Bruce Lamont | W | |
| Jean Maszk | W | |
| Allen Opall | | X |
| Arnold Schlei | Phone | |

Also Present: Lance Leonhard, Michael Puerner, Davis Runde, Ruth Heinzl, Phil Rentmeester, Kelly Schremp, and Toshia Ranallo.

WebEx/Phone: Craig McEwen

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bootz at 1:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment - None

3. MOTION BY LAMONT; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination: None

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution: None

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. WI Circuit Court Access Program Data Subscription

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard gave an overview of the WI Circuit Court Access Program that is available to the public and why the non-public version is important for Marathon County’s Criminal Justice System. The extended version will allow greater access to data to assist in making better informed decisions. The cost of the subscription was \$6,250 and authorized by Administrator Leonhard from the County Administration budget. Funding for this subscription will be allocated in future budgets.

The Program is currently being utilized for two UniverCity Projects. Assistant District Attorney Davis Runde reported on a project to determine racial and possible socioeconomic disparities within the Marathon County Justice System. Diversion Coordinator Ruth Heinz explained using the program for analyzing delays in case processing due to the timeliness of filing reports and to determine ways to improve these efficiencies.

Follow Up:

- The UniverCity Project studies will be provided to the committee at a later date.
- Email committee the *Measurers for Justice Report*.

B. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – report of discussion of first meeting

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard gave an update on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) who met on September 16th. The counsel consists of the county board chair, judges, prosecutors, representatives from defense counsel, law enforcement, the jail, social services and other entities along with the committee chairs from Public Safety and Health and Human Services. The meeting entailed bylaws and election of Chairperson Judge Suzanne O’Neill, and Vice Chair County Board Chairman Kurt Gibbs. The Counsel heard many educational presentations that included:

- Partnership within the Criminal Justice System with the University Year Program
- Addressing potential racial and socioeconomic disparities
- Addressing criminal case delays
- Improving the arrest determination decision being made by law enforcement and an approach being piloted by both the county and the Wausau police department

- Conducting an evaluation and clarifying goals of the Pre-Trial Case Management and Supervision Program
- Project attempting to assist on how to evaluate our SSTOP Program
- Project across the criminal justice system to measure what matters, understand what the key performance indicators are, and working together to develop a framework for communicating that to stakeholders

Follow Up:

Minutes will be included in future Public Safety Committee packets and the next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021 at 8am.

C. Recent Discussions in the Community Regarding Emergency Medical Services Challenges and Our Univercity Year Project and Next Steps

Discussion:

Emergency Management Director Phil Rentmeester reported he is working with UW-Madison Masters of Public Health and engineering students on UniverCity Year Projects that entail EMS strategic planning, recruitment and retention, and technical rescue response. Their discussions below are related to Marathon County Strategic Plan Objectives 7.1, 12.3, and 10.6.

1) 7.1 Provide cost-effective and high quality public safety services

2) 12.3 Promote cost-effective public services

3) 10.6 Ensure the future availability of a skilled and flexible workforce prepared to meet the needs of both existing and emerging industries and technologies

- Consider the potential to consolidate emergency service agencies
- Develop a report that assesses the current emergency medical service delivery system within Marathon County and provide evidence-based recommendations for a strategic plan that can consider different models to include urban and rural in nature to increase efficiency, improve response times, sharing of services such as ambulances, motor pools, administrative costs.
- Feasibility of delivering services from a paramedic level to the emergency medical responder level
- Costs associated with the delivery systems and what they would be for each municipality
- Evaluation tool to find out what a successful service delivery model looks like and what would be best provided for in Marathon County
- Improve purchasing consolidation and distributing supplies
- Enhancing training opportunities
- Assess locations for fire and ambulance stations and whether they can be used in some type of future agreement
- Current cooperative response agreements in place amongst the municipalities
- Volunteerism and how to get health care workers into the field
- Model operations and options that could be used for hybrid of volunteers including career staff and/or part-time staff
- Future funding sources whether we can expand out on billing or levies

Administrator Leonhard indicated he would like to invite a presenter from the WCA Conference he recently attended to give a presentation on counties who have consolidated systems.

Follow Up:

Rentmeester encouraged the committee to join a virtual presentation given by the UW-Madison Masters of Public Health on December 7th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

A. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 1:30 pm

8. MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:22 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by,
Toshia Ranallo

[Click here to view the recording of the meeting.](#)