



MARATHON COUNTY

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 am
Courthouse Assembly Room, (B105), Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Table with 3 columns: Members, Present/Web-Phone, Absent. Lists names of council members and their attendance status.

Also present: Greg Grau, Amanda Ostrowski, Ruth Heinzl, Nikki Delatolas, Laura Yarie, Sandra LaDu, Shawn Yeager, Jill Seetan.

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 January 19, 2023, CJCC meeting

MOTION BY GIBBS, SECOND BY HEIDMANN TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 19, 2023, CJCC MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Potential Council Action- Review of 2022 CJCC Work – 2023 Work Plans

Discussion:

Judge O’Neill reviewed 2022 CJCC agenda items to begin discussion on developing a work plan for 2023. Opioid Settlement Fund spending recommendations, OWI Court population transition, Defense Attorney Shortage whitepaper, Root Cause Analysis report follow up, Clerk of Courts/Restitution, Law Enforcement Deflection Program, Criminal Case Back log, Justice Programs RFP process, Traffic Initial Appearance scheduling. Truancy Court, Data Officer Position.

The group discussed priorities among the topics. Schremp informed the group restitution moving to the Clerk’s office can come off the list due to the progress and having things set up for this to happen.

Judge O’Neill stated she will continue to update on case backlog as she learns new information.

Yang shared his thoughts on the CJCC giving more focus to teen prevention programs. He wondered what is available in the community for youth prevention. Yang feels the system is missing the mark by not focusing on prevention. Leonhard shared stated the County Strategic plan includes implementation of one intervention for juveniles. A presentation by Social Services may be helpful. Wetzsteon mentions much overlap in working with the same families, but lack of communication and coordination leading to gaps and wasted resources. Mention of barriers with information sharing. Wetzsteon recommends the

Truancy Court issue be revisited along with the youth presentation and also be given to the Public Safety Committee.

Wetzsteon requests the group revisit the role of the CJCC for clarity on decision making or advisory. She is concerned about getting meaningful outcomes from the groups work. Judge O'Neill advises that the CJCC is an advisory board. Leonhard states it may be beneficial to review rules and bylaws. Gibbs states that the County Board looks to the CJCC to identify issues across multiple departments and seeks ideas that can be acted on to alleviate some challenges. Tylka states that a workplan will help clarify the purpose of the CJCC and add clarification to the topics and why the group is discussing them.

O'Neill states she is taking the lead on the defense attorney whitepaper and the public defender's office stresses the importance of this. Kate Drury will send Judge O'Neill the paper from Sheboygan County. Leonhard reminds the group of the end of year deadline for the whitepaper and also shares that the State budget may help improve this issue. Wetzsteon mentions a presentation to the County Board on attorney salaries and questions whether the County Board can weigh in on the issue and offer official support.

The group determines traffic appearance date scheduling can be reviewed within the case processing group.

Wetzsteon suggested the CJCC be updated on the unhoused population and the impacts locally.

McEwen suggested the Public Safety Committee and County Board may benefit from an educational presentation on the CJCC.

Leonhard and O'Neill remind the group that the Public Safety Committee has asked for the CJCC to make recommendations regarding Opioid Settlement Funds, so this has to be the immediate focus of the group. Amanda Ostrowski discusses a process to help narrow the focus and identify what we want to accomplish. The process works to identify needs, decide on how to measure and select a strategy based on what we can have the most influence on.

Leonhard further states that Administration will focus on hiring the Data Officer, so this is not a group priority and sees the CJCC becoming more involved later in the year after the individual is on board.

Heinzl reminds the members that there is currently only one work group that is active and has an appointed chair.

Action:

Executive Committee to consider group discussion and develop a 2023 workplan. The group is asked to commit to monthly meetings to participate in the RBA Framework process.

Follow Up:

Schedule monthly CJCC meetings for an Opioid Taskforce. Amanda Ostrowski, Community Health Improvement Director to assist with the process. Complete recommendations prior to September to align with County Budget. RBA Process Framework to be distributed to CJCC members. Community Health Improvement Plan to be distributed as an example.

5. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Update on Opioid Funds discussion by County Board Executive Committee - Gibs

Discussion:

Gibbs reports that a poll of other counties suggests the majority are still in the planning stages regarding Opioid funds. Some have allocated funding, and some have not. Other counties are working with their CJCC for recommendations. The County Board Executive Committee is looking for a deliberate process that identifies Evidence Based recommendations that have the most impact. The funds are not endless and there are restrictions by settlement as well as various reporting requirements. Settlements have varying timeframes and additional settlements will be coming.

B. Update on OWI Court

Discussion:

Leonhard thanks those who participated in our recent group discussion to gather stakeholders' feedback on the future of an additional treatment court. The outcome of that discussion was a need for continuing a treatment court that focuses on mental health and AODA needs in the criminal justice system. Yarie reports that there are many models that can be considered including splitting the court between populations and risk / need levels. Wetzsteon questions who will be leading the charge to restructure the program. Leonhard responds that further discussion will take place with the Judges assigned to the courts and administration will have to determine if changes are significant enough that they will require approval from the County Board.

C. Update of Justice Programs RFP Process – Yarie

Discussion:

Yarie reports that a small workgroup has been working on reviewing and finalizing the Justice Programs RFP for contracted services. The workgroup has determined the need to release the RFP earlier than previously done in order to give possible vendors time to propose programming and reasonable implementation timeframes. Yarie further reports that the current programs are detailed in the proposal and those interested in submitting a proposal may bid on the entire project or one or more of the three identified service umbrellas. The RFP will be published by the end of March with the intention of contracting decisions being finalized by July 1, 2023, for programming beginning January 1, 2024.

6. Adjournment

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