



MARATHON COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 am
Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Members	Present	Absent
Judge Suzanne O’Neill (Chair)	X	
Board Chair Kurt Gibbs (Vice Chair)	X	
Deputy Administrator Holman for Administrator Leonhard	X	
Chief Deputy Billeb	X	

Also present: Deputy District Attorney Lawrence, Jeff Decker, Pete Weinschenk

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair O’Neill at 8:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment (*not to exceed 15 minutes*)

Jeff Decker spoke on several issues for approximately 15 minutes.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2021, CJCC meeting- None

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action - None

5. Operational functions required by bylaws, Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution -

A. Discuss Items for the July 21st, 2022, Marathon County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Agenda

Discussion:

The committee discussed funding a data officer for the county and cited the long history of struggles with data utilization in criminal justice. Some departments collect data, but that is often on different software platforms and hard-to-share. Recommendation was to place this on the upcoming CJCC agenda to ask the council for support.

The committee discussed the use of COVID-19 funding to improve case processing and the need to find creative ways to move cases through the system. One major hurdle in this area is the lack of criminal defense resources. The general lack of attorneys locally was also discussed, and questions were raised about how to draw attorneys to our area. Other questions around providing incentives, a public campaign, and increasing the awareness of and appreciation for our local area.

The committee briefly discussed the funding of a reserve judge, which led to more discussion about another area experiencing a shortage, which is court reporters. This shortage places a strain on the courts as well as the Clerk of Courts’ office.

Short-term resolutions such as the use of video were discussed, and Chief Deputy Billeb noted that this option does not work well at this time but will be a good tool for all parties once the technology is in place (i.e., delivered and installed). Chippewa County’s approach was cited as an example to look to and learn from.

In the meantime, a shortage of corrections officers led to a discussion about the likelihood of shipping 50-60 inmates. This could help with staffing, but it presents other dilemmas such as having people spread around the state. This further complicates the previously stated challenge of moving cases more efficiently.

The loss of the Family Resource Center was discussed. Discussion included a change to visitation orders in the courts as well as the DA’s office, the county’s role in identifying/funding visitation alternatives, and how we move forward without this option. It was noted that exchanges are more straightforward and there are good alternatives for them in place. The use of a 3rd party was discussed as was reaching out to Morgan at the Family Resource Center to get a better read on the current and historical need. Generating a mutually agreed upon list of neutral third-party options was also discussed, and the DA’s office noted that the Victims Witness section could help by creating the start of a list as part of their initial case work. The need for a common language for the courts in the

meantime was also discussed. Generally, the view of the committee was that cases involving social services would continue to be handled effectively through that department, but questions remain for criminal and divorce cases.

The various needs and shortages at the local level were discussed as a part of outreach to the State and others, like the Wisconsin Counties Association, as the challenges local governments are facing are similar from county-to-county and found across the state.

Action: None taken

Follow up:

- The county needs to follow up with Morgan at the Family Resource Center to get more information.
- The committee would like to see the funding of a data officer brought to the next CJCC meeting (July).

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports – None

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

- A.** Next meeting August 18th, 2022, at 8:00 a.m., Courthouse Assembly Room. Members asked to bring possible agenda ideas for future discussion.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m. by Judge O’Neill.