



**MARATHON COUNTY**  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MINUTES**

Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 am  
 Courthouse Assembly Room, (B105), Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Suzanne O’Neill	X	
Vice Chair Kurt Gibbs	X (designee Craig McEwen)	
Lance Leonhard	X (designee Chris Holman)	
Matt Bootz		X
Michelle Van Krey	X	
Scott Parks	X (designee Chad Billeb)	
Ben Bliven	X (designee Todd Baeten)	
Theresa Wetzsteon	X	
Kelly Schremp	X	
Kat Yanke	X	
Cati Denfeld-Quiros	X	
Vicki Tylka	X	
Mort McBain		X
Jane Graham Jennings	X (designee Ashley Bores)	
Daniel Tyler	X	
Yao Yang		X
Liberty Heidmann	X	

Also present: Judge Moran, Sandra LaDu, Greg Grau, Shania Willette, Ruth Heinzl, and Laura Yarie.

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by 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 May 19, 2022, CJCC meeting**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 19, 2022, CJCC MEETING MINUTES, BY BILLEB, SECOND BY HEIDMANN. MOTION CARRIED.

**4. Operational functions required by bylaws – None**

**5. Operations Issues - None**

**6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Potential Council Action-**

**A. Data Officer Position-**

**Discussion:**

Holman presented the whitepaper proposal for this position. He stated that ongoing evaluation, monitoring, and presentation of program data will improve the CJCC’s ability to oversee justice system programming, including the existing pretrial pilot program. Data may be presented to county, justice system, and community stakeholders to assist in recommending policy, procedural or legislative changes. The system will gain the ability to monitor trends and identify correlations to spending and outcomes. This position is necessary to continue to plan, evaluate and implement programs that are equitable, effective, and efficient. This position will work effectively with all departments to form an interagency data sharing capability to facilitate data sharing among agencies and will ensure data integrity and interpretation of data. There may be additional costs in the future for obtaining data from various databases as well as costs to implement new data systems. Currently there is no one to do this and existing staff do not have the bandwidth to track and produce data to meet their/our needs. A specialist would help us do this well and across the board and would be a countywide position. County Administration is looking for CJCC support to bring this position to Public Safety for further discussion and, potentially, on to County Board for approval. Wetzsteon questioned the scope of the position being more than just data collection, but also ability to analyze data. Discussed the further need to decide on how time would be split between departments. Denfeld-Quiros reinforced the need for data and the ability to apply data for EBDM. Tylka spoke of **additional system need to organize data and help staff more efficiently collect what is needed.**

**Action:**

BILLEB MOTIONS TO FORWARD POSITION WHITEPAPER TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND SUPPORT, TYLKA SECONDS. MOTION CARRIED.

**Follow Up:**

Whitepaper on Data Officer Position to be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee for consideration and support.

**B. Defense Attorney Shortage – Implications for Marathon County-**

**Discussion:**

McEwen states the ongoing concern regarding the shortage of defense attorneys locally and the effects on the local justice system and county budget. He questions possible ideas or strategies suggested to improve this issue and whether the County should take a closer look at incentives to help with this issue. O'Neill states that this shortage has been an issue for the last decade and there have been many informal discussions taking place, legislation controls the Public Defender's office, there is a shortage of attorneys overall in the area and we must figure out how to attract new attorneys to Marathon County. She further states that defendants can ask for a county appointment at \$100 per hour and questions whether that cost is more or less than the cost to the local system when cases languish. Yanke states that her office is currently fully staffed but struggles with conflict cases that must be assigned outside of her office due to their office already representing a co-defendant or witness. There are about 100 cases on the list currently and the number of private attorneys available to take cases has declined due to retirements, low reimbursement, high local caseloads with private pay clients and a higher county reimbursement. She states her staff caseloads are all over capacity and are covering all the cases they can. It is mainly the conflict cases that continue to be an issue and it is statewide, not just in Marathon County. She further states that it would be easier to attract out of town attorneys if the jail could utilize zoom for meetings with defendants but acknowledges the current staffing issues within the jail as well. Wetzsteon has concerns that staffing levels are a state responsibility, questions whether their staff levels are sufficient for public defenders. She questions what the State is doing about this issue and feels the State should lead in solving this problem. The County should see what is being done by the State before making this a county issue. She further states that the private attorney appointments lack oversight and accountability and poor performance delays case processing. She questions how many incarcerated defendants have an attorney but their case is still not moving. Billeb questioned which other jails and what providers are using zoom in other places around the state. Yanke to forward that information. Denfeld–Quiros mentioned appointed attorneys being a primary contributor to extended jail stays. Difficulty with communication and extension requests can double or triple the revocation timeframe.

**Action:**

O'Neill asks to table the issue to get a report out in September

**Follow Up:**

Yanke to provide Zoom information from other counties to Billeb. Holman to share information from a statewide phone discussion coming up on this topic. Wetzsteon and Yanke to meet and discuss the states response to this problem.

**C. Review of the Petition to Amend the Supreme Court Rule Concerning Court Security, Facilities and Staffing.**

**Discussion:**

O'Neill discusses the court rule and expectations for court security being over 10 years old and the fact that technology has changed, and violence is on the increase. She states this rule is an attempt to update the existing rule and adds that Marathon County meets the new suggested rule for the most part including exits, security, locked doors, jury room sizes/definitions and a security committee. Changes could include reporting of security issues, expanded training for employees and law enforcement and secure parking for Judges. In addition, she mentioned an existing requirement for a law library that can consist of kiosks instead of actual books. Denfeld–Quiros stated DOC has a requirement for active shooter training within the building. Billeb mentioned a Wausau P.D. sponsored active shooter training that the Sheriff's Department will be participating in. He stated they could assist with setting standards.

**Action: None taken**

**Follow Up: None**

## **7. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

### **A. Jail Staffing Workgroup**

#### ***Discussion:***

Billeb discussed the current situation with the shortage of correctional officers in the jail. Currently 70-80 inmates are being shipped to other county jails due to the open positions. A workgroup has been meeting to focus on recruitment of individuals for these positions. The group has worked on radio ads, post cards to recent graduates, social media outreach, and discussion on partnerships with NTC and Mid-State. Other counties have been increasing rates of pay to attract candidates. Marathon County is currently completing a wage compensation study to assist with setting rates of pay for this position. Many other institutions around the State are facing this same issue with recruiting corrections officers as well as dispatchers. Billeb mentioned the possibility of partnering with NTC to begin a training academy for Marathon County.

### **B. Family Resource Center Services**

#### ***Discussion:***

O'Neill stated past practice of referring defendants to the Family Resource Center for third-party child exchange as a condition of bond on domestic violence cases. Family Resource Center is no longer offering this service. New agreed upon bond language will state; "child exchange to be done through a neutral 3<sup>rd</sup> party approved by the victim". Victim Witness will assist in establishing this neutral party. Safe exchange sites with cameras are located at the Wausau Police Department and the Marathon County Courthouse. The PD camera is recorded but not actively watched, it does go to the patrol lieutenant on shift. The Sheriff's department is also recorded and is monitored during courthouse hours but not after hours. Billeb mentioned creating exchange location information to have in court. Bores mentioned exchanges being facilitated at the Women's Shelter, she mentioned advocates in Marshfield do exchanges in their facility and will reach out to them for information. O'Neill questioned if any outlying areas have exchange spots.

### **C. Multi-Track OWI Court Program Planning**

#### ***Discussion:***

Yarie discussed recent workgroup meetings to develop future of the OWI Court and SSTOP programs. Ideas discussed within this group included a multi-track OWI court that would serve all risk and need levels with up to 4 different intensity levels based on risk and need of the individual. The group also discussed the possibility of working on a re-entry court for individuals returning to the community following mandatory incarceration for OWI 5<sup>th</sup> and above. Wetzsteon requested outcome information on the current SSTOP program. Yarie stated she would forward available data. Denfeld – Quiros questioned if working with other populations such as a mental health court would be an option and if the planning group is limited to OWI cases as her department does not see the OWI population having major needs. Yarie reported that she is looking for feedback from group members and that any population could be considered. The workgroup will continue to meet, and members are encouraged to bring ideas forward.

## **8. Adjournment**

MOTION TYLKA, SECOND SCHREMP. MOTION TO ADJOURN – CARRIED. 9:45 A.M.