



MARATHON COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 am
ERP Conference Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Members	Present	Absent
Judge Suzanne O'Neill (Chair)	X	
Board Chair Kurt Gibbs (Vice Chair)	X	
County Administrator Lance Leonhard	X	
Chief Deputy Billeb	X	

Also present: Kelly Schremp, Cati Denfeld-Quiros, Matt Bores, Ruth Heinzl, and Laura Yarie

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*) - None

3. Approval of the Minutes of the August 18, 2022, CJCC Executive meeting- MOTION BY LEONHARD, SECOND BY BILLEB TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 18, 2022, EXECUTIVE CJCC MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion

- A.** Update on Data Officer and Victim Witness Positions: Leonhard reports 2023 budget requested to include a full-time Victim Witness position for 2 years to coincide with the two additional prosecutors funded through ARPA by the State. In Addition, budget proposed to include a full-time permanent Data Officer position. The budget will be finalized by November 10, 2022, and an update can be given at the November CJCC meeting.
- B.** Whitepaper to outline strategies for recruiting defense attorneys. Leonhard reports that the Public Safety Committee intends to develop strategies to attract defense attorneys for county appointed and Public Defender cases as part of the County Strategic Plan by December 2023. It is suggested that a workgroup form to develop a whitepaper for recommendations on how to address the shortage.
- C.** Pretrial monitoring caseload update. Yarie presents continued concern regarding pretrial caseloads and cases not closing. Leonhard questions what is getting in the way of cases closing and states the need to fix the problem. Previous strategy of giving dates at initial appearance is not consistently happening as Judges felt it was not effective in moving cases. The group discussed piloting a way to improve case processing long enough to determine if it is effective. Heinzl stated the concern with victim notification of dates if the process of date setting is not happening. Yarie mentioned the issue of dates being continually pushed back for a variety of reasons. Heinzl mentioned handling appropriate cases pre-charge may be a way to reduce new open cases and save court time.

5. Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action - None

6. Operational functions required by bylaws, Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution

- A. Discussion of potential items for the November 17th, 2022, Marathon County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Agenda, and potential recommendations for consideration.**

Discussion:

District Attorney's Office: Heinzl asked if the committee would be interested in the Wausau PD coming to discuss their PAARI training. The committee felt this would be beneficial. DA Wetzsteon requested the committee to approve seeking out assistance with mapping of victim rights through WI DOJ Office of Crime Victim Services. Heinzl suggested further discussion on pre-charging.

Sheriff's Department: Billeb requested writs for court appearances be addressed. He states inmates are currently being brought back to the Marathon County jail to appear virtually for court. Previously it was agreed that writs would only occur for evidentiary hearings and plea/sentencing. Virtual hearings can take place from other facilities. Billeb reports the jail hiring staff to be able to help with video appearances and attorney meetings. They have 4 good candidates. The jail is hoping to implement the ability to have out of town attorneys view discovery remotely. He stated they must see improvement in case processing in order to continue to provide this as it is an extra burden on jail staff. Billeb questioned if Safe Exchange fliers are in the courtrooms as planned.

Leonhard suggested the importance of an educational update on NCHC services as well as a report out on the final budget for 2023 and a request to form a subcommittee to work on the defense attorney recruitment strategy. In addition, Yarie to provide an update on the pretrial pilot.

Department of Corrections: Denfeld-Quiros reports that Judge Moran has agreed to address the DV Court process and that 4 agents recently received CIT training.

Action taken:

The Executive Committee agreed DA Wetzsteon and staff should pursue the opportunity for mapping of victim rights in the criminal justice system through WI DOJ Office of Crime Victim Services.

Follow up:

Wausau PD to be invited to November CJCC to talk about PAARI. Heinzl to follow up with attorneys regarding writ issue. Billeb to email Safe Exchange brochure to Schremp to distribute to the branches.

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

- A. Next meeting December 15th, 2022, at 8:00 a.m., Courthouse Assembly Room. Members asked to bring possible agenda ideas for future discussion.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m. by Judge O'Neill.