



**MARATHON COUNTY  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COLLABORATING COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 am**

**Courthouse Assembly Room, (B105), Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Present/Web-Phone</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Chair Suzanne O’Neill	X	
Vice Chair Kurt Gibbs	X	
Lance Leonhard	X	
Matt Bootz	X (designee Craig McEwen)	
Tim Buttke	X	
Scott Parks	X	
Ben Bliven	X	
Theresa Wetzsteon	X	
Shirley Lang	X (designee Kelly Schremp)	
Kat Yanke	X	
Cati Denfeld-Quiros	X	
Vicki Tylka	X	
Jill Meschke		X
Jane Graham Jennings	X	

Also present: Judge Michael Moran, Laura Yarie, and Ruth Heinzl

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Lance Leonhard at 8:00 a.m.

**2. Introduction of Council Members**

All members of the newly constituted CJCC are introduced.

**3. Issues for Discussion and Potential Council Determination**

**A. Consideration of Proposed Bylaws for Council Adoption**

**Discussion:**

Leonhard explains the process utilized in creating the proposed bylaws, specifically that information was gathered from other CJCCs across the state and that the Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) group had considered the draft bylaws. Leonhard further indicates that as the acting Chair of the EBDM, which had been informally operating as the CJCC, he would preside over the adoption of the bylaws, before passing the Chair responsibilities to the newly determined CJCC Chair.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY GIBBS; SECOND BY BUTTKE TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED BYLAWS CONTAINED WITHIN THE MEETING PACKET. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Up:**

None necessary.

**B. Designation of Council Chairperson**

**Discussion:**

Leonhard explains that pursuant to the now approved bylaws, the Chair of the CJCC is either the Judge representative or the County Board Chair. Leonhard indicates that he understands that Judge O’Neill and Board Chair Gibbs have met and have determined that Judge O’Neill will serve as the CJCC Chairperson.

**Action:**

**JUDGE O’NEILL ASSUMES ROLE AS CHAIR OF THE CJCC.**

**Follow Up:**

Judge O’Neill briefly engages the group in discussion regarding future meeting dates and times. District Attorney Wetzsteon expresses a preference for monthly meetings moving forward for the next several months in light of the issues being confronted by the justice system. Graham Jennings indicates that she would prefer meetings on the third Thursday of the month, so as to not conflict with the state CJCC.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY WETZSTEON; SECOND BY BLIVEN, TO HAVE MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Up:**

Meetings to be scheduled accordingly. (O'Neill explains that she has a court hearing scheduled at this time. Vice-Chair Gibbs pre

**4. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

**A. Update on Criminal Justice System related UniverCity Year Projects**

**Discussion:**

Leonhard provides a brief introduction of the UniverCity Year program, how Marathon County became involved with the program, and how it operates.

Ruth Heinzl provides a general overview of the UniverCity projects for which District Attorney's Office staff are serving as leads.

Reducing Racial and Socio-economic Disparities in the Marathon County Criminal Justice System  
Heinzl and Wetzsteon explain that a non-profit, Measures for Justice, released a report analyzing Marathon County's justice system relative to disparities. Per Leonhard the report is available online. Davis Runde, a prosecutor in the DA's Office is working with the UniverCity program to take a "deeper dive" into the data and, if appropriate, work to identify next steps. Heinzl indicates that the justice system has recently gained access to a dataset through the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access Program (CCAP), which was necessary for the project to move forward.

Validating the Proxy Tool for Arrest Decisions in Marathon County

The purpose of the project was initially to validate the proxy tool that the Sheriff's Office and Wausau PD were using to guide arrest determinations. During the course of the project, however, the determination was made to replace the proxy tool with a "decision matrix." Heinzl indicated that there is a desire to expand the use of the decision matrix to other jurisdictions, as the DA's Office believes the use of the proxy and the shift to the decision matrix resulted in a significant benefit to the justice system. Wetzsteon indicated that the general law enforcement practice of arresting offenders appears to have been the result of perceived delays in charging determinations for non-custody referrals, because her office has eliminated the perceived delay they are having success driving behavior change with respect to referral.

Addressing Criminal Case Delays in the Marathon County Justice System

Heinzl indicates that this project is being conducted in two phases. The first examination was done utilizing the PROTECT (DA Office) data and the report from the student is in the approval process. The second phase will be done utilizing the CCAP data set, which should be more specific.

Evaluation of Marathon County Drug Treatment Court and OWI Court-In Depth Evaluation

Yarie reported there is currently a doctorate student matched and working on the Drug Court evaluation. The student is checking in bi-weekly and currently researching best practice regarding evaluation in order to identify program data needed for the evaluation. This is a full school year project. The OWI Court evaluation had a student match for the summer that fell through and has yet to be matched again.

Clarifying goals of the Public Safety Assessment Tool

This project is marked as complete but a match was not available to perform an evaluation or norming on the implementation of the tool locally as requested. The age of the project presented as an issue as well. A discussion was had with a law professor regarding addressing the goals of the PSA implementation with local stakeholders. There is the possibility of having a training provided should the need present but would involve the professor and not likely students.

Identifying and Meeting Needs for Transitional Sober Housing Services

This project seeks to evaluate the local need for sober housing as well as recommended ways to address the needs. This project was recently matched with a Master's of Public Health student group

and initial meetings begin next week.

Framing the Evaluation of the SSTOP, OWI Court and Drug Court Process

These projects were recently matched with 3 different student groups in the Masters of Public Health class and initial meetings are beginning next week. These students will focus on developing a plan to internally evaluate programs on an ongoing basis.

Measuring What Matters Data Driven Evaluation of Justice Programs.

This project was matched with a summer student that developed medical issues and was unable to be completed. A new match has not yet developed. This project was to help identify dash board measures for the Justice Program to use in communicating with stakeholders and the community regarding goal obtainment within the programs.

**B. Update on Pretrial Assessment and Supervision Program**

***Discussion:***

Marathon County continues to participate in a pretrial assessment and case management pilot with the Wisconsin DOJ and seven other counties. The Public Safety Assessment (PSA) was implemented on June 21, 2022. Yarie provides that 278 in custody defendants have been assessed at initial appearance between June 21 and September 10, 2021. The PSA predicts the likelihood of a defendant appearing for future court appearances as well as the probability of committing a new offense while in the community on bond. The tool is used to enhance professional judgement not replace it. PSA's do not recommend to release or not release from custody. The tool recommends an appropriate level of pretrial supervision should an individual be released. Supervision can range from phone call reminders for court up to weekly office appointments. Drug testing is used where indicated based on screening. 149 defendants have been released from custody during the first 3 months of program implementation. 83 have been referred for case management services.

**5. Adjournment**

**MOTION BY BUTTKE, SECOND BY PARKS, TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED. ADJOURNED AT 8:59 AM.**