



**MARATHON COUNTY  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, December 16, 2021, 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 (designee Greg Huber)	
Vice Chair Kurt Gibbs	X	
Lance Leonhard	X	
Matt Bootz		X
Tim Buttke	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	
Jill Meschke	X	
Jane Graham Jennings	X (designee Ashley Bores)	
Kenneth Grams		X
Yauo Yang	X	
Liberty Heidmann	X	

Also present: Judge Greg Grau, Shawn Yaeger, Laura Yarie, Ruth Heinzl, Nikki Delatolas, Jeff Decker

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Gibbs at 8:00 a.m.

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

Jeff Decker provides public comment.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2021, CJCC meeting**

**Motion to Approve the November 18, 2021, CJCC meeting minutes by Leonhard, second by Schremp. Motion Carried.**

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

**5. Operational Issues**

A. Calendar Calls / Court Scheduling of Victim Cases

**Discussion:**

Judge Huber explains that he is seeking feedback on the process that is described in the minutes which the Judges will be moving forward with relative to scheduling.

- DA Wetzsteon addresses electronic calendaring including status of full implementation, questions why court dates are not scheduled in the courtroom and wonders if the courts have reached out to other large counties to hear the practices elsewhere.
- Huber indicates that he did reach out and that one of the primary differences between us and other counties is that Marathon is a generalist county and other counties have specialized courts.
- One of the issues that is brought up relates to electronic calendaring and the potential that scheduling outside of court could affect victims.
- Ashley Bores shares of feedback she received and will share, including that she believes that if victims can be heard, the current process is not a problem.
- Grau asks whether there is a process that exists for cases being heard in other branches to require them to get a date in advance? Consensus from discussion is that there is no such policy.
- Theresa asks whether there has been an analysis of what is leading to calendar calls being set?
- Agreement on the need to reduce calendar calls.
- Theresa asks that there be analysis of whether the new process is effective?
  - o Huber clarifies that there are 3 goals from this.

- Scheduling victim cases more speedily
  - Making more court time available
  - Eliminating the court calendar call process
- Schremp indicates that she would like to start a process whereby we develop backup JA policies. Administrator Leonhard indicates he would be willing to assist in that process. Schremp asks that any other interested parties reach out to her to become involved in that process. Yanke agrees to share out of county attorney email lists with Judicial Assistants to aid in scheduling prior to court.

**Action:**

Agreement to review the process in 6 months as well as a review of the University Report that will be available to share.

B. Collection of Restitution: Current Process/Alternative Avenues to Collect

**Discussion:**

District Attorney Wetzsteon provides an overview of the issues surrounding restitution collection and indicates that she would like this group to restart the discussion of doing it differently, indicating that she would propose a subset of this committee to look at the issue.

Denfeld agrees that there would be value in starting the conversation again. She mentions concerns with split restitution and overpayments. Yanke expresses that she has gotten good feedback from those counties that have the Clerk of Courts' office lead the collection process. Huber provided some feedback, as did Schremp on some of the challenges of collection. Schremp mentions the difficulty of identifying the victim and getting them the funds. Administrator Leonhard indicates that in similar situations involving complex issues, the county board has utilized taskforces, and that a similar approach might be appropriate here. Vice Chair Gibbs indicates he will work to prepare a charter for the group to start from.

**Action:**

None taken at this time.

**Follow up:**

Vice Chair Gibbs to prepare a draft charter for a workgroup of a subset of the CJCC to investigate this issue.

**6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Potential Council Action – None**

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

A. OAR/OWL Diversion Program – District Attorney's Office

**Discussion:**

Ruth provides a brief overview of the document shared at the meeting. District Attorney Wetzsteon expresses that there is a significant issue with diversion participants not appearing for their initial appearance and their office not being able to contact them.

Ruth explains that most of the OWL cases are standalone cases and that the change in law relative to non-citizens ability to obtain a driver's license has caused more of these cases to proceed through court. Wetzsteon expresses that she is open to a process that enhances public safety and allows for an alternative to a criminal prosecution. Consensus emerges that there may be an opportunity for a program to be created that provides driver education to these individuals. Leonhard suggests that a workgroup of people from different disciplines may again be a prudent approach to developing an educational program for non-citizens that are charged with OWL that can then allow for a non-criminal disposition and future non-criminal dispositions for standalone OWLs. The following members express interest in being part of a workgroup: Yauo Yang, Ruth Heinzl, Judge Huber, Chad Billeb, Todd Baeten, and Nathan Miller from the City of Wausau was also suggested.

**Follow up:**

Ruth Heinzl to work with County Administration to develop a framework for a workgroup.

**8. Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn by Huber, second by Yang. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 a.m.