



MARATHON COUNTY

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, November 17, 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
Lance Leonhard	X	
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: Ruth Heinzl, Nikki Delatolas, Greg Grau, Laura Yarie, Jacob Chittum.

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order 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 September 15, 2022, CJCC meeting

MOTION BY LEONHARD, SECOND BY BILLEB TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2022, CJCC MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Operational functions required by bylaws – None

5. Operations Issues - None

6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Potential Council Action-

A. Public Safety Strategic Plan regarding attorney shortage

Discussion:

Leonhard discussed Marathon County Objective 7.1 to Provide Cost Effective and High-Quality Public Safety Services and the Public Safety Committee goal to issue a whitepaper by December 31, 2023, regarding strategies to outline what counties can do to address the public defender shortage. Leonhard asks for anyone interested in assisting with this to send him an email as he is looking for staff research and input for outside the box solutions and incentives. Wetzsteon requests that Judges in the interim come up with a consistent policy between the branches for county appointments for indigent defendants. She states that currently some are being required to pay back attorney costs and others are not, and it is known that this will affect budgets and the State will not reimburse the County for these appointments. The group discusses ongoing issues with defendants applying for an attorney. Yanke states concerns about consistent access to jail inmates prior to intake, and the 22% increase in those not qualifying due to the use of the poverty level from 2010-2011. Leonhard mentions the possibility of having someone from the Public Defender's Office at intake court to determine eligibility for out of custody defendants. Yanke states current staffing levels would not allow for this. Wetzsteon advocates for having someone available at initial appearances and the value of the county investing in this as the cost is significant when considering case delays for those who don't get an attorney.

Action:

Lance requests those interested in working on solutions for the whitepaper to email him directly.

Follow Up:

None

7. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI) – Wausau PD

Discussion:

Jacob Chittum, Supervisor of the Wausau PD Community Resource Unit, attended and presented on PAARI. He states this is a grant program to reduce overdose deaths. The Wausau PD visited Plymouth County in Massachusetts to learn about the program as they have had great success there. The program provides outreach to individuals within 72 hours of an overdose. This is an optional program and participation is not forced. Officers visit with a recovery coach and are not there to investigate but to help. Recovery coaches hand out harm reduction kits and resources for the individual to call for help. In Massachusetts they get individuals into treatment beds within 48 hours, and they are hoping to expand their work to people who have not yet overdosed. Chittum states that there is currently a need for a list of qualified recovery coaches and additional resources for treatment beds locally. The group discussed funding for and development of recovery coaches within the community as well as the way this program can partner with the Deflection Program being developed with NCHC. Yarie mentioned that Drug Court has been approached by the Recovery Coach Program through AmeriCorps and there are opportunities to host recovery coaches locally for a stipend. Baeten states that the PD is working on strategic planning to recruit recovery coaches. Yang suggests tapping in to NTC students in the AODA field. Denfeld-Quiros suggests presenting PAARI to F.O.R.T (Fatality Overdose Review Team).

B. Final 2023 County Budget Update – Administrator Leonhard

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard reports the 2023 Marathon County budget has been finalized. Resources have been allocated to a limited term Victim Witness position within the District Attorney's office as well as a Data Officer position within County Administration. Leonhard hopes to begin hiring for the data position the first quarter of 2023. County funding for the Court Mediation Program for eviction cases remained in the 2023 budget as well as contracts with The Women's Community.

C. Criminal Case Backlog Update – Judge O'Neill

Discussion:

Judge O'Neill reports a shout out to Marathon County at a recent Judicial Conference. Marathon County is second in the State as far as reducing criminal case backlog from the pandemic. Waukesha County is the only county to have a higher rate for disposing of cases.

D. NCHC Program Update – Mort McBain

Discussion:

McBain distributes a handout titled NCHC Wausau Campus Renovation Update (attached). He discusses a reorganization of positions at NCHC to better coordinate services between the counties and NCHC. It is believed that the new structure will better allow the organization to be accountable and responsive to the needs of each county. The five leadership positions consist of Managing Director of Finance, Chief Medical Officer, Managing Director of Nursing Homes, Compliance Officer and Managing Director of Community Programs. McBain states that there needs to be a clear understanding of what NCHC does and how to do it better as well as for the counties to understand what can and can not be provided. McBain feels the lack of understanding causes ongoing problems between agencies and that NCHC needs to improve communication. NCHC is a very complex organization with 850 employees, he feels the Managing Director of Community Programs position will help with staying aligned with the agency purpose for existing. He discusses the major difficulties the agency is experiencing with hiring and staffing programs.

E. Pretrial Program Update – Laura Yarie

Discussion:

Yarie presented current numbers from the Pretrial Program. She stated the ongoing need to close cases quickly and the burden to case manager resources when cases stay open. She further discussed the issues with data comparison due to increased length of pretrial supervision. Yarie reports that DOJ has hired a pretrial data position to evaluate the effectiveness of the pretrial pilot. This individual will be visiting Marathon County December 6, 2023, from 12:00 -2:00p.m. at the office of ATTIC. Wetzsteon questions if there is data to determine which supervision levels are having the most FTA and New Criminal Activity as it is important to understand if we are working with the right people and if the assessment is predicting accurately.

8. Adjournment

MOTION BY BILLEB, SECOND BY LEONHARD TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:30 a.m. MOTION CARRIED.