



WINNEBAGO COUNTY

— ILLINOIS —

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL (CJCC)

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Virtual

- I. **Members Present:** Joe Chiarelli, Winnebago County; Nick Zimmerman, Winnebago County Public Defenders Officer; J. Hanley, Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office; Tom Jakeway, 17th Circuit Court; Debbie Jarvis, 17th Circuit Court; John Lowry, 17th Circuit Court; Joseph McGraw, 17th Circuit Court; Thomas McNamara, City of Rockford; Scott Paccagnini, U.S. Attorney's Office; Carla Redd, Rockford Police Department; Bob Redmond, Winnebago County Jail; Rick Ciganek, Winnebago County Sheriff (proxy);

Others Present: Kim Ackmann, 17th Circuit Court; Aaron Booker, Winnebago County Board; Burt Gerl, Winnebago County Board; Jennifer Cacciapaglia, City of Rockford; Lorrain Dixon, 17th Circuit Court; Jodi GeRue, Pre-Trial Services; John Gibbons, 17th Circuit Court; Janet Holmgren, 17th Circuit Court; Robert Lukowski, Winnebago County Sheriff; Steve McCorkle, Winnebago County Sheriff; Anthony Ponte, Winnebago County Jail; John Specker, SPAC; Hon. Robbin Stuckert (Ret.), Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices and Implementation Task Force; Pat Thompson, Winnebago County; Dave Vella, IL House of Rep.; Maurice West, IL House of Rep.; Marlana Dokken, Winnebago County; Dave Olson, Loyola University

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Chief Judge John Lowry with a quorum present.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

Joseph Chiarelli motioned to accept the minutes as presented, J. Hanley seconded the motion. Voice vote unanimously approved.

III. **Introductions**

IV. **Program**

- a. Chief Judge Lowry introduced Hon. Robbin Stuckert (Ret.), Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices and Implementation Task Force. The Commission took a critical look at pretrial practices within the State of Illinois and made legislative recommendations or changes. They were able to come to a consensus with 54 recommendations and submitted a report to the Supreme Court in April of 2020. A Task



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Force was formed to help implement those 54 recommendations. Currently the Task Force focuses on education and implementation of the PFA in all 102 Counties. The Sub Committees are Communication, Education, Legislative, PFA Guideline and Pretrial Assessment Tools.

V. Reports

- a. Loyola University - Dave Olson of Loyola University gave an update and a presentation on the research around pretrial practices. He introduced John Specker from the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council. Over the last few months they have been looking at all of the criminal cases that have gone through the system in Winnebago County since July of 2018. Tom Jakeway and Bob Redmond were thanked for their help. All information has been obtained about every case that has been filed, every bond court decision and every person released from the jail. They are in the process of analyzing the information and hope to start presenting to a smaller group of stakeholders within the next few weeks. Also, one of the things Mr. Olson is trying to do in collaboration with John Specker is to try to get some sense statewide of how many people are arrested for offenses that could be detainable, what are their characteristics, estimate their risk for reoffending and their risk for failing to appear.
- b. Representative Dave Vella provided a legislative update. Since the last meeting he was placed in a Public Safety Working Group in the House. They are attempting to address some of the public safety issues including police officer incentive and retention and crime solving. He has spoken with Sheriff Caruana and Chief Redd. Shots fired is used on a regular basis and license plate reader cameras. They are refocusing on some specific criminal offenses and specific victims. Looking for some police incentives and other new offenses and tweaks to the current offenses that may make jobs a little easier come mid to end of April.
- c. Representative Maurice West – Some of the items discussed today will be brought to the Committee and the Chair in the House. He understands that the working group is to address a lot of concerns before the roll out on January 1st. He wants to uplift the community and law enforcement. On the judicial side of things, he has a piece of legislation that he wants to get the Circuit Clerk and judicial sector on board.
- d. Chairman's Office of Criminal Justice Initiatives - Administrative Reports - Marlana Dokken provided an Administrative Report (attached). She has been in discussion with the Department of Corrections who is interested in using a portion of their Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) funding to expand PSN reentry forums to Winnebago County. These forums would be a modified version of what is currently being done with Focused Deterrence and will include only high risk parolees returning to Winnebago County. The model does not include funding, and will rely on existing providers to meet service needs.
- e. Mayor Tom McNamara reported on the Handle with Care initiative which was approved at the Rockford Public School Board meeting. Also, in discussions with criminal justice



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involved young adults, they need employment opportunities. There are a number of initiatives coming forward to help.

- f. Jennifer Cacciapaglia provided a report in the (attached) meeting packet for the Mayor's Task Force for Domestic and Community Violence.
- g. Public Defender's Office – Nick Zimmerman submitted a report, which references the 2021 Annual Report.
- h. U.S. Department of Justice – Through the Project Safe Neighborhoods funds they were able to work with the State's Attorney's Office and J. Hanley and get an Assistant State's Attorney designated as a specialist to handle violent crime and gun cases that have started in State Court.
- i. Trial Court Administration – Tom Jakeway provided a report in the packet of case closure rates for Winnebago County for 2021. They are closing more cases than cases coming in. They are working on a project with the IT Department to put in more graphics and dashboards.
- j. Winnebago County Jail – Bob Redmond reported that the jail is transitioning to electronic medical records.
- k. Judge Holmgren thanked the jail for their presentation on the mental health specialists that are imbedded in the jail. The CCRT Team has brought forward information about their efforts within the courts and specifically within Judge Gibbons' courtroom and also their desire to have navigators assist with linking people to central community based mental health services.
- l. Chief Judge's Report – There is an ethics seminar on May 6th. Also, hoping to move forward in lessening the amount of felony cases waiting for trial. Also, there is a proposal to put 5 DVCC Courtrooms into the PSB on the second floor and Jury Commission and Kids Place on the first floor. They continue to meet with the Chairman, County officials and other Board Members. Hands Around the Courthouse is April 21st. A Judicial Work Group has already been formed and invitations have been extended to the Sheriff's Department and the County Board Chairman to designate individuals to participate in a Stakeholders Work Group.
- m. Jennifer Cacciapaglia gave a report for Carla Redd. They are going to continue to focus on their domestic violence efforts. A review of the policies and procedures regarding the response to domestic and sexual violence is close to wrapping up the analysis. The major focus is the continued effort to remove more guns off the streets. Also, they are working very closely with the Rockford Public Schools on implementing the Handle with Care Program.

VI. **Other Matters** – The next CJCC meeting will be in person on June 8th.

VII. **Adjournment**