



WINNEBAGO COUNTY

— ILLINOIS —

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL (CJCC)

Meeting Minutes

County Administration Building
404 Elm Street, Room 303
Rockford, IL 61101

Wednesday, December 13, 2023
3:00 – 5:00 pm

- 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, Winnebago County, Court Services; John Lowry, 17th Circuit Court; Carla Redd, Rockford Police Department.

Others Present: Rick Ciganek, Winnebago County, Sheriff’s Dept; Lorraine Dixon, Winnebago County, RIC; Ken LaRue, Assistant State’s Attorney’s Office, Dept. of Probation; Pat Thompson, Winnebago County; Dave Olson, Loyola University; Patrick Griffen, Loyola University; Rob Lukowski, Jail; Anna, Loyola University; Elena, Loyola University, Ali Friend, SAO; Taryn Marko, Juvenile Probation; Tom Lawson, 17th Circuit Court; Thomas McNamara, Mayor, City of Rockford; Brendan Maher, 17th Circuit Court; Emily Behnke, 17th Circuit Court; Dan Magers, IT; Jennifer Cacciapaglia, Director Mayors Office

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Chief Judge Lowry called for a motion to accept the September 13, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion made by Mayor McNamara and seconded by Chairman Chiarelli. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of CJCC Chair

Motion made by Chairman Chiarelli to re-elect Judge Lowry as Chair of the CJCC, effective January 1, 2024. Motion seconded by Judge Maher.

- Discussion followed on requirements and eligibility of candidates for the CJCC Chair.

The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

b. Election of CJCC Vice-Chair

Motion made by Judge Lowry to re-elect State’s Attorney J. Hanley as Vice-Chair of the CJCC, effective January 1, 2024. Motion seconded by Mayor McNamara. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.



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IV. PROGRAM

a. Taryn Marko, Deputy Director Juvenile Probation – Juvenile Probation Update

Taryn Marko gave a Juvenile Probation update. Taryn reported the County continues to deal with a lot of juvenile crime. Probation is actively putting efforts in place to focus on youth. Probation works with children using the evidence-based practice risk, need, responsivity model. The children are coming to the court's attention trauma from home and school. Probation is working to fully assess youth before providing a case plan. For the last 3 years, as a state, probation officers have been targeting the thinking errors in children that cause them to make poor choices in the community. For the last 2 1/2 years the officers have been trained to address those factors with clients and connect them to services in the community. In 2022, a probation officer was hired to focus on cognitive behavioral therapy and additional programming was rolled out with the probation officer trained for several curriculums to address children's needs. Probation received a grant from the WCCMHB allowing them to hire a full-time therapist to provide additional programming. The therapist is providing mental health assessments, crisis de-escalation and dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT). The therapist is also actively working to help children not court involved yet who have come to the assessment center after being arrested. The probation officers refer families to resources within the community for the children, but the children usually don't follow up to receive the support after leaving the center. A Youth Navigator was hired to work with children to be the connector between the arrest and support within the community. Discussion followed.

b. SA/PD – PFA Report

Nick Zimmerman, P.D. related a typical day in the courts since the Pretrial Fairness Act began. Court is held Monday through Saturday; Sunday's pretrial services sends a spreadsheet to the PFA that indicates two lists as detainable and not detainable offenses. From the list, it is determined who are truly detainable under the state's statute. Whether or not detainable, pursuant to a petition, to detain or pretrial release by looking up whether the detainee has cases pending and the nature of the current and former charge(s). Around 11 am, the state sends an email regarding who they will seek to detain and how to seek detention. The PFA gathers documents on the FCE system from pretrial services and from the state indicating the pretrial services report, etc. As many clients are visited at the jail as possible, the purpose is to meet with clients to advocate for their release and review their cases. Around 1:30 pm, court begins and the non-detainable cases are called first, afterwards petitions to revoke trial release follow, and then petitions to detain. Court typically ends around 5 pm, Mondays are typically longer. On a procedural level, the county is doing well.

Ken LaRue, First Assistant State's Attorney's Office advised J. Hanley handles most PFA calls. In the past, bond court began at noon, but due to PFA, it has become a full-time job beginning at 7:30 am, receiving the rush sheet, determining which offenses are detainable and those not detainable and reviewing whether there are previous offenses pending and new offenses. Class A or higher requires filing with intent to detain. A large issue is weekends as people aren't handling the PFA call on a regular basis, so PFA calls go as late as 8 pm. J. Hanley has done a great job handling the cases. Ken reviewed that Winnebago County is second behind Cook County for appeals on the PFA on the ISB website, 119 appealed for Winnebago and 129 for Cook. Discussion followed.



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c. Honorable Janet R. Holmgren and Deputy Court Administrator Emily Behnke – Problem-solving Courts Overview

Emily Behnke, Deputy Court Administrator gave a presentation on the Problem-solving Courts which are court behavioral health interventions, programs to address the behavioral health needs of individuals in the court system. The Treatment Courts in the United States were developed in the 1990's as a response to the overrepresentation of individuals with behavioral health needs in the criminal justice system. Winnebago County was on the forefront with Drug Court established in 1996 and Mental Health Court TIP (Therapeutic Intervention Program) developed in 2005. Eligibility is one of the most common questions. Emily reviewed who is appropriate for each program, which is guided by state statute. They use validated risk needs assessment tools to guide needs and clinical assessments to determine eligibility. All programs are voluntary which can be most challenging, the individual coming into the program must want to do so. The five problem-solving courts are 1) Drug Court Program, 2) TIP Court Program, 3) Veteran Program, 4) Family Recovery Court, and 5) Youth Recovery Court Program. The largest programs are the Mental Health and Drug Court Programs. The newest program is the Wellness Track Program. All the programs are operating a different way than the traditional court system. The main way they are substantially different is that a team comes together and staffs each person on the docket prior to their appearance before the Judge. They must reside in Winnebago County and are typically high-risk, high need individuals. *Risk can be contagious so individuals are kept separate to prevent harm.* The team is trained to manage the different risk levels. All three of the adult courts are certified by the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts which requires problem-solving courts go through a certification process every three years. The programming for the three adult courts is similar in structure, DBT is offered in all three, as well as MRT (Moral Reconciliation Therapy). There is also immediate access to treatment in these programs. The Youth Recovery Court Program is Mental Health Court for juveniles involved in Delinquency court, and monitored by Juvenile Probation. A therapist and case manager work with the youth. The youth must be willing as well as the parent or caregiver to participate in the programs. Youth involved in YRC see Judge Holmgren and their Probation Officer weekly and as they do well and continue in the program, they are given some opportunities to stretch the court dates out. The Family Recovery Court is designed for abuse and neglect court system presided over by Judge Martinez. This focuses on the parent that has an abuse and neglect charge and ensures children get access to services they need. Typically, these cases come back to court every 6 months, under FRC they come back every 2 weeks, once a month if doing well. The Wellness Track is the newest program, Judge Gibbons started with CCRT to offer services for misdemeanor court call and developed into a more formalized system with a set docket available for individuals with misdemeanor charges. A Court Liaison attends court and meets with the individual before appearing before the judge, determines needs and makes referrals for services. If they follow through, the state often makes a motion to dismiss and the charges are dismissed. The program is a year old and is already seeing success.

The Courts are currently partnered with NIU who do evaluations for the Drug Court Program as part of an ongoing evaluation process, as well as independent evaluations for TIP and Veteran's Court. The local graduation rate is 25-30% which is high based on national programming and the



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programs are shown to be cost effective. Funding is predominantly through a Federal and State grants for Drug Court; County funding supports other programs. Discussion followed.

V. CJCC MEMBER UPDATES / REPORTS

- Chairman J. Hanley's Winnebago County State's Attorney Quarterly Report was shared with members. Ken LaRue (for J. Hanley) discussed continued staffing issues.
- Mayor McNamara reported investing efforts in Northwest Community Center, YMCA, Booker Center and Comprehensive Community Solutions and additional public safety community initiatives geared toward youth. The Phase II location for Family Peace Center is very close to completion. There are 36 partners and this space will allow for more partners and permanent housing of these partners to serve the community. The current space on North Main Street will be utilized in other ways.
- FPC is working with RPS to deploy a Healing Center with 7 pilot schools in the community. Staff will be present in the buildings to support teachers and administrators to address their needs. Also, the Healing Center is launching at the Boys and Girls Club on Kilburn Avenue, with the co-located service delivery model at the Peace Center, to develop programs at the Boys and Girls Club in a data driven community center way for the children. FPC is working with Chief Redd's team to research a co-responder model that would put survivors in contact with domestic violence advocates at the scene of domestic violence crimes.
- Nick Zimmerman reported the PFA as discussed earlier, continuing work in representing people and continuing struggle with staffing issues.
- Debbie Jarvis advised as Taryn provided information on Juvenile Probation's progress, there are many other things planned including the Detention Center and noted the Detention Center construction. Additional needs were discussed including expanding the Assessment Center for longer hours and Day Reporting Center. Adult Probation in partnership with RAASE held a human trafficking training with 72 officers trained. The Detention staff will be trained by RAASE by the end of January 2024. Plans are to expand into other areas concerning human trafficking.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

Judge Lowry wrapped up the meeting with announcements and handouts. Judge Lowry shared a list of accomplishments. Debbie Jarvis was appointed as the Chair to the Illinois Judicial College Pretrial Education Committee. Tom Jakeway was appointed to the Chair of the Supreme Court Task Force of Artificial Intelligence. A copy of the Juvenile Justice Council Strategic Plan, just completed, was also provided to council members. Looking forward to the Strategic Plan 2024, Judge Lowry asked for volunteers to email Judge Lowry to sign up to be on a work group committee to develop strategies and initiatives.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the CJCC meeting was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy K. Bleile