

MINUTES
Justice Coalition Executive Committee
July 20, 2023

Members Present: Judge Patricia Baker, Judge Michael Zell, Public Defender Anne Renc, County Executive John Pavelski, District Attorney Cass Cousins, Sheriff Mike Lukas

Members Unavailable: Judge Louis Molepske, County Board Chair Al Haga, Corporation Counsel David Hickethier

Staff Present: Andrea Starr, Justice Programs Department

Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:03 am in Branch III jury room in the Portage County Courthouse.

1. Approve Minutes of March 2, 2023, Meeting

Members approved the March 2, 2023, minutes by consensus with the change mentioned.

2. Review of Justice Programs Statistics from the Previous Quarter

Starr discussed and highlighted data that was provided in the agenda packet.

3. Discussion of Public Safety Assessment Process

Starr is proposing in-custody individuals and felony summons to be assessed. Starr proposed the following assessments:

In-Custody:

- Interview required in the jail.
- Reports will be completed by 11:00 a.m., the day of the Bond Hearing.
- If an individual refuses to meet with the assessor, only the PSA will be completed as that is the only assessment that can be completed without an interview. The PSA report will indicate that the individual refused to be assessed.

Assessments Completed:

1. Public Safety Assessment (PSA) – Predicts the likelihood that an individual will commit a new crime if released before trial and likelihood that an individual will fail to return for future court hearings. Additionally, it flags those defendants who present an elevated risk of committing a violent crime.
2. UNCOPE – Assessment tool for substance misuse – It provides a simple and quick means of identifying risk for abuse and dependence for alcohol and other drugs when neither is already clearly identified as a problem.
3. Brief Jail Mental Health Screen (BJMHS) – To help determine if an individual should be referred to mental health for further evaluation. The BJMHS assess incoming detainees or the possibility of having a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression.
4. Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) – FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTS ONLY. Assessment is used to estimate the re-offense risk of a domestic violence offender committing another domestic violence offense.

Felony Summons:

- No interview will occur.
- Reports will be completed three (3) days prior to the scheduled hearing.

Assessments Completed:

1. Public Safety Assessment (PSA) – Predicts the likelihood that an individual will commit a new crime if released before trial and likelihood that an individual will fail to return for future court hearings. Additionally, it flags those defendants who present an elevated risk of committing a violent crime.

Starr reviewed all the assessments listed above, matrixes, and release conditions.

Renc recommends that the pretrial report be filed confidentially. Starr will check with other counties to see how their reports are filed. Additionally, Renc stated that the Public Defender's Office does not have access to GF files to access the pretrial report so the pretrial staff will have to discuss the best way to distribute the pretrial report.

The Sheriff indicated that pretrial staff may not be able to get into the jail in a timely manner for a face-to-face interview due to the amount of "traffic" (attorney's) going in and out of the jail. Sheriff will discuss with jail staff. Sheriff asked if the interviews could be done through I-Pads since all the inmates will be getting them soon. The concern is that the interview would take place in the cell and the person's cellmates will hear the conversation.

Sheriff stated that the jail already does a mental health screen, but that is not shared with the Courts.

Sheriff indicated that he struggles with approving assessments that he has not seen the questions for. Starr provided the questions for the PSA and verbally shared some of the questions of the other assessments.

The Committee asked to have some time to review the proposed packet and this topic will be discussed again at the next Justice Coalition Executive Committee meeting on September 14th. The Committee also asked Starr to send reminders to the committee to review the packet.

4. Discussion of Agenda Items for October 12, 2023, Justice Coalition Meeting

The Sheriff asked that Treatment Court be added to the next agenda at the Justice Coalition Executive Committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Starr
Justice Programs Director/Recording Secretary