

MINUTES
Justice Coalition Executive Committee
September 14, 2023

Members Present: Judge Patricia Baker, Judge Michael Zell, Judge Louis Molepske, Jr. Public Defender Taylor Soule, County Executive John Pavelski, District Attorney Cass Cousins, Sheriff Mike Lukas, Corporation Counsel David Hickethier

Members Unavailable: County Board Chair Al Haga, Clerk of Courts Lisa Roth

Staff Present: Andrea Starr, Justice Programs Department

Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:00 am in Branch III jury room in the Portage County Courthouse.

1. Approve Minutes of July 20, 2023, Meeting

Members approved the July 20, 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. Judge Baker noted that the JusticeWorks Family Law Information Center (FLIC) sent a letter indicating that they will no longer be providing this service. Judge Zell reached out to Judicare who provides a similar service in Lincoln County and Taylor County. A contract has been signed between Portage County and Judicare to begin this service.

3. Discussion of Public Safety Assessment Process

Starr is proposing in-custody individuals and felony summons to be assessed. Starr provided two options for the jail assessments and the Domestic Violence Assessments. Starr proposed the following process and 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 complete 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.

OR

Correctional Mental Health Screening (CMHS-M/W) for Men and Women – 12 items (CMHS-Men), 8 items (CMHS – Women), questions are about current and lifetime indications of serious mental disorder, this screen is used to identify an inmate's mental health needs when they first enter an institution and accurately identify inmates who require mental health interventions. Six questions regarding symptoms and history of mental illness are the same on both questionnaires, the remaining questions are unique to each gender screen. Screening will recommend an in-depth mental health evaluation (urgent or routine) if indicated. Endorsed by the National Institute of Justice.

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.

OR

Domestic Violence Screening Instrument – Revised (DVSI-R) – FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTS ONLY. This assessment involves a modification and consolidation of items, and an additional two mechanisms for assessing imminent risk of violence to victims or other persons based on an assessor's subjective professional judgment.

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.

Starr stressed that if Day Report staff would not be allowed in the jail for the in-custody interviews or if the Courts feel that all these assessments are not necessary, the PSA would only be used for in-custody individuals. The Sheriff indicated that interviews could take place over the I-Pads and individuals will be placed in a separate cell, so they are given confidentiality for the interview.

Judge Molepske, Jr. made the motion to approve the use of the PSA and other assessments and Sheriff Lukas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of Adult Treatment Court

The Sheriff indicated that Law Enforcement (Sheriff's Office and Stevens Point Police Department) withdrew from Treatment Court, and they do not plan on rejoining any time soon until they see how things progress with Treatment Court. They have concerns that have been shared with the Treatment Court Judge. The Sheriff has seen some changes made, but he is waiting to see how things continue to progress. Law Enforcement will not be interested in returning to the Treatment Team if Law Enforcement does not have a say on who can and cannot participate in the program. The Sheriff stated that he will not participate in meetings until a new model is presented and then he will decide from there if law enforcement will rejoin the Treatment Team.

Both Judge Molepske, Jr. and Judge Zell expressed the need for a Treatment Court to continue.

Judge Baker stated that meetings have and will continue to be held regarding proposed changes to the Treatment Court program.

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

- a. Family Law Information Center
- b. Warrant Process

The Executive Committee would like HHS to be a member of the Justice Coalition Executive Committee. That will be on the agenda for the next Justice Coalition Executive Committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Starr
Justice Programs Director/Recording Secretary