

MINUTES

Justice Coalition – October 12, 2023

Present In-Person: Judge Baker, Judge Zell, Judge Molepske, Jeanne Dodge, Mike Lukas, Zach Bishop, Kate Mueller, Jamie Kiener, Aubrey Garski, Ben Beaudoin, Andrew Rockman, Mike Wiza, Jed Dodge, John Pavelski, Greg Venturini, Ryan Fox, Kasie Borchardt, Penny Borski, Ronnie Leach, Jane Iwanski, Dave Medin, Andrea Starr

Present Virtually: Stan Potocki, Mike Rottier, Shaun Przybylski, Lisa Roth, Kim Vagueiro, Dave Ladick, Jennifer Jossie.

Judge Baker called the Justice Coalition meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Rooms 1&2, Portage County Annex.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the April 13, 2023, Meeting

Judge Baker asked for edits or corrections to the April 13, 2023, minutes. Approval of the minutes by consensus.

2. Discussion/Possible Action: - Request for Special Meeting Attendance; - Approval of Attendance of Special Meetings; - Special Meeting Attendance Report

No special meeting attendance requests or sheets were submitted for action.

3. Public Safety Assessment Procedural Recommendations – A. Starr

Andrea Starr went through the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) and other assessment handouts with the committee members. Judge Molepske indicated that this proposal has been worked on for a long time as less and less people are getting cash bail. Since Milwaukee County implemented the PSA, up to 90% of individuals are released pretrial. Judge Molepske stated that he is in full support of this process.

Motion made by Judge Molepske and seconded by Supervisor Rockman to approve the use of the PSA and its procedures. Motion to approve the PSA carried by voice vote with no negative votes or abstentions.

4. Treatment Court Update – Judge Baker

Judge Baker stated that we are addressing some concerns that have been brought up; however, she is not prepared to give a full and detailed overview at this time. The Sheriff and the Chief of Police from Stevens Point Police Department brought up some concerns which included law enforcement home visits that have been addressed.

Currently, Treatment Court is a post-conviction model. One of the discussions taking place is addressing the post-conviction model and how individuals are sentenced when they are terminated from Treatment Court. Judge Baker spoke with Kasie Borchardt from the Department of Corrections, and she recommended looking into the Wood County Treatment Court which is a pre-conviction model. This model allows more control for the Treatment Court Judge and the Treatment Team for sanctions (jail) and when an individual is terminated. Borchardt gave an overview of why she recommended the Wood County Treatment Court model which includes the Judge having more “power” than the DOC when it comes to incarceration for sanctions and sentencing.

The Treatment Court Oversight Committee will meet on October 24, 2023 to identify these problems and discuss solutions. On November 7, 2023, the Treatment Court Oversight Committee will meet again to possibly adopt the changes. It is hoped that the new policies will be enacted in January 2024. The District Attorney’s Office is on board with the proposed changes.

Treatment Court currently has 11 active participants, with a graduation taking place in two weeks and two other graduations taking place in December.

5. Update from CAP Services on Family Crisis Center – K. Mueller

Mueller indicated that the CAP Services/Family Crisis Center (FCC) receives funding from several grants, with the largest grant being the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). The end of the grant cycle for VOCA is September 2024. FCC was informed that they will be losing 75% of their funding from VOCA. Currently, they receive just under \$1 million (one million dollars) and the maximum they can apply for after this funding cycle is \$250,000. CAP will be evaluating the services provided in Portage, Waupaca, and Waushara Counties.

Jane Iwanski stated that the Victim Witness Office utilizes CAP services daily. Advocates are regularly attending Court hearings, and they help victims with moving, shelter, basic needs, etc. Jane stated they are a valuable service to the community.

6. Department Updates

- a. District Attorney's Office: No updates. Informed the committee on how the District Attorney's Office utilizes CAP Services.
- b. Clerk of Courts: No updates. Informed the committee on how the Clerk of Courts office utilizes CAP Services.
- c. Sheriff's Office: The jail is full; additionally, the jail has flooded on three occasions.
- d. Public Defenders Office: Greg Venturini is a new attorney to the Portage County Public Defender's Office.
- e. Department of Corrections: The state prison system has had staff shortages for a long time and to circumvent that, the current DOC comprehensive plan gave the prison staff raises. Subsequently, many DOC agents are leaving Community Corrections to work in the prison system to receive those raises. This causes shortages in Community Corrections.

7. 2024 Justice Coalition and Justice Coalition Executive Committee Dates

A handout was given with the 2024 meeting dates. Andrea Starr will send the meeting invitations through Outlook.

10. Topics to be Considered for Future Meetings

None given.

With no further business to come before the Coalition, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Starr
Justice Programs Director/Recording Secretary