

MINUTES

Justice Coalition – January 11, 2024

Present In-Person: Judge Baker, Judge Zell, Judge Molepske, Mike Lukas, Zach Bishop, Kate Mueller, Jamie Kiener, Ben Beaudoin, John Pavelski, Kim Vaguerio, Ryan Fox, Kasie Borchardt, Dana Williams, Ronnie Leach, Dave Medin, Andrea Starr, Lisa Roth, Cass Cousins

Present Virtually: Dave Ladik, Jeanne Dodge, Stan Potocki, Jane Iwanski, Mike Wiza

Judge Baker called the Justice Coalition meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. in Conference Room 5, Portage County Annex.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the October 12th, Meeting

Judge Baker asked for edits or corrections to the October 12th, 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 – Judge Baker

Judge Baker's goal was to have the Public Safety Assessment started in January; however, contracts are continuing to be worked on. Once those contracts are completed, Starr will work on getting the Public Safety Assessment implemented.

4. Treatment Court Update – Judge Baker

Judge Baker indicated that two participants will be graduating this month.

Starr went through the 2023 Treatment Court stats. Currently there are 12 active participants, one inactive, and one pending admission. Three participants graduated in 2023, three were terminated, and 13 were found ineligible.

Last semester, a Justice Programs intern completed stats on average Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) score for all participants and length of time of for participates to get from arrest into Treatment Court. The average ACES score is 4.27. Four or higher indicates serious risk of health and social problems. Starr indicated that it is a surprise that the score is that low; however, the Treatment Court Coordinator is a stranger to the participant and may not be honest with the answers.

Starr informed the committee that best practice indicates from the date of arrest to admission should be 50 days. Currently, from the date of arrest to admission it is 329 days. This does not include Alternative To Revocations (ATR's). Discussions have taken place on how to reduce the amount of time from arrest to admission.

Judge Baker stated that a change from a post-conviction model to a pre-conviction model is still in process.

The DA indicated that the DA's Office has requested to have more control over who is allowed to participate in Treatment Court despite it not being best practice. The concern for the DA's Office is how people are supervised in the community among other concerns. It is unknown at this time if the DA's Office will return to Treatment Court.

5. Court Security Update – Judge Molepske

A video was shown of a court hearing held in Clark County, Nevada where a defendant attacked a Judge on the bench.

During the Space and Properties meeting it was recommended that Court Security be moved to the first floor, and if possible, explore the purchase of an x-ray scanner to scan bags. Facilities is going to study the issue of closing the fire doors to allow a one-point access to the Courts on the Church Street side of the building. The reason for the closure of the fire doors is because if there is not a “hard” separation between the City and County sides of the building, or the public being allowed to enter on the Strong's Avenue side of the building, the entire Courthouse is considered the Court facility and then there is not a single point of entry. Molepske indicated that the “easiest” way to proceed is to have the Space and Properties Committee close Strong's Avenue. Wiza suggested that an alarm be put between the City and County sides of the building so if someone where to breach that area, Court Security would be notified.

The Space and Properties Committee is studying moving Courtroom E to another location in the building due to the safety concerns.

Lukas indicated that when violent offenders are “bonded out,” they do not come to Court with handcuffs or shackles. If Court Security is aware that an individual may be going to jail or prison, they are able to make sure an officer(s) is available in the Courtroom.

6. Jail Supervision Citizen Group Update – Judge Baker

A citizen group has contacted the Judges and others regarding speaking at the Justice Coalition meeting. The Justice Coalition Executive Committee discussed this, and it was decided that it is too premature to be discussing the design of the jail. In the future, this group may be presenting at the Justice Coalition.

7. Department Updates

- a. District Attorney's Office: No updates.
- b. Clerk of Courts: No updates.
- c. Sheriff's Office: The Waupaca County Jail contract is over budget. Portage County is contracted for 35 individuals and Portage County currently has 39 in Waupaca County Jail.
- d. Public Defenders Office: No updates.
- e. Department of Corrections: No updates.

8. Move April 4th Justice Coalition meeting to May 16th at 8:00 a.m.

10. Topics to be Considered for Future Meetings

None given.

With no further business to come before the Coalition, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Starr
Justice Programs Director/Recording Secretary