

PORTAGE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, BR. 1

1516 CHURCH ST, STEVENS POINT, WI 54481
715-346-1355

Hon. Thomas B. Eagon
Circuit Judge

FROM: Justice Coalition Chair, Honorable Thomas B. Eagon

Catherine Sosnowski
Court Reporter

DATE: July 7, 2021

Crystal Rowland
Judicial Assistant

RE: **July 15, 2021** Justice Coalition Meeting

The Justice Coalition will meet on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 5, Portage County Annex, Third Floor, 1462 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point (Note: No virtual option available)

Agenda items include:

1. Approval of the Minutes from April 22, 2021 Meeting
2. Discussion/Possible Action Re:
 - Request for Special Meeting Attendance
 - Approval of Attendance of Special Meetings
 - Special Meeting Attendance Report
3. Diversion Program Update – Bryan Peil
4. Update on Pretrial Programming
5. Proposed Change to Pretrial Supervision Requirements
6. Update on Treatment Court
7. Topics to be Considered for Future Meetings
8. Next Meeting October 21, 2021

NOTE: No virtual option available. Fully vaccinated individuals may appear without masks and social distancing. Unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to use masks and engage in social distancing

Notice: A quorum of the Portage County Board of Supervisors or any committee thereof may be present at this meeting. Any person who has special needs and plans on attending this meeting should contact the Justice Programs Department as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made. Telephone: 715-346-1334.

MINUTES
Justice Coalition
April 22, 2021

Members Present: Judge Eagon, Mike Lukas, Dave Medin, Stan Potocki, Al Haga, Zach Bishop, Judge Baker, Lisa Roth

Members Who Attended Virtually: Dave Ladick, Jeanne Dodge, David Ray, Andrew Beveridge, Jane Iwanski, Daryl Woods, Louis Molepske

Others Present: None

Others Who Attended Virtually: Jamie Kiener, Paige Redmann, Rhonda Frank Warren, Gurdon Hamilton, Bryan Peil

Staff Present: Andrea Behnke and Paula Cummings, Justice Programs Department

Judge Eagon called the Justice Coalition meeting to order at 8:05 am in Circuit Court Branch 1, Portage County Courthouse.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the October 8, 2020 Meeting

Eagon asked for edits or corrections to the October 8, 2020 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved 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.

3. Justice Programs Annual Report (NOTE: Annual Report posted to County Website Agendas/Minutes Calendar link) – Full report in meeting file

Behnke noted she gave a verbal Justice Programs Annual Report, including a PowerPoint presentation, during the April 20, 2021 County Board meeting. The presentation included Year 2020 statistics for the Day Report and Pre- and Post-Trial Programs, Treatment Court, and a Non-Monetary Bonds Workgroup update.

Behnke highlighted the Non-Monetary Bonds Workgroup study that found indigent individuals remain jailed for a significantly longer time than individuals who can afford an attorney and make their cash bond. This gap will begin to close because of changes in the Pre-Trial Program where client assessments take place to make informed release recommendations to the Court. She said they are looking for that gap to change in the next 3-4 years as changes are implemented.

4. Update on Pretrial Programming

a. NCIC Access Pending

Behnke stated she met with County Corporation Counsel Ray to change the JusticePoint contract to meet Department of Justice (DOJ) recommendations. About a month ago, the revised contract was sent to DOJ and we are waiting to hear back.

b. Release Matrix

Behnke told those present she has been working with JusticePoint/Kiener to develop a release matrix for Portage County. A sample matrix was received from the State indicating areas we should look at. They will attend training on how to develop a release matrix as well. Behnke stated this is a very involved process and noted that Attorneys and the Courts utilizing the matrix will also need training.

c. Third Party Validation – UW-Stevens Point

A third-party validation of the release matrix will take place by two University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Social Work Professors. They will look over the matrix in the next 3-4 weeks.

Eagon clarified that to conduct a complete assessment and make an informed release recommendation, an individual's prior record is needed. The release of record information must be approved by the Crime Information Bureau (CIB) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Previously, the Justice Programs Department had been denied access, and changes were made to seek access allowing the records access request to move forward.

Behnke noted the matrix will be monitored and a budget must be determined. She further noted a "no cash bond" system is where we are headed, with individuals being supervised in the community. Eagon informed those present the Non-Monetary Bonds Workgroup was headed by District Attorney Molepske.

5. Update on Treatment Court

a. Conditional Jail Release

Behnke explained there are differing opinions regarding Due Process related to conditional jail release. She reached out to Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program (TAD) personnel, but they are short-staffed at this time, and with that she reached out to a Judge in LaCrosse County for assistance. Eagon noted that the TAD grant has restrictions on what can and cannot be done with conditional jail release.

b. Administrative Discharge Policy

Behnke stated an administrative discharge policy is needed and she is waiting on TAD confirmation. A Treatment Court Termination Policy is needed regarding the necessary Court proceeding during participant termination.

c. Tune-Up Training for Entire Treatment Team in July 2021

Behnke said Tune-Up Training is taking place for two days in July. This mandatory Treatment Team training will be held virtually here with other counties in attendance as well.

d. Participants' Handbook Update

Behnke stated that during a pre-meeting with the Tune-Up trainer, discussion included the need for our Treatment Court Participant Handbook to be easier to read. Behnke described an awesome example was given to her and we are working to switch over to that format. The example was geared toward a 6th grade reading level as suggested and includes pictures.

e. WI Association of Treatment Court Professionals Equity and Inclusion Committee

Behnke stated she was asked to participate in the Equity and Inclusion Committee, and Portage County is part of a pilot for this committee and was chosen due to its medium size. Meetings will be held 1-2 times a month.

At this point, Judge Eagon introduced Judge Baker, who was appointed to the seat vacated by Judge Flugaur and welcomed her to the Coalition. Baker stated she was happy to be back as part of the Portage County Court system.

Medin referred to the Justice Programs annual report and noted the Space and Properties Committee reviewed recommendations of the County Executive relative to a process involving the maintenance and construction of County facilities; noting the Committee will take action on approving the process based on those recommendations. Medin felt there is greater unity among staff and elected officials.

Baker asked if the Non-Monetary Bonds Workgroup was still meeting because she was interested to learn more about this topic. Behnke replied the Workgroup decided she and Kiener would work together as a subcommittee and provide findings and recommendations to the full Workgroup, including budget additions. Baker requested Behnke meet with her to provide an update.

Baker asked where she could obtain a Justice Programs Annual Report and Behnke noted the full report could be found on-line with the posted agenda packet.

6. Topics to be Considered at Future Meetings

No topics were offered for consideration.

7. Next Meeting July 15, 2021

Eagon noted at this point in time, the July meeting will also be held in Branch 1 and virtually. If that changes, the meeting would move back to Conference Rooms 1 and 2 at the County Annex.

With no further business to come before the Coalition, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Cummings
Recording Secretary