

MINUTES

Justice Coalition - January 20, 2022

Members Present In-Person: Judge Eagon, Dave Medin, Dave Ladick, Jeanne Dodge, Mike Lukas, Lisa Roth, Penny Borski, Ronnie Leach

Others Present In-Person: Jamie Kiener, JusticePoint; Megan Radcliffe, Justice Programs Intern; Jedidiah Dodge, ADA; Stephen Sawyer, Judicial Candidate; Kathy Junion, CAP Services

Members / Others Present Virtually: Virtual was unavailable due to an issue with the audio.

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

Judge Eagon called the Justice Coalition meeting to order at 8:34 am (late due to working on virtual audio issue) in Conference Rooms 1&2, Portage County Annex.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the July 15, 2021 Meeting

Eagon asked for edits or corrections to the July 15 minutes and hearing none, 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 for action.

3. Presentation on Pretrial Release (PowerPoint in original meeting file.)

Eagon began the State Statute Chapter 969 - Bail and Other Conditions of Release presentation by stating it was decided to have this discussion due to bond procedure concerns across the State and specifically referenced the incident that took place recently in Waukesha. He noted a movement toward cashless bonds is taking place. After the presentation, Sawyer noted, if a defendant is on Probation/Extended Supervision/Parole, when considering a new case, the Agent will place a hold on the individual, even if the person can post bail because the hold takes precedence. Eagon added that if an individual is on a probation hold, a signature bond can be issued rather than cash. Dodge stated the District Attorney's Office recently started using a proxy tool, which is a simple risk assessment tool for offenders. Eagon noted that tool had been developed by the Justice Coalition and he was pleased to see it being used again.

4. Update on Pretrial Programming

Behnke stated Pretrial Programming is changing and moving toward more evidence-based practices (EBP). Part of EBP is that a public safety assessment be used, which assesses an offender's risk of not coming to their court appearance. Assessment results are shared with necessary justice system stakeholders to determine bond conditions. A release matrix was developed for Portage County and NCIC access was sought. Costs associated with this were added to the 2022 preliminary budget expenses for review, but ultimately denied. With that, the possible use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds came about. County Executive Chris Holman has a timeline on that funding. Behnke stated our Pretrial Program is a great program, but should be changed to align more with EBP.

5. 2022 Treatment Court Statistics

Behnke provided the following statistics:

- 7 current participants / 4 pending
- 5 2021 graduates / 4 terminations
- 7 individuals found ineligible / 4 of those with violent offenses.

Behnke noted it has been found that individuals with violent offenses do as well in Treatment Court as those who do not, but our Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) grant funds, do not allow us to offer the program to those with violent offenses. Portage County has been tracking the number of individuals found ineligible for this reason in the hopes of being able to find a future funding source.

6. Paula Cummings Retirement

Eagon provided a brief history of Cummings' work in the Portage County Justice System and presented her with a plaque honoring her and her work.

7. Topics to be Considered for Future Meetings

Behnke noted the Public Defenders' Office would like the Coalition to consider allowing individuals with an OWI2 into the Pretrial Program, which currently serves OWI3+, and noted this is allowed by Statute.

8. Next Meeting April 21, 2022

With no further business to come before the Coalition, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Cummings

Recording Secretary