

MINUTES
Justice Coalition Executive Committee
September 22, 2022

Members Present: Judge Patricia Baker, Judge Louis Molepske (arrived at 8:32 a.m.), Corporation Counsel Dave Ray, Public Defender Anne Renc, County Executive John Pavelski, District Attorney Cass Cousins, Sheriff Mike Lukas

Members Unavailable: County Board Chair Al Haga

Community Members: Allison Tabor, Justice Programs Intern

Staff Present: Andrea Starr, Justice Programs Department

Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:02 am in Branch III jury room in the Portage County Courthouse.

1. Approve Minutes of June 30, 2022 Meeting

Members approved the June 30, 2022, minutes by consensus.

2. Review of Justice Programs Statistics from the Previous Quarter

Starr discussed and highlighted data that was provided in the agenda packet.

Lukas asked what occurs when a high severity violation occurs. Starr indicated who receives the report and that decisions on custody are up to the District Attorney's Office. Pavelski asked what constitutes a high severity violation report. Starr indicated that there is a matrix that shows what constitutes a high severity violation report. Baker asked that that matrix be sent to the members.

Lukas asked if funding is being explored for violent offenders in Treatment Court. Starr indicated tax levy would have to be utilized to allow violent offenders into Treatment Court. It is unknown if Treatment Alternative and Diversion (TAD) would allow violent and non-violent offenders to "co-mingle;" however, Starr believes the issue would be having different risk levels in the same court rather than violent vs. non-violent offenders.

3. Pretrial GPS to Justice Programs Update

Pretrial GPS continues to be through the Sheriff's Office. Starr indicated that there is an immediate concern regarding what the Judges/Commissioner are ordering for conditions for GPS. Starr asked if the members would still like to forgo creating a work group or due to the immediate concerns of what has been court ordered, would the members like a work group to be created. Molepske asked that the Sheriff's Office put together some information regarding what GPS can and cannot do.

Lukas recommend that JusticePoint take on the cost of GPS from his office. Starr indicated that JusticePoint has their own equipment. Lucas indicated that if a violation takes place, they would "pick up an individual" for the violation. Baker indicated that JusticePoint's equipment is "very passive" and the Sheriff's Office equipment is not as passive as they have staff dedicated strictly for electronic monitoring.

Baker recommended that Starr, Jamie Kiener from JusticePoint, a representative from the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's office meet to discuss the cost for keeping the pretrial GPS with the Sheriff's Office vs. moving it to Justice Programs.

4. OWI 2nd Work Group Update

The work group has met once and will meet again October 21, 2022. Currently OWI 2nd statistics are being gathered and Starr will be gathering information from other counties that do include OWI 2nd's into pretrial programming and if they have seen a reduction in OWI 3rd because they are providing programming to OWI 2^{nds}. Renc added that because some OWI 2^{nds} do not receive a long jail sentence (five days), can the Pretrial Program be offered without individuals being mandated to go into the Post Trial Supervision Program as it is likely that most individuals would choose to complete their jail sentence rather than be in the Post-Trial Supervision Program.

5. Discussion Regarding Potential Changes to Intake Procedure

Baker indicated that all three Judges are in favor of "tweaking" the intake procedure as intakes appear to be increasing. The Judges will take approximately six months to look at the intake procedure and make recommendations on how to move forward with the intakes. Meetings will include the Judges, someone from the Sheriff's Office, Public Defenders Office, and District Attorney's Office.

6. Approval of Memo to Finance Committee

Baker reminded the committee that at the Justice Coalition meeting Mayor Wiza recommended that Baker submit a letter to the Finance Committee requesting that the pretrial "enhancement" costs be approved. The Justice Coalition approved that a letter be submitted.

Zell approved of the letter and recommended that it be sent to the Justice Coalition for final approval. Cousins asked for more information regarding the Public Safety Assessment. Renc will send Starr a redacted form that is used in Marathon County and Starr will send it to the members. Ray, clarifying that he is not a practitioner, agreed with the letter.

Lukas stated that he is not in support of a full-time position through JusticePoint but is in favor of the other costs. Starr indicated the full-time position is based on the number of summon (felony and misdemeanor) and jail intakes that Portage County handles each year. Those numbers were provided to JusticePoint and they indicated that a full time position would be needed to meet the need for the assessments. Lukas questioned how long it takes to complete an assessment which was unknown to Starr. Starr stated that if summons were not going to be assessed, a full-time position would not be needed because the average jail intake per day was five prior to COVID. Renc indicated that Marathon County does not assess summons. Cousin asked why the work group chose to assess summons. Lukas recommended that Starr ask JusticePoint if additional staff is needed if only jail intakes were going to be assessed.

Baker asked that Starr gather data on how many jail intakes have occurred the last two years. Baker asked that Starr put together an email to address how to move forward with the PSA without summons being assessed.

8. Discussion of the Agenda Items for November 10, 2022 Justice Coalition Meeting

None noted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Starr
Justice Programs Director/Recording Secretary