

**MINUTES**  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**JANUARY 8, 2020**  
**KENSINGTON BANQUET ROOM**

**Members Present:** Mike Kuehn (Assistant Public Defender); Justin Green (Public Member); Karin Sonneman (Winona County Attorney), Marie Kovecsi (County Commissioner); Annette Freiheit (Superintendent, Winona Area Public Schools); Ron Ganrude (Winona County Sheriff); Travis Volkman (Goodview Police Dept.); Steven Buswell (Winona County Jail Administrator); Judy Gilow (Public Member); Ken Fritz (County Administrator).

**Members Absent:** Paul Bostrack (City of Winona Police Chief); Mike Flaherty (Assistant Winona City Attorney); Kurt Knuesel (Winona County Bar Association); Michelle Alexander (City of Winona); Jennifer Backer-Johnson (Superintendent, Lewiston-Altura School District); Karen Sanness (Community Services Director); Rená Patterson (Corrections Supervisor); The Honorable Nancy Buytendorp (District Court Judge); Karrie Espinoza (Court Administrator), Fatima Said (Project FINE).

**Guests Present:** Kalene Engel (CJCC Executive Director); Trisha Chandler (Jail Intake Worker); Rebecca Church (Asst. Winona County Attorney); Carin Hyter (Treatment Court Coordinator); Cullen Schwemer (Retired Psychiatrist); Preston Selleck (Veteran's Treatment Court Coordinator); Renee Rumpca (Dept of Corrections; Proxy for Rená Patterson), Crystal Hegge (Advocacy Center, formerly Women's Resource Center)

Minutes by Kalene Engel

- 1) **Call to Order & Introductions:** Karin Sonneman called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.
- 2) **Review/Revise/Approve Agenda for January 8, 2020:** Agenda was approved as presented by consensus.
- 3) **Review/Revise/Approve Draft Minutes from November 6, 2019:** Minutes approved by consensus without changes.
- 4) **Information/Action Items:**
  - A. Grant-funded Southeast Tech Classes: Included in the meeting packet was a brochure on the free classes that are being offered through Southeast Tech. Members are encouraged to refer interested and qualified individuals to the program.
  - B. Legislative Outreach Event Invite: The Legislative Outreach Event will be taking place next Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 11 am at the Winona History Center. The format will include short speeches from each elected official followed by questions from the audience.

5) **Letter of Support for Restoration of Health Insurance Benefits for Pre-Trial**

**Defendants:** The National Association of Counties (NaCO) is encouraging counties to provide support for the restoration of federal health care benefits for non-convicted and justice involved individuals. Currently, all incarcerated individuals are excluded from receiving Medicaid (Medical Assistance) benefits, regardless of whether they have been convicted of the crime for which they are charged. Thus, even individuals who are presumed innocent are stripped of health care benefits. Karin is requesting support for writing letters to our state senators and congressmen to encourage them to support the reinstatement of federal health care benefits for non-convicted, incarcerated individuals. After discussion and by consensus, council members agreed to have Karin and Kalene draft and send such letters.

6) **Committee Reports:**

A. Juvenile Justice Committee-Rebecca Church: Having completed the gathering of data requested by the Jail Advisory Committee, the focus of the committee this year will be to develop and support a Family Dependency Treatment Court. A separate workgroup has been working on this and will be meeting next week to discuss a vision, mission and target population. Currently there is no additional funding for a family dependency treatment court, but options are being considered. Truancy Court has been fairly quiet, but is expected to pick up now that the holidays are done. Overall, the numbers of trancies have been on the decline, as Restorative Justice and the schools are working on reducing the numbers that need to be taken to court.

**Next Meeting: January 22, 2020 at noon at Kensington Banquet Room**

B. Courts Committee-Hon. Nancy Buytendorp: The Courts Committee met in November, but not in December. Treatment Court recently celebrated two graduations, leaving the remaining numbers somewhat low. The team is discussing how to increase numbers. Another workgroup is working on forming a mentorship program. Karin and Carin spoke to members of Karin's church about Treatment Court and received a donation. Carin also gave a presentation on Treatment Court to the County Board. In November, the JMHC Grant technical assistance providers were present for a site visit. Committee members are continuing to discuss a Warrant Resolution Day. Kathy Sublett spoke to committee members about an expungement clinic that she wants to start in Winona County. The Department of Corrections is seeking more referrals for the STS (Sentence to Service) Program. The Public Defender's Office will be providing representation for both out-of-custody and in-custody defendants. Court Administration is continuing to work on improving district-wide case processing procedures.

**Next meeting: January 16, 2020 at 8 a.m. at Court Admin Conf. Room**

C. Crime Prevention/ASAP-Travis Volkman: The Coalition has devoted a lot of effort to T21 over the past few months. Despite the passage of T21 at the federal level, ASAP will continue to work on more specific restrictions at the local level. At least one other county, St. Louis, is working on banning all vaping devices. At the year-end meeting, awards were handed out to individuals who have made significant contributions to the Coalition. Beth Moe, Carin Hyter and students from the Winona High Tech Nest were

all recognized for their contributions. A small group of individuals is meeting to discuss program sustainability, including applying for additional grant funding.

**Next Meeting: January 13, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. at B.A. Miller Auditorium**

- D. Community Outreach & Diversity Committee-Karin Sonneman: In addition to planning the Elected Officials' Outreach Event, the committee is discussing the 2020 Law Day Event, which will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1st. The mock trial will cover both vaping and bullying.

**Next Meeting: January 15, 2020 at noon at County Attorney's Office**

- E. Jail and Jail Alternatives Committee & Jail Planning Committee-Justin Green: The Jail Planning Committee spent most of the meeting discussing what a new jail might look like. Recommendations have been made for the architect and construction manager and those will come before the County Board on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Most of the Jail and Jail Alternatives Committee Meeting was spent on a presentation by representatives of the Winona Community HUB. The HUB is a joint effort of many organizations/entities in the Winona community and is intended to help individuals better access community resources. Livewell Winona is the center of the HUB, accepting and processing referrals and keeping track of results. Individual case managers, called "Community Connectors" use the results of a comprehensive assessment to determine what kind of help people need and how to access existing resources. At the time the group presented to the JJA, there was one community connector with another soon to be hired. Currently, the target population for the HUB includes food insecure families with children under 18; however, that criteria can be adjusted. The program is currently grant-funded and is evolving. Kalene will make arrangements to have representatives of the HUB present to the full CJCC.

**Next Meeting: January 22, 2020 at noon at Kensington Banquet Room**

## 7) Other

- A. Community State Health Advisory Committee: Marie attended a meeting of this committee recently and learned that a workgroup is working on a program for children of incarcerated parents.
- B. Refugee Acceptance Public Hearing: A public hearing will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup> prior to or at the Winona County Board Meeting regarding the President's proposal of opting in or out of accepting refugees in the community.
- C. Jail Presentation: Steve Buswell is doing another presentation about the jail on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the VFW.

**Adjourn:** 12:47 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 5, 2020 at noon at Kensington Banquet Room, 157 West Third Street, Winona