

2020 Courts Committee Minutes

January - December

COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Winona County

January 16, 2020 | 8:00 a.m.

In Attendance

Judge Buytendorp, Carin Hyter, Karin Sonneman, Kalene Engel, Mike Kuehn, Karrie Espinoza, Trish Chandler

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 2019 meeting were approved.

Treatment Court Update, Carin Hyter

Treatment Court is set to gain two participants on the 29th. One current participant is on the termination track. Participants with children have been attending a parenting class. Many were reluctant at first but have given a lot of positive feedback since attending.

All of the coordinators from the Third District met recently to discuss treatment court issues. One concern many had was with Kratom usage. Winona and Dodge are already testing for Kratom and other counties are considering adding Kratom testing.

Participants rang bells for the Salvation Army at Midtown foods over the holidays. It was largely participant driven and they raised a significant amount of money.

Last month participants went rock climbing at WSU for their prosocial activity. Next month they will play pickle ball at the Y.

The Team is starting a subcommittee to raise participation numbers.

Family Dependency Court planning is ongoing.

Agency Bulletin Board and Brochure Displays, Carin Hyter

The Committee discussed acquisition and placement of bulletin boards and brochure displays outside of the courtrooms. This would allow organizations like Treatment Court to advertise their programs to potential participants.

WRAP Program Update, Kalene Engel

Last quarter WRAP had 178 applications, with 142 rejections and 36 acceptances. Most rejections (102) were people who did not want services, 23 were low risk, 1 did not complete the application, 6 were ineligible violent offenders, and 10 did not have sufficient mental health needs.

The most requested services were: housing, employment, and transportation.

The observers that conducted a site visit in November issued a draft memorandum with recommendations. The final draft should be ready soon.

Acceptance numbers for last quarter were down slightly due to the new federal grant's mental health screening requirements.

WRAP switched its cognitive skill class provider from Acumen to Empower. Kalene expects to get more referrals from Empower.

Expungement Clinic, Kalene Engel

Kathy Sublet was unable to attend but sent an email detailing her recent efforts.

The committee discussed next steps for holding a clinic in Winona. Specifically setting an agenda and addressing budgetary needs.

Strategic Planning, Kalene Engel

Next month's session will focus on strategic planning.

The committee discussed inviting a representative from another department each month to assure the committee is addressing each department's needs.

Jail Intake Assistance with Public Defender Applications

The committee addressed concerns about how jail intake workers may properly fill out public defender applications for defendants having difficulty doing so.

The committee addressed a similar concern about how court administration may help out-of-custody defendants.

Jail Update, Karin Sonneman

An architect and construction manager were selected and will be presented the County Board for approval.

The new jail is likely to be complete in three years.

The new jail is anticipated to have more specialty beds for mental health and juveniles. These beds may be available for other counties to use as well.

Misc./Issues for next Meeting – February 20,2020

Next month will focus on strategic planning.

The Warrant Resolution Day planning committee will meet next Thursday, 1/23/2020.

The committee will revisit the Expungement Clinic next month.

COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Winona County

February 20, 2020 | 8:00 a.m.

In Attendance

Judge Buytendorp, Carin Hyter, Karin Sonneman, Kalene Engel, Mike Kuehn, Karrie Espinoza, Trish Chandler, Steve Buswell

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 2020 meeting were approved.

Treatment Court Update, Carin Hyter

Treatment Court has 12 participants and will gain another shortly. Two participants are tentatively scheduled to graduate in March.

Last month Treatment Court had a guest speaker that has been in recovery long-term and an information session on Kratom. The participants appreciated both greatly.

Carin reached out to "Recovery Track," a GPS monitoring service. It is another tool that Treatment Court or probation could use to hold clients accountable.

Carin and a Treatment Court graduate will be speaking with the WSU Nursing and Criminal Justice programs.

Agency Bulletin Board and Brochure Displays, Carin Hyter

The committee reviewed different size and price options that Carin found. She will follow up based on the committee's feedback.

WRAP Program Update, Kalene Engel

36 participants were accepted in 2019. 11 have already been accepted in 2020.

The federal technical assistance advisors found that Trish having SSIS access in the jail was very positive. They also suggested having a social worker available in the jail.

Expungement Clinic, Kalene Engel

The proposed clinic would have two parts. A class about expungement that outlines the process and the information petitioners would need to apply. Followed by a clinic where volunteers work with petitioners to complete the needed paperwork.

LAOC hosts clinics at the Olmsted County Law Library. Kalene will attend the next one, on March 30, and report back to the committee.

A possible funding source for clinics here is the Winona Law Library.

Strategic Planning

Warrant Resolution: the committee is continuing to work on the project. The goal is to resolve 80% of eligible warrants this year.

E-Reminder system: Trish is already distributing information at the jail. The warrant resolution group will continue working to increase use of the program.

Probation Violation Specialty Court: issue is that most of the jail population are held on A&D warrants. Often defendants are taken into custody and released after 72 hours without a violation filed. The committee will seek input from probation on this issue.

Treatment Court: the committee will continue to explore ways to increase participation.

Court Scheduling and Calendar management: the committee will address various issues regarding the court calendars.

The committee will be a resource for the Family Treatment Court committee and provide input on the construction of the new jail.

Misc./Issues for next Meeting – March 19, 2020

The Courts Committee did not meet
in March or April of 2020

COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Winona County

May 28, 2020 | 8:15 a.m.

In Attendance

Judge Buytendorp, Judge Leahy, Julie Koop, Alex Thillman, Renee Rumpca Trisha Chandler, Preston Selleck, Karrie Espinoza, Marie Kovecsi, Mike Kuehn, Carin Hyter.

Approval of Minutes And Old Business

- The February minutes were approved.
- No old business to discuss.

Treatment Court Updates

I. Drug Treatment Court (Carin Hyter)

- a. There are currently 12 participants in the program.
- b. A lot of activities are on hold due to the pandemic. Court has been conducted via Zoom and it seems to be going well. None of the participants have missed virtual court.
- c. Staff have worked on new ideas to keep participants engaged such as working on a new recovery challenge program, and other activities related to "national treatment court month" (May). The Winona County Board signed a proclamation designating May as treatment court month.
- d. Two individuals are ready for graduation from the program. The ceremony will likely be held remotely.

II. Veteran Treatment Court (Preston Selleck)

- a. District wide, there are currently 19 participants. There are an additional 8 in the referral and screening stages.
- b. Winona County has 4 active participants and another 2 pending referrals.
- c. Remote court has been going well. A remote session was held on the Friday before Memorial Day.
- d. Mentor pairings have started. Some mentors were sworn in back in February before the pandemic.

WRAP Program Update, (Kalene Engel)

- I. There has been a decrease in WRAP participation due to fewer arrests being made. However, the remaining participants have greater needs.
- II. Funding may not be used up by the end of the grant period.
- III. The new WRAP program will differ from the current one in several respects, including:
 - a. There will be funding for a full time social worker in the jail.
 - b. Funding will be available for a full time community connector position at Hiawatha Valley Health Center to assist with post arrest needs. This is in addition to the Community Connector currently at Winona Health, who focus mainly on food security.

- c. Funding will be available for “cross-training” programs aimed at educating justice system personnel.

Update on Remote Hearings, Case Scheduling, and Plea Petitions

I. Remote Hearings Update (Judge Buytendorp, Karrie Espinoza)

- a. We are still in the remote phase of the Minnesota Supreme Court’s order. Courts have been encouraged to do as much remotely as possible. The Courthouse is working on a possible “soft opening” soon with Court Admin staff returning, on a limited basis, on June 15. Since switching to remote hearings, there has been a statewide decrease in “no shows” for hearings.
- b. Concerns were raised that Attorneys and others in the Zoom waiting room cannot respond back to Zoom waiting room messages from the Zoom host (Clerk or Court Reporter). Messages to the waiting room are only able to go one way.
 - i. As a workaround, Attorneys can email the Winonacourts email address if they have issues. The court clerks will be monitoring this email.
 - ii. If the attorney knows which court staff are working, they can email the court reporter regarding pre-hearing issues and the court clerk for issues during the hearing. The court reporters cannot respond to emails during the hearing.
 - iii. Additionally, clerks could ID themselves to the waiting room before the hearing so the Attorneys know who is clerking.
 - iv. There is a May 30 software update for Zoom that may or may not address this issue.
- c. Discussion on Zoom Best Practices/ Court Decorum Guidance for participants.
 - i. Judge Leahy and Judge Buytendorp both request that any observers to a hearing (not a party, attorney, or witness) label themselves as “observer,” mute their audio, and disable video. Additional video streams can be distracting.
 - ii. Court staff may work on developing a short message that can be sent to participants in the Zoom waiting room to inform them of some remote hearing courtesy items.
 - iii. Alex Thillman will work with Court Admin on creating a short list of decorum guidance and FAQ items to be sent out with the notice of hearing. Guidance will be based on existing resources such as current best practices on the Judicial Branch website. The guidance will address basic things such as: get to the Zoom waiting room 5-10 minutes before your hearing, mute yourself when you are not speaking, don’t walk around your house while you are on video, make sure your Zoom nametag is displaying your name, etc.
 - 1. Some of this information is available via a hyperlink in the new notice of Zoom hearing form. This issue will be tabled until the next meeting.

II. Update on Case Scheduling (Karrie Espinoza)

- a. Court staff working under the guidelines listed in the Chief Justices recent order. In June, Winona will mainly have Zoom hearings. Only a small number of hearings will take place at the courthouse. Current guidance is to not expand in-person cases

- b. July will still feature Zoom hearings. However, July 6 is being looked at as a possible date for a first jury trial. Social distancing protocols for in-person hearings are still being worked on.
- c. Once in-person hearings start back up it is expected that there will be a backlog of cases. Court Admin has dedicated one employee to proactively work on scheduling these cases before the Court opens back up.
- d. CHIPS cases are up to date and hearings for these can be held remotely.
- e. Discussion on backlog of probation violation hearings. (Renee Rumpca)
 - i. There is a buildup of cases.
 - ii. Under current guidance, the Court is not supposed to hear testimonial cases remotely. However, the court can hear testimony from probation officers for violation hearings.
 - iii. Discussed setting up subcommittee (County Attorney, Public Defender, Probation Office, etc.) to figure out the backlog. Subcommittee may be able to make recommendations on scheduling a block of probation cases.

III. Discussion on Plea Petition Process

- a. Attorneys are encouraged to submit plea petitions so that cases can be settled without a hearing.
- b. An issue was identified with some plea petitions: It appears that some plea petitions/ sentencing orders are missing the standard terms and conditions that are normally read into the record (remain law abiding, submit to testing, etc.). As a result, probations officers cannot enforce these conditions and have to submit a memo to the Court to impose these.
 - i. A best practice would be to have attorneys add these to the plea petitions.
 - ii. Renee Rumpca offered to create a list of general conditions to include in written plea petitions, and send them to the Public Defender and County Attorney's Office.
 - iii. As for the cases that are missing these conditions, Probation Staff can work with the County Attorney's Office and Public Defenders to discern whether the conditions are actually missing or were negotiated out by the parties.

Warrant Resolution Day Update (Kalene Engel)

- I. Will be revisited next meeting.
- II. Kalene Engel brought up the possibility of doing a virtual warrant resolution day.
 - a. Parties can appear remotely to take care of their warrant.
 - b. Has multiple benefits: 1) people wouldn't have to travel, 2) persons may be more likely to participate because they can appear without fear of arrest.
- III. Judge Buytendorp will work with Court Admin to start a pilot version of this. The Court will try to schedule a small number of these for a few weeks out to see how it goes.

Misc. / Issues for next Meeting

- Next Committee meeting will be Thursday June 25.
- Revisit idea of issuing additional decorum / best practices information in Zoom notice of hearing.
- Update on Virtual Warrant Resolution Day, results of pilot program.

COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Winona County

June 25, 2020 | 8:15 a.m. via Zoom

In Attendance

Judge Buytendorp, Judge Leahy, Julie Koop, Alex Thillman, Renee Rumpca Trisha Chandler, Marie Kovcesi, Kalene Engel, Karin Sonneman.

Approval of Minutes And Old Business

- The May minutes were approved.

Treatment Court Updates

I. **Drug Treatment Court** - Carin Hyter provided the following written update:

- Two participants graduated on 6/11 via Zoom. We have 11 participants in the program.
- Court will continue via Zoom until further notice. This format is working well for the participants.
- Large scale events for the remainder of the year have been cancelled, such as Soberfest and the Olmsted County Kickball Tournament.
- The state now requires all courts to create a sustainability plan, action plan for events and plan for three challenges we would like to work on over the next years' time. Our sustainability plan is in the early stages of development. Our action plan for monthly events is completed and approved by the state. The three challenges we are working on over the next year will be drug testing lab turnaround time (already mostly resolved as we switched companies to Premier Biotech in MN with a 48 hour turnaround time), new team member orientation and training. The challenges are based on best practices. Winona County had excellent results on our best practices survey and review last year, so we have minimal challenges to choose from in that regard to work on.
- The Family Dependency Treatment Court advisory group submitted necessary paperwork to the state requesting permission to move into the planning/application stage of the program. This was approved, so the group has completed the information gathering stage. After the planning/application stage will come implementation.
 - Judge Leahy and Kalene E. discussed how additional funding would be needed before the program could go forward. Judge Leahy has a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 30 to pursue this further.
- Marie K. Noted that been strong support for current diversion programs. Additionally, there are discussions about adding a county recovery specialist employee.
- Kalene E. noted that in the past Winona County had its own drug testing capabilities. Given the amount of testing that is currently being done, it was suggested that the County inquire about getting its own testing capabilities.

II. **Veteran Treatment Court** - Preston Selleck provided the following written update.

- District wide, there are currently 19 participants. There are an additional 8 in the referral and screening stages.
- Winona County has 4 active participants and another 2 pending referrals.

- c. Remote court has been going well. A remote session was held on the Friday before Memorial Day.
- d. Mentor pairings have started. Some mentors were sworn in back in February before the pandemic.
- e. Kalene E. mentioned that she would reach out to Preston to discuss funding requests

Warrant Resolution Update (Karrie E.)

- I. Karrie E. was not able to attend. She emailed saying she hasn't scheduled anything yet. Judge Buytendorp will work with Karrie E. to get a small number of warrant resolution hearings scheduled for the near future.
- II. Karin S. noted that her office has been working to identify warrants from old and inactive cases that can be quashed. So far, the County Attorney's Office has cleared out more than 100 old and inactive cases/ warrants. The goal of this project is identify and remove old warrants without the need for a hearing. Judge Buytendorp noted that she would check in with court administration regarding the status of these warrants.

Update on Remote Hearings, Case Scheduling, and Jury Trials

- I. **Remote Hearings Update** (Judge Buytendorp)
 - a. The Courts are still scheduling the majority of cases for Zoom hearings. However, Winona is in the process of resuming in-person hearings.
 - b. Update on Zoom Best Practices/ Court Decorum Guidance for participants.
 - i. Judge Leahy and Judge Buytendorp both prefer that observers to a hearing (not a party, attorney, or witness) label themselves as "observer," mute their audio, and disable video. Trish C. noted that she would resume attending first appearances as an observer.
 - ii. Both Judges said they have not noticed many issues with court decorum. It was determined that issuing further decorum guidelines for remote hearings is not needed at this time. Guidelines have been sent to the county attorneys. Additionally, there is a link to the State's Zoom court guidelines provided in the hearing notice and the Public Defender's office has an explanatory video that they share with their clients on this.
- II. **Update on Case Scheduling** (Judge Buytendorp)
 - a. Judge Buytendorp discussed the need to resume the scheduling of hearings that were previously put on hold because of the pandemic such as juvenile cases and implied consents.
 - b. Judge Buytendorp will work with Karrie E. to schedule implied consent hearings.
 - c. Rebecca Church from the County Attorney's office is working with DOC to try and schedule hearings for juvenile cases. Judge Buytendorp requested that once the County Attorney's Office and DOC come to an agreement that the list of cases be sent to her to accommodate scheduling. Committee members noted concern that the condition of many of these juveniles was deteriorating due to the case delays.
- III. **Jury Trial Update**
 - a. In-person hearings are starting again. There is no pre-approval paperwork needed to request an in-person hearing. However, pre-approval is still required for jury trial requests.
 - b. Plexiglas barriers have been set up in courtrooms in accordance with safety guidelines.

- c. The paperwork to resume jury trials was submitted and came back with a few comments and questions. These were addressed and the paperwork was resubmitted.
- d. Questionnaires have gone out to 60 prospective jurors. In the near future, there will be a test run on jury selection, furniture in visiting judge's room will be removed, and instructions will be provided for proper social distancing of jurors.

IV. Inmate Contact Information (Trish C.)

- a. Members noted concerns that when in-person court resumes, there may be a spike in failures to appear.
- b. Currently many inmates are getting a notice of their next Zoom hearing date after their first appearance. This date has been listed in the written release conditions.
- c. Both Judges noted they have been mindful of defendants who experience tech related issues. Examples were given of many defendants who had been in contact with their attorney, but then missed the Zoom hearing. Due to this, the Judges indicated that they have been more reluctant to immediately issue failure to appear warrants and have instead tried to reschedule the hearings and use warrants as a secondary option.

Misc. / Issues for next Meeting

- Meetings will go back to regular schedule and will be held on the third Thursday of the month.
- Update on warrant resolution.

COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Winona County

July 16, 2020 | 8:15 a.m. via Zoom

In Attendance

Judge Buytendorp, Judge Leahy, Preston Selleck, Renee Rumpca, Mike Kuehn, Alex Thillman, Brenda K., Dave Glithero, Marie Kovecsi, Karin Sonneman, Trish Chandler, Carin Hyter, Kalene Engel

Approval of Minutes And Old Business

- The June minutes were approved.

Treatment Court Updates

I. Drug Treatment Court - Carin Hyter

- Currently 11 participants in the program. Next Graduation on August 20, 2020.
- Activities and events plan was approved by the State and is in place for next year.
- Most participants have been working during COIVD, but have reduced hours. Fortunately, participants were able to spend more time at Restored Blessings as a result.
- Fiscal year recently ended. The budget was slightly exceeded due to COVID, but the district stepped in and provided extra funds.
- Family dependency treatment court is slated to meet 1-2 times a month. The draft budget is being reviewed.

II. Veteran Treatment Court - Preston Selleck

- Preston predicts that they will soon be up to 27 participants district wide, 7 current participants are from Winona.
- The Court has actually split into two courts (east and west) to better serve the participants who often live in rural areas.
- Treatment Court is held twice a month and is based on the Steele county calendar.
- The calendar and Zoom links for court future court sessions will be attached and sent out with the minutes. However, anyone who wants to attend staffing meetings will have to sign a confidentiality agreement.
- They have started to do hybrid Zoom/ in person hearings.
- Two of the program mentors have started a peer support group for after the court sessions that are veteran specific.
- The treatment court's very first graduation is being planned for September 11, 2020. This will likely be an outdoor in-person ceremony

Warrant Resolution Update (Judge Buytendorp)

- Three virtual warrant resolution hearings have been placed on the calendar for July 30 at 2pm.
- Karin S. noted that her office has addressed over 100 old warrants already and will continue to look for more.

Update on Zoom Hearings (Judge Buytendorp)

- I. The vast majority of hearings will be held via Zoom through at least the end of the year.
- II. Attorneys can request that a hearing be held in person. The Judges will then determine if there is good cause to allow an in person hearing.
- III. Karin S. noted difficulty with Zoom hearings being changed to in person at the last minute. There was some confusion with court administration and the Court is addressing this confusion.

WRAP update (Kalene E.)

- I. Quarterly reporting finished. There was a notable decrease.
- II. Kalene will be requesting an extension of grant funding and will also be hearing about another grant application soon.
- III. Make sure to keep the WRAP requests coming so that the funding can be used up. There is a surplus of funds due to many organizations providing COVID relief funds.

Expungements (Kalene E.)

- I. Discussed forming an expungement clinic.
- II. One of the biggest barriers for people experiencing homelessness is addressing their criminal history. This can prevent them from getting housing in many situations.
- III. Karin S. noted that there has been an increase in expungement requests.
- IV. Kalene, Karin, Carin, and potentially someone from the public defender's office will be forming a workgroup to discuss this idea further.

Issues with Case Scheduling (Karin S.)

- I. Karin noted a several issues her office was experiencing with scheduling. For example:
 - a. Speeding cases were being scheduled outside of traffic court blocks.
 - b. When a criminal complaint is filed, a date is not always set.
 - c. Omnibus hearing notices are not indicating if they are contested or not.
 - d. General issues with case backlog.
- II. A meeting has been set for July 29, 2020 where the Judges, Mike K, and Karin S will meet with Court Administration to address this.

Jail Design and Construction

- I. Jail design and construction committee has been started. They could break ground on the new facility next April at the earliest.
- II. Future county meetings on this will be noticed on the County website.
- III. The current plan calls for 78-98 beds. Juvenile beds and mental health beds are also being discussed.
- IV. The focus is on making the new jail a multi-purpose facility. However, it was noted that cost has been an issue.

Misc. / Issues for next Meeting

- Kalene noted that there has been a change in Section 8 policy in Wabasha County, and as a result it has become much easier to get vouchers there.
- Update on warrant resolution hearings.
- Update on Expungement clinic workgroup discussions.

COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Winona County

August 20, 2020 | 8:15 a.m. via Zoom

In Attendance

Judge Buytendorp, Judge Leahy, Preston Selleck, Karrie Espinoza, Dave Glithero, Trish Chandler, Karin Sonneman, Rene Krause (SMRLS), Julie Koop, Alex Thillman, Kalene Engel, Marie Kovecsi

Approval of Minutes And Old Business

- I. **Minutes** - The July minutes were approved.
- II. **Update on Warrant Resolution Hearings**
 - a. The Court had several hearings scheduled via Zoom but no defendants showed up. This seems to be an issue with old addresses. It was suggested that next time, we need to research the defendants to see if there are new addresses available.
 - b. Members suggested making a small committee to get addresses of proposed warrant resolution defendants. The proposed committee could include people from both the County Attorney's Office (CAO) and the Public Defender's Office (PD). The CAO support staff has experience with tracking down addresses and they could be a valuable resource.
 - c. The proposed committee can pick small group of warrants to focus on finding addresses for. Members discussed starting with the oldest 25 warrants on file, etc. Once identified, the CAO can send the list of warrants to Court Administration, the PD, and the Department of Corrections, who can collaborate on finding address. Court Admin said they will get a fresh list of active warrants and send it to CAO.
 - d. Karrie E. mentioned that there is a current process for review of old warrants via an administrative order signed by the Chief Judge. This order is only directed at eliminating non-targeted misdemeanor and juvenile warrants. Under this order, prosecutors will be sent a notice of warrants older than 5 years. The CAO then has choice to dismiss the matter, certify it as a petty misdemeanor, or extend warrant for 2 years. This process does not cover adult criminal warrants.
 - e. Karin S. discussed how the warrant resolution/ dismissal process is different than the administrative warrant review mentioned by Karrie E. The administrative review process does not cover all warrants that could be dismissed. What's left are on the list are cases that are not old enough to dismiss outright, or cases of a more serious nature that still need to be addressed.
- III. **Update: Expungement clinic workgroup discussions**
 - a. Kalene E. invited Rene Krause from Southern Minnesota Regional Law Services (SMRLS) to attend.
 - b. The expungement workgroup had some discussions with folks in Olmstead County who run an expungement clinic in Rochester.
 - c. The Olmstead clinic determined that the best way to run the clinic is to schedule 15 minute one on one zoom or in persons meetings to walk clients through expungement. After being provided the paperwork, it is then up to the client to fill it out and file for the expungement. They also determined that it's best to limit it to 8 participants per clinic.

- d. As it turns out, one of the Olmsted clinic participants was actually someone from Winona County. Technically this would have disqualified them from the Olmstead clinic. However, they made an exception. This shows that there likely is a population in Winona County that could use these services.
- e. Rene Krause expressed interest in service as a clinic coordinator if Winona wanted to start their own expungement clinic. Members noted that this seems like a low cost and easy way to help people with expungements.
- f. Judge Buytendorp brought up referring this idea to the Winona Law Library committee. The Law Library has budget and could potentially fund the clinic. Members mentioned that Rene Krause should be added to the Law Library Committee. At one point, the Law Library even had a part time law librarian. Members also mentioned working with Winona State University. The University has paralegals/ pre-law and paralegal students that have previously been interested in assisting with this type of work and could assist people with filling out forms.

Treatment Court Updates

I. Drug Treatment Court – Per Carin Hyter’s written submission:

- a. Treatment Court has 10 participants with one graduating tomorrow via Zoom. Bridget Chick, our graduate, held a community fundraiser two weekends ago for Grace Place as her way of giving back to the community before graduation. She was able to raise \$700 through her garage sale and donations for the Grace House Transitional Shelter.
- b. Our next quarterly MN Treatment Court Coordinator meeting is scheduled for 9/16 via Zoom. Updates about the statewide case management system will be provided at that time. Prior to COVID-19, the planning group was expecting a pilot program launch this fall.
- c. Participants and graduates continue to be in good health overall. Compliance (drug testing, home visits, progress with case plan goals, etc.) during COVID-19 has been very good.
- d. Family Dependency Treatment Court planning continues moving forward. Our next meeting is on 8/25 at 12:00pm. We will be discussing funding/grant resources.
- e. Our monthly Aftercare (Alumni) group will resume on September 1st. Our weekly CAMO (Criminal Thinking) group will resume on September 14th. Proper COVID-19 protocols will be in place. We will conduct these groups outdoors at Sobieski Park.

II. Veteran Treatment Court - Preston Selleck

- a. Additional information including the link for the commencement ceremony and the Veteran’s Treatment Court Schedule was previously sent out to committee members in July.
- b. There are currently 23 participants district wide, with an additional 7 people in the screening process.
- c. The Veteran’s Treatment Court will be holding its first graduation outdoors in Rochester on September 11. The participants will also be the keynote speakers.

Topic: Eviction Diversion Program (Kalene E.)

- I. This was a follow up item from Kalene’s meeting with the expungement clinic folks in Rochester. The Rochester group was working on ideas to try and address evictions before they get to court.
- II. This topic is relevant to current events due to the potential flood of eviction filings that may occur after the COVID19 eviction moratorium is lifted. Members noted that evictions are a “black mark” on a person’s record and lead to trouble getting housing in the future.

- III. Karrie E. mentioned that approximately 10 evictions filed in Winona County since March 13, 2020. Of the ten, five were public safety related and were therefore set for hearings. At least five are still outstanding. Eviction filings made during the COVID19 moratorium are confidential and not currently viewable by the public.
- IV. Karrie E. also noted that the mere fact that an eviction has been filed can be problematic for people, even if the eviction was settled or resolved. Currently the abovementioned confidentiality may be helping people in this regard.
- V. Marie Kovcesi said that if the Committee thinks there will be an influx of evictions, it would be a good idea to put something together now so that COVID CARES money could be used.
- VI. Members expressed interest in starting a workgroup. However, due to the time issue this would need to be done sooner rather than later. Karin S. said that she will work on putting together a work group.

Topic: How the future use of remote hearing technology could impact the County's jail redevelopment plans. (Steven Buswell, Judge Buytendorp, Judge Leahy)

- I. The Jail is in the process of space planning for the future facility. Jail staff were curious on whether Zoom hearings would continue in the future and if they should plan for this in their redesign.
- II. Currently, the Jail is working on adding small areas so that Zoom hearings could be done from multiple locations within the Jail. But, because cost is an issue they want to know if this is something that should be kept in the plan.
- III. Members thought that it was likely that remote hearings would continue in the future for certain case types and certain hearing types and that remote hearings won't go away completely. Members' thoughts were that in the post-COVID future there will be a hybrid model.
- IV. Judge Leahy thought it would be likely for remote hearings to continue for shorter criminal hearings such as initial appearances. She also mentioned that any future Zoom room in the jail should have a space for the defense attorney to be in the room with the client. The lack of communication with clients has been a point of resistance against Zoom hearings mentioned by defense attorneys. Future design plans should attempt to accommodate this concern.

Topic: Court dates and scheduling for criminal matters with a diversion disposition. (Karin S.)

- I. CAO communicated with Karrie E. and they are working through this issue.
- II. Karrie E. noted that Court Admin has a review process for cases with a diversion disposition: 30 days after the end date of the stay of disposition, the case is sent for a "dismissal review" by Court Administration staff. If there are no violations or reported failures in the file, the file gets dismissed. Court Admin would like the CAO to make sure they notify Court Admin when there is a failed diversion disposition so that the case does not get erroneously dismissed.
- III. Karrie E. also mentioned that if a defendant with paused pandemic cases comes in on a new charge, Court Admin will then add their pandemic status cases to the calendar again so the cases will all be heard together.
- IV. This process excludes payable tickets that are listed as "VB" files. There is another administrative process for this and Court Admin doesn't want these files to be lumped in with criminal cases as a process already exists for the VB files.

Topic: In custody medical information given via inmates. (Trish C. & Dave G.)

- I. County Jail staff wanted to mention that they offer free COVID testing to inmates in the jail.
- II. The majority of inmates do not want to be tested. However, the testing capability exists and is available.

Topic: WRAP CARES Funding (Kalene E.)

- I. The County allocated \$10,000 to the WRAP program for COVID related expenses. The criteria for accessing these funds is much more relaxed than the traditional criteria. However, this money will expire if it is not spent before the deadline.
- II. For example, this money could go toward covering costs for conditions of release in some cases. The money cannot be used for cash bail. However, the money can be applied to other terms of release that are often cost prohibitive such as the drug patch, electronic alcohol monitoring, and GPS monitoring.
- III. Judge Buytendorp mentioned using this to pay for things such as GPS monitoring and alcohol monitoring and said that prosecutors and defense attorneys should keep these funds in mind when thinking of release conditions.
- IV. The committee also discussed excluding detainees who have a history of non-compliance with release conditions (such as drug patch). Members wanted to avoid wasting money on people trying to game the system.

COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Winona County

September 17, 2020 | 8:15 a.m. via Zoom

In Attendance

Becky Brandt, Alex Thillman, Karin Sonneman, Preston Selleck, Trish Chandler, Steve Buswell, Kalene Engel, Julie Koop, Mike Kuehn, Renee Rumpca, Judge Buytendorp, Carin Hyter.

Approval of Minutes And Old Business

- I. **Minutes** - The August minutes were approved.
- II. **Update: Expungement Clinic Workgroup (Kalene)**
 - a. Members did not have much to report. The law library committee meeting appears not to have been held.
 - b. Karin S. will follow up with Stephanie Nuttall to try and set up library committee dates.
 - c. Workgroup may have news to report after law library committee meeting is held.
- III. **Update: Eviction Diversion Program (Kalene)**
 - a. Committee members had another Zoom meeting with SMRLS to talk about their eviction diversion programs.
 - b. SMRLS wanted to know if Winona is interested in becoming part of the SMRLS “network” for dealing with evictions. SMRLS and Legal Aid of Olmstead County partnered together to address evictions in Olmsted County. Dodge and Steele counties are also part of this network.
 - c. Kalene’s notes from the SMRLS meeting are attached to the minutes and contain a more detailed description of SMRLS’ approach to dealing with evictions.
 - d. This topic will be discussed at the next Judges meeting.

Treatment Court Updates

- I. **Drug Treatment Court (Carin)**
 - a. Treatment Court currently has eight participants in the program. They are hoping to be up to ten by next month
 - b. One of the Treatment Court’s graduates was recently featured in the Winona Daily News.
 - c. The State Treatment Court Coordinator Meeting was held on September 16. The following were some highlights from that meeting:
 - i. Fiscal year 22’-23’ might have budget shortages. Winona’s Treatment Court is planning to pre-purchase some items during this current fiscal cycle because expenditures were lower than expected. Treatment Court is hoping it can use funding now to prepare for the projected shortage later.
 - ii. Winona County’s participant numbers are low right now. However, due to the recent merger with Wabasha County, Carin is not concerned about a reduction in funding.
 - iii. Virtual treatment provider training is upcoming.

- iv. Funds may be available for a Treatment Court evaluation. If this is to be pursued, staff would need to secure an evaluator by November. Winona has not had an evaluation in some time and getting one may prove to be useful.
- v. New Case Management System: A new statewide case management program is rolling out in October. This will be a big change for treatment court coordinators and will include daily data entry. This system will make more data reports available across the state.
- d. The aftercare alumni group is back up and running.
- e. A grant application is being worked on to fund peer specialist expenses and other costs.

II. Veteran Treatment Court (Preston)

- a. The September 11th graduation in Rochester went well. Two participants from Winona graduated.
- b. Veteran's Treatment Court still has six participants from Winona, which is the most of any county. Overall the court is doing very well in terms of numbers.
- c. Earlier this year, Preston was meeting with different CJCC equivalent groups in other counties to try and increase recruitment. This slowed down due to COVID. However, these efforts are picking back up.

WRAP Program Updates (Kalene)

- I. The WRAP program is ending on September 30, 2020 and any last minute funding requests need to be made ASAP.
- II. Kalene is hoping to get within \$10,000 of what the total award was.
- III. COVID related WRAP funds will be available beyond September 30. There is an additional \$10,000 of these funds available.

Welcome to Winona County: New Court Administrator Becky Brandt

- I. Becky is the new Winona County Court Administrator and is also the Fillmore County Court Administrator.
- II. She plans to meet with Judges and Justice partners and will work on scheduling and revise the process

Miscellaneous

- I. Karin S. noted that defense attorneys and prosecutors were getting notices without the Zoom link. However, this is being addressed by Court Administration.
- II. Kalene wanted members to know about efforts from the Community Outreach Committee. Members will be getting a short video featuring Karin describing her job to the public. This project will eventually include short videos from other members of the justice system and legal community.

Eviction Diversion Zoom Meeting

8/26/20

Present: Kalene Engel, Karin Sonneman, Mary Vrieze, Karen Nath, Marie Kovecsi, Karrie Espinoza, Renee Krause, Carin Hyter

PRE-COVID PROGRAM:

- PARTNERS/INITIATORS
 - SMRLS and Legal Assistance of Olmsted County and Lutheran Social Services partnered for a pre-covid program.
 - Brian Lipford, who is the regional director with SMRLS was quite involved in the formation.
 - Typically the landlord is represented by legal counsel whereas the tenant who is being evicted for nonpayment is not; therefore they are at a disadvantage and lose, even if they have a grounds to get the matter dismissed.
 - When there were attorneys on both sides, they were often able to work out agreements.
 - There's an article in the 2019 Bench and Bar Magazine that talks about the importance of having an attorney work with a client on evictions.
 - Other counties are mostly doing advice only.
 - They also received buy-in from Olmsted County Social Services and were able to qualify people for emergency assistance right away and then helped them negotiate with the LL, because they knew if there was funding available. The county assigned a financial worker to them (Ken) and he came to court. It was so helpful to know right away whether they qualified for ER or what documents they needed.
- FUNDING
 - They applied for a Mayo Shared Values Award and, to their surprise, received it.
 - LSS was also the keeper of the cash
 - They were given 10K for client funding to help individuals being evicted.
- CONCEPT/RATIONALE/JUDICIAL SUPPORT
 - The judges were very happy that they were going to do something to assist with evictions.
 - The concept behind the clinic was that it was a one-stop shop for people facing eviction.
 - Legal aid organizations would be at the courthouse to provide legal assistance and LSS would be present to provide budgeting assistance
 - LSS wanted to do education re: finances. At first, they wanted to get people into a two hour class but found that wasn't feasible so they tried to provide mini sessions in the lobby of the courthouse on budgeting
- PROCESS
 - Court Admin
 - Prior to the clinic, the eviction hearings were 1x/week. In Jan of 2019 they expanded to twice a week, Monday pm and Thursday am. They designated 6 judicial officers who would rotate to hear the cases. They worked hard in Olmsted County to educate the judicial officers and landlords about eviction.

- Olmsted Co was so happy to have the eviction diversion program that they tailored the Summons to include language about the eviction clinic and also put in the Summons that the people should arrive ½ hour earlier than scheduled.
 - Olmsted County also gave them copies of the S&C for evictions a week in advance so they could check into the ER assistance issue and to see if the landlord had a rental license
 - Equipment/Space
 - The Law Library kept their printer and a two drawer file cabinet so they could keep some of their stuff there
 - Legal Aid has a desk where people arrive and the first thing they do is ask if a person is there due to an eviction and if they want help.
 - Legal Aid
 - One day prior to the hearings, Legal Aid would check to see if any cases settled.
 - Then they did a quick income qualification; the vast majority of people facing and eviction were low income.
 - If they needed interpreters, Mary Vrieze would let the court know right away.
 - The next step after qualification was a release of information so SMRLS, LAOC and LSS could all talk to each other and a representation agreement.
 - SMRLS handled mobile home and subsidized housing evictions and LAOC did the rest. The rep agreement was specific to the organization.
 - The attorneys present would meet with the client to gather facts and then negotiate with the LL attorneys.
 - They would look at issues such as if the late fees were within the 8% that was legal; was it four months behind or more.
 - In 80% of the cases, they were able to negotiate with the landlord, whether it be a pay and stay (pay rent and stay living there) or an extended period to move out and/or an expungement of the eviction
 - The attorneys would appear in court with people (other counties are doing advice only).
 - Most judges would be ok with a statement on the records that “we settled and will file documents”
 - They would then file the IFP papers, Cert of Rep, Settlement agreement, etc.
 - At the end of the appointments they did try to get surveys as far as client satisfaction

Post-COVID Program:

- Issue is that they feel they will be flooded with evictions and want to be able to manage the caseload. It is going to be hard to get on court calendar.
- Court
 - Agreed to have 25 max evictions per week (held on Mondays)
 - Agreed to have notices go out and then continue the hearings for 3 weeks to allow for settlement conferences
 - If settled, great.
 - If not settled, will be a trial 3 weeks later (on Thursday)
- Referrals of clients to SMRLS:

- They are telling landlords that if you have people that you are working with who you are contacting about evictions, have the tenants call SMRLS and do the intake to make sure they are eligible.
- A lot of their referrals are from the school district; they've had 15 or more call within the last two months.
- CHAP Program is available for COVID funding; some people may not want to dip into their one time funding from COVID
- The Deadlines for scheduling were lifted for 60 days after the peacetime ER order; it gives them time to get caught up.
- Judges to talk to who are in support – King.
- We could possibly join SMRLS with three other counties; might be most effective.
- Karrie Espinoza said we had 123 evictions in 2019 and currently have a dozen sitting in the hopper right now; about 2 or 3 are public safety issues.
- Karrie will talk to the judges.
- People would have to call the SMRLS intake lines
- Robin Hoesley in Steele County put the schedule together for the outlying counties.

COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Winona County

October 15, 2020 | 8:15 a.m. via Zoom

In Attendance

Mike Kuehn, Preston Selleck, Karin Sonneman, Becky Brandt, Alex Thillman, Julie Koop, Christina Galewski, Trish Chandler, Judge Buytendorp, Kalene Engel, Marie Kovecsi, Carin Hyter

Approval of Minutes And Workgroup Updates

- I. **Minutes** - The September minutes were approved.
- II. **Update: Expungement Clinic Workgroup**
 - a. The County Law Library Committee had a meeting on October 9th and discussed the proposed expungement program. The committee also discussed Olmstead County's Expungement Clinic process.
 - b. The Law Library Committee indicated that they have a 10 hour a week law librarian that could assist with the clinic. However, volunteer attorneys would be needed to successfully staff the clinic.
 - c. The Winona County Law Librarian will reach out to Olmstead County to see how they run their clinic.
 - d. This topic was also brought up at the Winona County Bar Association meeting and will be discussed again at the November meeting.
 - e. Finally, the Minnesota Attorney General's website has resources for expungements. This information was circulated at the meeting. Members indicated that they will look into this further to determine if the Attorney General's Office individually examines each expungement request. This link is as follows: <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/Expungement.asp>
- III. **Update: Eviction Diversion Program**
 - a. This was also discussed at the Law Library meeting. The workgroup has been focusing on what the post-COVID clinic format will look like due to the predicted increase in eviction filings.
 - b. One idea was to reach out to tenants and landlords before cases are filed and try to funnel them into the SMRLS system. If a case has already been filed, volunteer attorneys would likely be needed.
 - c. SMRLS would likely be the organization taking the lead on interacting with tenants. Additionally, training would be provided for attorneys who want to volunteer their time. The focus would be on settling these type of cases.
 - d. Members also discussed methods to advertise the program and make prospective clients aware of its existence.
 - e. Becky is working on a resource sheet that will go out with eviction summons when they are filed.

Treatment Court Updates

I. Drug Treatment Court (Carin)

- a. Winona Treatment Court was celebrating its 8 year anniversary this month. There have been a total of 37 graduates in that time.
- b. There are currently nine participants in the program. In the past few months, Treatment Court had several alumni who were successfully discharged from probation.
- c. Carin recently talked with the state treatment court coordinator about getting an evaluation. She also spoke to two evaluators from the national drug court organization. Winona's Treatment Court has already collected much of the data that would be needed for such an evaluation, so its application for an evaluator may be more successful.
- d. The team is starting to plan for budget cuts in the FY 22-23 cycle.
- e. Carin is looking into the possibility of hiring an intern for the spring semester.
- f. Family dependency treatment court is meeting monthly.

II. Veteran's Court (Preston)

- a. The program is up to thirty participants district wide. Of those thirty, six were from Winona County.
- b. BGA federal grant review was received one week prior to the committee meeting. The review went well as expected. Evaluators were impressed with what was achieved in a relatively short time during a pandemic. Recommendations were: 1) figuring out how to involve probation in all 11 counties; 2) Get a full time defense attorney on the team; 3) consider hiring an independent case manager, and; 4) look at setting up internship program with local colleges and universities.

WRAP Program Updates

- I. Kalene is still waiting to hear about grant applications. The federal government rolled out a new grant management system which has caused delays.
- II. Reporting for the end of one of the other federal grants is almost completed and an evaluation should be received shortly.
- III. COVID WRAP funds expire at the end of the month. Kalene is getting more requests but, at the time of the committee meeting, only a few thousand of the \$10,000 had been spent. It was noted that the application is very simple and people are encouraged to apply.

Drug Docket Days (Judge Buytendorp)

- I. Recently Anoka County District Court held a three day event where more than 200 gross misdemeanor and low level felony controlled substance cases were scheduled. The hearings were held in a large community event space and social distancing and safety protocols were observed. Anoka County had two courtrooms running simultaneously throughout the three day event with defendants, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, and court staff all appearing in person.
- II. Winona County has a growing backlog of these type of cases. At the time of the Committee meeting, there were an estimated 95 gross misdemeanor or low level felony drug cases that were still unresolved.

- III.** Judge Buytendorp was interested in seeing if Winona could replicate the Anoka process and resolve these pending cases. A subcommittee has been created to work on planning the details.
- IV.** Plans are being made to have a similar event at the Winona County Courthouse on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 23 and 24).
- V.** These would all be in-person hearings. Additionally, there would be teams of both defense attorney and prosecutors who would be simultaneously negotiating plea deals and appearing in the courtroom. The County Attorney's Office has already assembled their teams for those dates.
- VI.** Christina Galeswski has made a spreadsheet with all 95 cases. Some cases have already been scheduled for contested omnibus hearings and others are scheduled for pretrial and jury trial. The County Attorney's Office wants to examine those types of case before notice goes out.
- VII.** As of the time of the Committee meeting, no notices for the November 23 and 24 dates had been sent out. However, the two dates were blocked off on the Court's calendar.

COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Winona County

November 19, 2020 | 8:15 a.m. via Zoom

In Attendance

Karin Sonneman, Becky Brandt, Judge Buytendorp, Alex Thillman, Julie Koop, Kalene Engel, Marie Kovcesi, Carin Hyter

Approval of Minutes And Workgroup Updates

I. Minutes - The October minutes were approved.

II. Update: Expungement Clinic Workgroup

- a. Kalene followed up with the Attorney General's Office regarding their statewide expungement program. Kalene was able to talk with the person hired to run the AG's expungement program.
- b. The AG's expungement program is a prosecutor run program. The AG office determines eligibility based on what is submitted to them. If the eligibility criteria is met, the AG's office then contacts the prosecuting authority in the person's county of residence.
- c. The AG program has received roughly 1,100 applications within one month and staff was only able to review 75 so far. Essentially, there is a lot of interest in the statewide program, but it seems understaffed. At least 2 of the applicants came from Winona County.
- d. Karin indicated that she would be willing to review all of the Winona expungement filings from the AG program herself, as she is the one who handled expungement requests for the County.
- e. The Committee also discussed how other counties (Hennepin, Ramsey, etc.) have online expungement requests on their county websites. Members expressed interest in developing a similar online form on the Winona County website.

III. Update: Eviction Diversion Program

- a. New flyer for the program was circulated to local landlord groups and attorneys who represent landlords. The flyer is also attached with the Minutes.
- b. The program was also discussed at the latest Winona County Bar Association meeting as a pro bono opportunity.

Treatment Court Updates

I. Drug Treatment Court

- a. Currently 9 participants in the program. It is anticipated that more will be sentenced into the program by the end of November.
- b. Carin said it has been a trying month for participants and graduates. Many have reported mental health issues and relapses from isolation during quarantine.
- c. There were 3 positive COVID cases in participant and graduate pool.
- d. Application for funds from state for program evaluation was granted. Winona State University will be partnering with Treatment Court for the evaluation.
- e. Treatment Court will be offering an internship opportunity in the spring semester.

- f. State Treatment Court quarterly meeting will be held next week. Discussion will mainly concern how to function during the ongoing pandemic.
- g. Family Dependency Treatment Court continues to meet monthly, still seeking grant funding.

II. Veteran's Court

- a. Veteran's Court has moved to an online only format due to COVID.
- b. Nothing further was reported.

WRAP Program Updates

- I. The old WRAP program has concluded. The County Board approved a WRAP+ grant.
- II. There will be a meeting held in December to discuss WRAP+.
- III. COVID WRAP has roughly \$7,100 paid out of the total award of \$10,000. With outstanding bills, Kalene anticipates that they will be close to using up the entire award.
- IV. Remaining money is being prioritized based on when bills/ rent come due.

Drug Docket Days

- I. The event had to be switched to Zoom only due to COVID. Will only be a one day event on November 23, 2020.
- II. The committee discussed a potential issue with E-signatures on plea petitions.

Open Discussion

- I. COVID Update – Jury trials are suspended until February and the Courts will be using Zoom as much as possible.

COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Winona County

December 17, 2020 | 8:15 a.m. via Zoom

Approval of Minutes And Ongoing Updates

- I. Minutes** - The November minutes were approved.
- II. Treatment Court Update (Carin Hyter)**
 - a. There are currently ten participants in the program as well as several other serious inquiries into the program on the horizon.
 - b. Carin reported that there have been more positive developments with the program participants since her last update.
 - c. Plans for a program evaluation are being finalized and will start in January.
 - d. Treatment Court now has a new intern who will start on January 11, 2021. The intern may also be free to help other programs with projects such as WRAP+ and others.
 - e. Treatment Court held a policy meeting on December 17th. The aim is to publish these policies publicly on the County website.
 - f. Carin reported that a grant was submitted for family dependency treatment court.
- III. Veteran's Court Update (Preston Selleck)**
 - a. Veteran's Court is up to 29 participants throughout the Third Judicial District. They are divided into two separate treatment courts, East and West. Six of these participants are from Winona. There has still been a sizable inflow of participants into the program even with fewer cases being processed in the system.
 - b. A program evaluation was recently completed. The biggest recommendation from this was for the team to fully staff all team positions. Currently Veteran's Court is in need of a full time Law Enforcement representative and probation agent. A full time defense attorney was recently found. Preston noted that team members do not need to be current or former military service members and that they would welcome more civilian involvement.
 - c. Veteran's Court received several applications for an internship from Winona State University. The internship would start in the spring semester of 2021.

WRAP+ Updates (Kalene Engel)

- I.** The program has established five implementation subgroups. These will be set up similar to CJCC. There is a task force that meets monthly with the implementation groups meeting sporadically and then giving updates to the task force.

- II. There will be no money available for the first nine months of the program. This first phase is designed as a planning and development stage, meaning no funds will be available. There is going to be a webpage created on the CJCC website that will contain all of the relevant program information.
- III. Members discussed the proposed Winona Police Department alternative response team and how that could be an additional resource that could be used in conjunction with WRAP+.
- IV. The program was selected for a “sequential intercept map” workshop grant. This program examines every way a person could be diverted out of the criminal justice system with a particular focus on mental health issues.

Expungement Clinic Update (Kalene Engel)

- I. Last month, members talked about adding a “button” to the Attorney General’s expungement website to get a direct link to Winona. Kalene confirmed that this is possible and the AG’s office is ready to set up a link as soon as Winona County populates its own webpage.
- II. Karin Sonneman spoke to the Ramsey and Washington County Attorneys about their expungement programs websites. She was also able to connect with staff from the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office to work on this. Assistant Winona County Attorney Stephanie Nuttall was handling this from the Winona County Side.
- III. The proposed expungement clinic was also discussed at the Law Library Committee meeting. Members suggested that they could hold a virtual expungement clinic two times a year. This topic may also be discussed at the Winona County Bar Association meeting in January. It is possible that there may be a first attempt to do a Zoom expungement session as soon as March or April of next year

Multiple File Docket in February (Judge Buytendorp)

- I. The Court is planning to hold a special session in February for defendants who have multiple active criminal files. The goal is to schedule all of a defendant’s cases together at one time. This would help address the current case backlog.
- II. The format would be similar to the Drug Docket that was held in November. Members discussed the success of the November Drug Docket. During that session, Judge Buytendorp handled 74 files in in one day. Of those, 32 files were resolved. After the Drug Docket, Winona had a higher case clearance percentage than all of the other counties in the third judicial district. Winona’s Court Administration even received requests from other counties on how to do this type of Court session.
- III. Court Administration will be working to identify defendants with multiple open files and find out how many times they have had cases continued.
- IV. These sessions will be scheduled on February 16, 17, and 18 of 2021 before Judge Buytendorp. A different date for sentencing hearings would then be scheduled one to two weeks after.
- V. Renee Rumpca mentioned that DOC had some issues with the drug docket because they had to prepare sentencing worksheets for cases that did not settle. The sentencing commission apparently requires that these worksheet must be deleted if the settlement does not go through. This creates extra work for DOC staff. Members discussed forming an informal workgroup to study this issue further.

- VI. There will be another planning meeting with all the parties involved before the scheduled court sessions.

Open Discussion Items

- I. Kalene wanted to remind everyone to fill out the CJCC survey and work on their video clips.
- II. Karin mentioned that County Board will be discussing recommendations for jail design and construction at their December 22, 2020 meeting. They are currently discussing an 80 bed jail, with a jail only building. This will be separate from the law enforcement center but will still be connected to the Courthouse tunnel. The proposal is smaller than originally anticipated. The county board will also be looking at a phased approach to remodeling law enforcement center and perhaps creating a juvenile detention center. There has been significant pushback against the new jail proposal from community groups, however none of these groups were involved in the earlier jail planning process.