

Jail Programming Workgroup
A Workgroup of the CJCC Jail and Jail Alternatives Committee
MINUTES Monday March 27 2023

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81689040974?pwd=WDdKZGhZNk1xaEwyaGIHNERzZzdZZz09>

Attendance: Rachel Stoll, Chris Meyer, Sheriff Ron Ganrude, Jay Palmer, Tara Brown, Eileen Hanson, Kelsie Horst, Carin Hyter, Mike Kuehn, Tim H, Terri Kopka, Gracie Kafar, Katie Schild, Chris Dahlke, Sister Agnes Mary Graves, Maurella Cunningham, Mark Jacobson

Review of Purpose (as agreed to at 2/27/23 meeting)

Assist in providing a broad array of programming in the Winona County jail by engaging community organizations and inviting their participation.

Roles:

Facilitator - Rachel will send out agenda and meeting link, agenda items can added by anyone in the group.

Notes - Eileen Hanson will take notes

Outreach - Justin Green

County staff Liaison - Dave G has resigned his position ... County is currently seeking to hire for the jail programming position.

Please share an invitation to the group, and let Rachel know if anyone who you think should be included in the Jail Programming Committee.

Agenda:

Jail programming staff update: Dave G has resigned. Who will the jail programming committee work with moving forward? For now, Steve Buswell will be the contact until the programming staff position has been filled.

Jail Tour update: CJCC toured the jail last Wednesday

A lot of space for programming, many spaces and structural support for programming opportunities. Committee will need to be mindful of staff logistics in planning programs. Could do in-person in one area, with a virtual option from a different area of the jail to maintain separation of inmates of different classifications.

Each inmate will have access to a tablet, for keeping contact with loved ones, accessing their paperwork, making any complaints, and accessing approved materials, e.g. GED texts or other programming materials.

“Tier 1” programs - programs that have been offered in Winona County, and are offered in many places already. E.g. NA/AA, GED and vocational training, Bible study or religious gatherings, HUBER work release program.

HUBER work release - allows inmates to continue at a job or find work, or go to school with restricted access to any other activities during release. Staff works to maintain relationships with employers. Transportation is not provided by jail staff. Stuff now uses a GPS unit (at inmate cost) to track location while out on release.

Mike Kuehn - are people on work release in separate housing?

Sheriff Ganrude - don't know at this point

Mike K: could we offer assistance with job search and logistics? It would be easier, more efficient if individuals approved were housed in the same area, as with the previous 'Annex'.

Kelsie: They will determine what makes the most sense in terms of logistics and how many inmates are approved, if it makes sense to reserve a housing unit (or two) specifically for those approved for work release

Teen Challenge - 15 hrs/wk, considered "outpatient" treatment while in custody. One-one meetings with individuals and substance use treatment programming.

Educational opportunities? (question from Maurella C) -

Mike K: community college programs have been offered in other facilities

Pathways to Prosperity program - Chris D - in-house options:

Welding, CNC classes

E.g. Olmsted and Goodhue programs offer manufacturing 101 for college credit- can be completed entirely during incarceration

Working to expand offerings in Winona

Releases can be arranged for educational opportunities - Kelsie has worked with college students to be able to complete coursework

What about Continuum of Care? (Maurella C): How are people bridged to continue such opportunities around transition out of custody

Katie - WRAP offers this

What might we learn from neighboring counties and how they offer programming?

Best practices research?

Jay Palmer: Project Proven which has work with the La Crosse jail for a few years.

Jay is happy to reach out to them.

Maurella C: OJJDP may be a good resource re: best practices.

*OJJDP is the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Though the jail will not have juveniles, there is some very good information re: programming on the OJJDP site.

Funding

Should this group seek funding?

CJCC or WRAP may be able to include something for jail programming in their budgets

What are some idea for use of funding?

- Volunteer coordinator? (outside jail staff)
- Stipends for people with lived experience to advise the group
- Support for transportation for HUBER release inmates (bus tokens, reimburse drivers...)
(Kelsi H) - transportation vouchers
- Support for work appropriate clothing, safety shoes, winter clothing etc.
- Program supplies

Funding next steps -

Rachel will talk to CJCC and WRAP about what they would need to include something in their budget

Consider grant opportunities?

Will need to prepare some prelim budgets in any case

Other items?

Questions:

How far in advance should volunteers fill out application and background check info to get clear to provide programming. (Tara)

Sheriff G: need to talk to Steve Buswell

Goal for April meeting to have clarity on clearance process for volunteers

Is there an in-house library?

No dedicated space right now.

Plan is for a book cart(s) to rotate out books.

Tablets are one option to provide access to a digital library.

There will be some kind of library service.

How will library service and tablet vendors be determined?

Sheriff Ganrude: many factors will go into that decision, including financial considerations.

Feedback from people with lived experience at Winona county and other regional jails:

Carin Hyter: Treatment Court participants could be helpful in advising on what jail programming would be preferred. Carin can ask treatment court participants about their thoughts.

Rachel - Please write those up, and send those questions to Rachel so she can share with WRAP participants etc. that might also have valuable input. Rachel and Carin will coordinate on getting input from people with lived experience.