
COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Courts Committee will search for strategies and procedures that will enable the courts to function more effectively and at reasonable cost to the taxpayer while upholding due process and the rule of law.

Date: February 16, 2023

Time: 8:15 am

IN ATTENDANCE: Becky Brandt, Judge Buytendorp, Trish Chandler, Kalene Engel, Carin Hyter, Julie Koop, Michael Kuehn, Renee Rumpca, Katie Schild, Karin Sonneman, Dave Glithero, Ben Smith, Lacey Bartsch

AGENDA UPDATES

- I. **Treatment Court Update – by Carin Hyter:** There are 18 current participants and 9 graduates. Two are on the termination track with hearings today. One participant graduates next week on February 23. This is the **45th graduation from the program!** Two graduates are currently serving on CJCC. The CAMO criminal thinking group re-started this month with 8 participants and is going well. Selected to attend a virtual multi-track training in August. This will allow exploration into developing and adding a high-need, low-risk track to the current program. Still assessing the River Region’s needs and meeting again in early March. Pro-social event last week – Treatment Court was selected to create a mural in one of the parks in Winona in April.
Welcome Gracie! A senior at WSU interning with Carin.
- II. **Veteran’s Court Update – by Judge Buytendorp:** Ashley Hall from Freeborn County is the new Veteran’s Court Coordinator.
- III. **WRAP+ Update – by Kalene Engel:** 84 participants. 43 currently. 28 successful completions and 16 unsuccessful terminations. Have seen an increase in the number of outside referrals. Things continue to go well. Upcoming **training on ACES on March 29**. Large training in October concerning poverty. Hiawatha Valley’s website has training information available. CJCC also has a lot of information.
Karin also provided that **next week** there is a domestic violence gender equity training with a focus on the LGBTQ community. This training is **free**.
- IV. **Pretrial Monitoring – by Becky Brandt:** This started on January 9 and the first check-in meeting is March 2 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom. So far there have been 7 referrals but most have bonded out. There are currently 3 being supervised with 1 starting

electronic home monitoring. There are things to hash out at the March 2 meeting but otherwise so far so good.

- V. **CHIPS Hearing Pilot Update – by Becky Brandt:** Policy 525 allows exceptions for juvenile hearings regarding what is in person and what is remote. Winona County is piloting having all EPCs and Admit/Deny Hearings remotely for cost saving purposes, to make it easier on court-appointed attorneys, and because cases are less likely to settle at this stage. Pretrial, juvenile, and petty's are in person unless in a facility and transport is an issue because things are more likely to settle.
- VI. **Mini-Mental Health Summit Update – by Judge Buytendorp:** the January 26 event had a great turnout with most counties from the district having representation in attendance. Kalene presented on Winona County's efforts and someone from Olmsted County presented. Other counties in the district expressed interest and people seemed excited about the information shared. Planning to reach out to counties in about six months to see where they are at or if they need anything. Overall the event was very successful.

NEXT MEETING: March 16, 2023, at 8:15 a.m.