
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: March 16, 2023

Time: 8:15 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Becky Brandt, Judge Buytendorp, Trish Chandler, Kalene Engel, Carin Hyter, Michael Kuehn, Renee Rumpca, Katie Schild, Ashley Hall, Karin Sonneman, Kelly Wooden, Kelsie Horst, Gracie Kafar, and Lacey Bartsch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from February 16, 2023, were approved.

AGENDA UPDATES

- I. **Treatment Court Update – by Carin Hyter:** One graduate is close to discharge from probation. Janna graduated on March 2 and there was a nice article in the Winona Post. There is an upcoming two-day training with virtual sessions. Participants have an upcoming volunteer event packaging food. There are two speaking events coming up at WSU and Winona Senior High School. The River Region Treatment Court Meetings continue and are headed in the right direction.
- II. **Veteran’s Court Update – by Ashley Hall:** Welcome Ashley!!! Veteran’s Court recently hired a new case manager so there are two case managers now. There are two possible participants coming up for commencement.
- III. **WRAP+ Update – by Kalene Engel:** Winona Re-entry Assistance Plus – There are a lot of great, free trainings coming up, many with the goal of creating a shared understanding of that topic’s process. *See attachment.* Information about most is available at www.hvmhc.org –28 new people this quarter

- IV. **New Technology in Courtrooms One (1) & Three (3) – by Becky Brandt & Judge Buytendorp:** Judge Buytendorp’s court reporter and a court clerk have offered to have an open house to help attorneys get acquainted with the new technology. *See attachment.* The updates include a Creston like other counties, screens at counsel tables, attorneys can hook up their laptops to screens, etc. In April courtroom 2 will be updated but all courtrooms should function the same.
- V. **MPA Remote & Online Access to Information – by Trish Chandler:** MPA is set to sunset on April 17. There is concern about the impact this will have on the Pre-Trial Evaluations/MNPATs process. Rumor is they will incorporate similar/same functions in MCRO before MPA sunsets.
- a. *Next Steps:* Becky is going to reach out to MPA
- VI. **Domestic Violence & Gender Equity Workshop – by Kelly Wooden:** Due to poor weather this workshop was rescheduled to April 3 from 1-3 at WSU. *See attachment.*

NEXT MEETING: April 20, 2023, at 8:15 a.m.