

**Minutes of the Jail & Jail Alternatives Committee of the
Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
April 26, 2023 at noon via Zoom**

Present: Tara Brown, Trish Chandler, Kalene Engel, Christy Ferrington, Rachel Stoll, Chris Meyer, Karen Bunkowski, Rebecca Lundeen, Mark Jacobson, Linda Soderstrom, Ann McLaughlin, Tyler Kinney, Kotoko Yui

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2023 Meeting: Approved by consensus without changes.

WRAP+ Program Updates:

- Implementation Progress:
 - The first quarter reports have been submitted and we continue to increase enrollment and have many more successful completions than unsuccessful terminations. Several participants secured housing in Quarter 1. The actual numbers were reported in the Courts Committee, so please see those minutes.
 - Congratulations and a HUGE THANK YOU to Rebecca Lundeen who has resigned from her position as a Community Connector at HVMHC to pursue new and exciting opportunities; her last day will be April 28th. During Rebecca's time with the program, she made significant and lasting contributions and we are so grateful for her time with and dedication to the program. Rebecca thanked everyone involved with the program, noting that it was a tremendous program.
 - With the change in personnel, HVMHC reviewed the position and need and decided that an ARMHS (Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services) position would best fit the needs of the program, streamline some of the documentation and supervision requirements and provide for long term sustainability (as ARMHS services are already MA-billable). Given the increase in numbers, HVMHC has decided to replace Rebecca's position with two ARMHS workers; positions were posted yesterday. WRAP+ will continue to utilize the HUB through Community Connectors in other agencies, but the main case managers for WRAP+ clients will be the ARMHS workers.
 - Kalene will be working on submitting the grant adjustments (program, budget, grant extension) during the month of May.
- Policy: The policy committee met to discuss issues regarding safety concerns of staff. With the transition to ARMHS workers, additional policy updates will be needed.

- **Trainings:** The most recent training occurred on April 18th and consisted of a panel of therapists discussing different types of mental health therapy. The May training is on housing and the June training is on employment. The Training Committee just confirmed a Poverty Simulation Training on October 12th and is working on setting up a training with an expert in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder. Kalene noted that Family and Children’s Center is offering a Mental Health First Aid Training for Youth on May 8th from 9 to 3pm.

Replacement Jail Updates: The jail is 85% complete and everything is on schedule, with the exception of a couple of backup generators that are delayed due to supply chain issues. Since it is not anticipated that these generators will be needed until October, alternatives are being considered.

Hope for Homes: The workgroup met on April 14th. Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center is taking the lead on the Supportive Housing Project. The Housing Advocacy Specialist position was advertised and an offer was extended to one applicant, who declined, so a new offer has been made. John Breske, an intern from Winona State University, has been assisting the team. He has created a website for the Local Housing Trust Fund (<https://winonahopeforhomes.wixsite.com/winona-county-local>) and is working on both the “homework” assignment for the final “in-person” Housing Institute in July and drafting letters to landlords and possible funders.

Mental Health Collaborative Update: The collaborative continues to meet, review data, and explore options to develop better responses to individuals who are coming to (and boarding in) the emergency department with mental health issues. One of the recent concepts being explored is Advance Psychiatric Directives, on which a training was held on April 13th.

Jail Programming Workgroup: The group had a productive meeting on April 24th. Interest in the group is high and the distribution list continues to grow, with 35 people representing many different sectors. Persons with lived experience were well-represented at the meeting and shared valuable information and perspectives. The Jail Programming Coordinator position has been posted and will close soon. Some members of the group checked out jail programming that was being offered in La Crosse. Kalene noted that if there were specific ideas for programming that could be incorporated into the WRAP+ Grant adjustment request, she would need that information.

During the meeting, a concern was raised regarding people who were exiting the jail homeless and what could (or was) being done to prevent that. Trish noted that getting money for housing was actually the easy part, but finding housing was difficult as evidenced by the fact that there are people in treatment court (a highly structured program) who do not currently have housing. Rebecca noted that hotels were a temporary fix, and that it is hard for people who are in hotels to get permanent housing unless they have a dedicated worker to help them. Rachel noted that the City of Winona has a 1% vacancy rate for rentals, which is very low. Approximately half of the HUB clients are housing insecure. Despite the fact that the Community Connectors are skilled at

getting housing, only 20% of HUB clients find housing before discharge. The overnight shelter is available for half of the year and only for adults (no children or pets). Kalene noted that the concerns about housing are not new and a reason why the supportive housing project was pursued. Katie wasn't present to discuss her perspective, so an item will be placed on the May agenda to further discuss this issue. Linda noted that there were multiple resources for people seeking information on renting or housing on the Lifestyles, SEMMCHRA and Minnesota Housing websites and that SEMMCHRA offered free education about various aspects of housing.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 12:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 24, 2023 at noon