
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: May 18, 2023

Time: 8:15 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Kelsie Horst, Julie Koop, Renee Rumpca, Trish Chandler,
WCSO Shift Commander Hohensee, Becky Brandt, Katie Schild,
Kalene Engel, Judge Buytendorp, Carin Hyter, Ashley Hall,
Karin Sonneman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from April 20, 2023, were approved.

AGENDA UPDATES

- I. **Treatment Court Update – by Carin Hyter:** 18 current participants. 1 recent termination. 1 graduation coming up on June 1 at 1 pm in courtroom 1. The event of month in April had to be rescheduled to this coming Sunday. May 9 – gave a presentation to County board in celebration of National Treatment Month and two treatment court graduates shared their stories with the board. This was an overall good experience. One Commissioner asked the graduates to speak again at his class and this commissioner will be a guest speaker at the upcoming treatment court graduation. Another graduate spoke to a class at a tech school recently. May 1 – a very part-time intern started with Carin and will be with treatment court through October. Bill and Carin have 5-6 weeks left of the cognitive thinking class they teach. **Upcoming:** 6 members of the treatment court team will be attending a 2-day state conference in the cities.
- II. **Veteran’s Court Update – by Ashley Hall:** A couple graduations since the last meeting. There are currently 25 active participants with 3 accepted and waiting dates. 15 of the participants are on the East side with 2 from Winona county. **Upcoming:** June – Ashley and case managers will be attending a National Conference.
- III. **WRAP+ Update – by Kalene Engel:** started the quarter with rollover of 38 participants. There have been 5 successful graduates, 1 unsuccessful, and are currently 37 participants. There is a waiting list primarily because there currently is

not a community connector. Hiawatha Valley has interviewed, and the hope is to hear soon that someone has filled that role. There have been lots of requests for funding. Kalene successfully submitted a grant extension request and is waiting for results. In the meantime, she is working on budget and program modification and expects to complete this by the end of the month. With Carin's help, they were able to get highly discounted used computers from WSU. WRAP gave away two bikes and has only one left but has a lead for more as this continues to be a popular option.

Upcoming: There are ongoing trainings, and this information is available on the CJCC website. There are going to be significant policy updates and currently the policy committee is working on evaluation report.

- IV. **Chemical Dependency Evaluations – question from Trish Chandler:** Noticed a spot in sentencing orders that refers to CD assessment with an associated charge. The question was whether or not an actual assessment was related to this expense. Both Becky and Judge Buytendorp confirmed that this is a state tax that is named in a manner that confuses people and that this fee cannot be waived.
- V. **For Next Month - Kelsie Horst:** Is working with Katie on gathering information to present to the committee the intent for the new facility's in-house jail treatment program which would technically be considered outpatient and the hopes that probation and judges can work hand in hand to complete treatment in house in jail. The hope is to have this program established before new facility opens.

NEXT MEETING: June 15, 2023, at 8:15 a.m.