

**Minutes of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the
Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
August 17, 2023 at noon via Zoom**

Present: Rebecca Church, Chris Meyer, Kris Sather, Jay Rasmussen, Kalene Engel, Andy Kranz, Kylie Davison, Maureen Holte, Amber Ziegler, Becky Brandt, Alyssa Passehl

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Juvenile Placement Concerns: Placement of juveniles continues to be a concern, with continued examples of difficulties in placement which creates stress and significant added time for staff. Staff involved are advocating for finding solutions because nothing has changed. Maureen will take responsibility for organizing a meeting between her, Karin Sonneman, Rena Patterson and Alyssa Passehl to explore possible solutions.

Truancy Update: Several representatives from juvenile justice met with the new superintendent on August 16th. They provided a background of last years' challenges and how to best move forward for the upcoming school year. The meeting went well and it seemed like everyone was on the same page, so everyone is hopeful for a good start to this school year.

Restorative Justice Update: Everything is going well with Restorative Justice. They have held a couple of community group conferences. The golf tournament fundraiser is on August 18, 2023.

Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention: ASAP is solidifying plans with youth partnerships and revamping the internship program. Suspension alternatives for students caught vaping is also being explored with the help of Dr. Jen Timm from WSU. ASAP is also mapping out a plan in preparation for a meeting with the new WAPS Superintendent. Rebecca complimented Amber on how she has jumped into the new position with both feet and is a hard worker and go-getter.

Update on 2023 Training Schedule: The September training is a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder training on September 5th at 9am. October's training is a Poverty Simulation on October 12th, with two sessions (9-11 am and 1-3pm). Kalene noted that there is a new youth center in Winona opening in early September called Impact Center. It is located next to Grace Place and will serve students 5 and up.

Open Discussion:

- **Marijuana Legalization:** Andy asked how the legalization of marijuana will impact the justice system. The state hasn't taken a full stance or updated guidelines, but in meetings and webinars, it seems like marijuana will be treated similar to alcohol. For juveniles, it will be business as usual. For CHIPS cases, it will be case specific and depend upon a number of factors. For the police, it is going to be trial and error. If persons under 21 possess marijuana, it is not allowed but there is not really a statute for that so it will be

hard to charge, so it would likely be a petty misdemeanor. Another complicating factor is that nothing will get regulated until 2025 so there will be a lot of learning curves. Currently there is no where to send stuff to test it to see if it meets a threshold. Chris commented that MNPOST had a good article on the laws and lack of clarity on August 16th. Representative Pelowski thinks that the legislature will revisit the law. Other cities have passed ordinances prohibiting smoking in public areas.

- **Personnel:** Sherri Brekke is retiring on August 25th. Right now her cases are going to be covered by other ongoing social workers until a replacement can be hired.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 12:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 19, 2023