

**Minutes of the Jail & Jail Alternatives Committee of the
Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
September 27, 2023 at noon via Zoom**

Present: Justin Green, Tara Brown, Kalene Engel, Chris Meyer, Matt Hudson, Christy Ferrington, Judy Gilow, Trish Chandler, Karen Bunkowski, Eileen Hanson

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Call to Order: Justin Green called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from August 23, 2023 Meeting: Approved by consensus without changes.

WRAP+ Updates: This quarter, there were 47 participants in WRAP+, with over new accepted applicants during the quarter. The assigned applicants are in various stages of getting qualified to be a full participant. Due to the lag time between acceptance and completion of the comprehensive evaluation (mental health evaluation), a change in the funding policy was made to allow accepted applicants who complete the intake form to access up to \$500 in funding. Kalene is still waiting to hear back on the budget approval from the federal grant manager. The Task Force approved forms have been uploaded to the website. The next scheduled training is the Poverty Simulation on October 12th at the VFW. Approximately 70 people are signed up for the first session from 9-11 am; the second session has openings. The final training for the year will be in November and is an in person session with Officer Luke Fratzke of Wabasha County. He will be discussing drug identification, prevalence and signs/symptoms. Chris reported that the County Board approved a preliminary levy on September 26th which included full funding for the Jail Social Worker starting in January of 2024. The requests for a treatment court and crime victim's assistant were not approved. Chris thanked everyone involved in WRAP+.

Replacement Jail Updates:

- **Jail Construction:** Although the generator issue has been resolved (for now), there are issues with some of the other equipment which prevented the staff from completing the transition training. The vendor was required to return to fix the issues and they are apparently far enough along with the repairs that the training can resume. However, the issue has resulted in a delay of at least a month in occupying the jail. The county is exploring options for reimbursement from the contractor for the cost of the delay. There is no set time for opening day, but it will not be before the 1st part of November.
- **Jail Tours:** Jail Tours were held on September 17th and were a huge hit! Almost all of the time slots were filled within the first hour, so an additional hour (of 6 more tours) was added. Even so, some people had to be turned away. A total of 262 people toured the jail. The Sheriff's staff and other volunteers did a terrific job. Tour guests asked thoughtful

questions and, for the most part, gave positive feedback on the jail. Karin is planning to schedule a debrief with the tour planning committee to discuss ways to provide additional tours in the future.

- **Hope for Homes:** Kalene received word on the afternoon of September 26th that the Winona Community Foundation Board funded the request from CJCC/Hope for Homes for \$7,500 to use as a flexible housing fund held at Winona Community Foundation. The monies will be used for expenses related to the scattered sites supportive housing project. Another grant application for an additional \$10,000 for the fund will soon be submitted to Minnesota Housing Partnership.
- **Jail Programming Workgroup:** Kelsie has received several more applications for jail volunteers. However, because of the aforementioned issues with the jail construction and delays in training, Kelsie has shifted her focus to training. She indicated that it was very probably that no programming would be offered in the jail until 2024. Therefore, the group decided to pause the Zoom meetings until February of 2024 and provide/receive updates via e-mail.

Other:

- Foxhole Discovery is a new resource for individuals in recovery. Currently, they occupy space in the Peer Support Network at Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center. They are open at times when the PSN is not, typically weekdays for a few hours and some Saturdays. The space is an open space where people came drop in, spend time with peers, play games and enjoy pro social activities. There is no charge and information is available on The Foxhole Discovery Facebook page.
- Judy just started co-teaching a NAMI Family to Family Class at the Winona Middle School Media Center. Six people attended the 1st class including a teenager. People can still join until the class on October 2nd.
- Hiawatha Valley Mental Center is sponsoring its 3rd Annual Bringing Light Into Darkness Event at the Minnesota Museum Art Museum. The event includes a free gathering outside of the museum which will include speakers, resource tables and lights to represent people who were lost to suicide. Food will be available for purchase from food trucks. This years' event also includes a fundraising component with the Dueling Pianos performing inside the museum from 6-8pm. The cost for the fundraiser is \$30.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 12:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 25, 2023 at noon