

**Minutes of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the  
Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
October 19, 2023 at noon via Zoom**

**Present:** Rebecca Church, Chris Meyer, Kris Sather, Jay Rasmussen, Kalene Engel, Amber Ziegler, Alyssa Passehl, Teri Henderson, Karrie Hahn, Mary Leahy

**Minutes by:** Kalene Engel

**Juvenile Placement Concerns:** Since our last meeting, Maureen, Andy, Karin, Rena and Alyssa met to discuss juvenile placement concerns. Alyssa compiled and shared some cost information about contracted beds. Unfortunately, the one county that responded to Alyssa in time (Anoka) stated that they would not accept more counties for membership at this time. Alyssa also received feedback from some counties that the contracted beds were frustrated because the contracted beds were unavailable when needed. Prairie Lakes advised Teri that they would always make a bed available if the county contracted with them. Other options, such as finding space at a community location, are being explored but licensing will be a challenge. Frustration was expressed by all regarding the lack of progress on this issue. Chris acknowledged the frustration and stated that she cares about the issue and would continue to advocate for solutions.

**Truancy Update:** Despite a promising meeting with school administration earlier this year, Rebecca has not seen the changes in the truancy program that she was hoping for. The school continues to maintain that there is no way to get around the releases that they say they need in order to release student data. There have been more referrals for truancy to the County Attorney than in past years for this time period; approximately half of them have been referred to diversion. Judge Leahy noted that Winona's truancy program (with the court hearings being held in the school) was once a model for the rest of the state as one of the best ways to handle truancy is gone. The current system (with hearings in the courthouse) results in more time out of school for the youth and administration. Alyssa noted that the truancy cases are currently being assigned to the ongoing social workers on a rotational basis until a replacement has been hired for Sherri Brekke. A tentative offer was made to a candidate for that position and background checks are pending, with full onboarding expected in mid-November.

**Restorative Justice Update:** Rebecca complimented the Restorative Justice team as being flexible and thinking outside the box, citing a recent unique resolution where everyone was able to work effectively as a team. The Juvenile Screening Team meetings have resumed which are also good opportunities for team-building.

**Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention:** ASAP is getting into the swing of the school year. Partnering with Miller Mentoring, ASAP will be going into 10<sup>th</sup> grade health classes to talk about resiliency and healthy coping habits. In mid-November, students who were being suspended for vaping will be allowed to complete in-depth vaping curriculum from the American

Lung Association provided by ASAP and WSU Graduate Students. Jay reported the results of the alcohol compliance checks. In round one, 13 passed and 11 failed and in round 2, 11 passed and 3 failed. They are reassessing follow-up and enforcement processes with the businesses who attend the responsible beverage server training. The tobacco committee is attempting to work with the county and schools to get vape boxes in the schools (for confiscated/discarded vapes). Amber has been busy tabling at events in Winona and Lewiston and is recruiting youth to be interns.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned 12:34 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** November 16, 2023 at noon