

**Minutes of the Jail & Jail Alternatives Committee of the
Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
October 25, 2023 at noon via Zoom**

Present: Justin Green, Tara Brown, Kalene Engel, Judy Gilow, Trish Chandler, Karen Bunkowski, Vanessa Southworth, Jackie Henderson, Ann McLaughlin

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Call to Order: Justin Green called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from September 27, 2023 Meeting: Approved by consensus without changes.

WRAP+ Updates: There are currently 40 participants in WRAP+ with another 25 in the accepted applicant stage. The team continues to discuss ways to decrease the time from acceptance to participant. There have been numerous funding requests already this quarter, so the team will be discussing whether the increase in requests is an anomaly or a reason to re-evaluate the funding cap. We still have not received a response from our federal grant manager on our match waiver request for our budget. New policy handbooks have been distributed to the case managers. The new forms and policies are also posted on the WRAP+ Forms webpage. The Poverty Simulation on October 12th was very well attended and received.

Replacement Jail Updates: Construction is complete and the contractors are working on resolving punch list issues. Numerous inspections are taking place. There are a few small remaining issues to resolve, none of which should prevent the jail from opening by year's end. However, since some of the issues affected the training schedule, training is taking longer than anticipated. The generator that was promised by this spring is now set to arrive in April of 2024.

Hope for Homes: Marie was not able to attend the meeting, but provided Kalene with the following email update in advance of the meeting:

Hope for Homes will be meeting Nov 3rd at the Winona Community Foundation at 10. We will be working on planning a community meeting sometime in January or February. A sub-group has also been meeting to chart the steps/options for both landlords and tenants. A list of support/organizing documents that are needed as H/H continues is also being drafted. These will all be on the Nov 3rd agenda for discussion by the group.

Kalene reported that Winona Community Foundation had awarded \$7,500 to the county to be placed into a flexible fund for the Scattered Sites Housing Program. Another grant application for an additional \$10,000 for the fund was submitted to Minnesota Housing Partnership earlier this month

Jail Programming Workgroup: The workgroup has paused meetings until February of 2024 to allow for the opening of the jail

Open Discussion – Opioid Settlement Funds: Kalene shared her experience as a participant in one of the listening sessions, noting that she advocated for a flexible pot of money to be used for persons in recovery from chemical abuse or attempting to manage their mental illness. WRAP+ offers such funds, but that money will disappear when the grant is done. Vanessa noted that the HUB would benefit from having flexible funding too. Trish and Vanessa attending the same session. A focus of that meeting was to invest in existing programs that were working (such as WRAP+ and the HUB) and not just look at creating new programming. Kalene noted that there should be enough funds to do multiple different things. The next steps for the Opioid Committee will be to receive a report from the listening sessions and then discuss/make recommendations to the County Board as to how to allocate the funds.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 12:24 p.m.

Next Meeting: As has been done in the past, the November/December meeting was moved to early December due to the conflicting Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays. The new date is December 13th at noon.