

**Minutes of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the
Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
November 16, 2023 at noon via Zoom**

Present: Rebecca Church, Chris Meyer, Kris Sather, Jay Rasmussen, Kalene Engel, Brad Berzinski, Katie Illies, Kylie Davison, Karin Sonneman, Becky Brandt

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Juvenile Placement Concerns: Since our last meeting, Maureen, Karin, Rena, Rebecca, Alyssa and Kris met to discuss concerns about juvenile placements. Maureen was exploring additional options and another meeting will be scheduled to discuss those options.

Truancy Update: Restorative Justice was given access to Infinite Campus so they can now monitor the students on truancy diversion, so diversions are working better. The numbers for early intervention are very low. Currently, there is only one student on early intervention, whereas during the same timeframe last year, there were 60 students on early intervention. Katie prefers that students be referred at 3 unexcused absences because that provides a buffer for Restorative Justice to get involved, thereby reducing situations where the child racks up 7 unexcused absences (which is the point at which the school can file for truancy). Rebecca noted that the referral patterns for truanancies are different than in previous years, with a large batch of referrals in the beginning of the year, but not much since. Brad would like to get updates from the principals on attendance data, as well as more information on what the school is doing internally to reduce truanancies. Discussion was held on how to get notice to the school about upcoming truancy hearings, as the judge expects someone from the school to be present at the hearings. For the November hearings, Katie notified the assistant principal of the hearing. In the past, the assigned social worker notified the school. There may be a way that the school could be added as a party, such that notice would be mailed to the school. Becky will look into how to provide notice to the court. Rebecca reported that Sherri Brekke's position was filled. The new employee (Ally) started on Tuesday and will be the main social worker handling pretrials, truanancies and runaways. Kalene shared the link for the Truancy Guidelines, which are posted on the CJCC Juvenile Justice webpage: <https://winonacountycjcc.org/juvenile-justice-committee/>.

Restorative Justice Update: The other Restorative Justice programs are going well, with arrangements being made for community group conferences.

Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention: Amber continues to work on recruiting and training youth interns and table at various events. The Alcohol Committee is in the process of revamping; Helen Bagshaw continues to manage the work of the Tobacco Committee. The Lionheart Experience gave a presentation at Winona Senior High School on November 14th. Brad received feedback that the presentation was well received. There is another event planned for tonight where students will be walking to WAV nutrition and gathering to talk about healthy coping habits and resiliency.

Other: Rebecca has accepted a new position at the Public Defender's Office which she will start on December 4th. She is passionate about juvenile justice issues and will continue to participate in the committee as she is able.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 12:42 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 18, 2023 at noon (no meeting in December)