

Minutes
Trempealeau County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
February 13, 2013

Members present: Dick Miller, Ernest Vold (1:12), Doug Winters, Judge John Damon, Jill Clark, District Attorney Taavi McMahan, Sheriff Richard Anderson, Tonya Niederkorn, Jeff McIntyre, Deb Garson (1:08), Theresa Anderson, Brent Falkner, Duane Sackett, Lt. Harlan Reinders (1:15), Mary Gullicksrud

Others present: Pat Bell

The meeting was called to order by Miller at 1:03 p.m. stating proper posting and notification has met open meeting requirements. Motion by Winters and seconded by Anderson to accept the agenda as posted. Motion carried 12-0.

Review of Proposed Operating Rules for TC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

A handout was given to all members present to review. A change was proposed having to do with the membership Director of Trempealeau County Health Care Center not being included in the past; however, the agency has been utilized. Miller stated he hopes the County Board members will bring into play items that fall into their area as well. This committee is self governing and Miller moves to accept the proposed operating rules, seconded by Damon. McIntyre asked for clarification of hiring a Justice Coordinator. Miller asked to strike prior motion to amend the staffing section, seconded by Gullicksrud. Motion carried 14-0. No others motions to change.

Election of Chair and Recording Secretary

Motion made by Damon, seconded by Winters appointing Reichwein for position of Chair. In lieu of no motion other motions, motion carried 14-0. Motion by Damon, seconded by McMahan appointing Miller for Vice Chair. Motion to cast ballot by McIntyre for Miller as Vice Chair. Motion carried 14-0. Recording Secretary will be Carol L Ressler, Sheriff's Office.

Proposed Meeting Times for Calendar Year 2013

Miller proposed to have quarterly meetings scheduled for May 8, August 14, and November 13 at 1:00 pm. These dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month. Damon advised these dates and times would work with his schedule. Miller will give these dates to County Clerk Paul Syverson to place on the calendar. If need be, additional meetings can be scheduled. Motion by Miller, seconded by McMahan. Motion carried 16-0.

Update on COMPAS (DOC Risk Needs Assessment Tool)

Pat Bell, Sgt Joan Koval and Sgt. Doug Oates will be attending training in Madison as a refresher course in February 2013. All three attended initial training two years ago. Bell stated that to have access to COMPASS, this committee is required. Falkner and Theresa Anderson stated their department has utilized the program for about a 1 ½ years. The program aids them in categorizing the assessments as low, medium or high risk clients. Damon stated the tool assists in breaking it down to a couple areas the client is in need of. Theresa Anderson advised that her department is trying to funnel resources into the higher risk area in order to utilize their resources more effectively. Miller asked Niederkorn how she would utilize this too within the Jail facility. Niederkorn stated they would use the tool for classification or programming uses. McMahan advised his office uses it for bond considerations and pretrials. Theresa Anderson noted primary assessments are conducted first and medium and high needs require a core assessment to be conducted. Damon added there are approximately 150 questions for each client to answer. Theresa Anderson stated the COMPAS is used throughout the State of Wisconsin and continues to follow the client when they enter or leave the judicial system. A test is administered to see if someone is ready to make changes in their lives or if they are not ready to change. Damon added it would aid in

helping with the evaluation of programs, if that criteria is in place yet. Theresa Anderson advised that feature will be added at a later date in time. Bell stated an assessment is done and will be used in pretrial and then the individual can be referred accordingly based on the testing completed. Garson asked if there was a separate assessment for bond hearings. Damon and Theresa Anderson agreed it is the primary testing. Garson questioned who would administer the testing. Bell stated the 72 question test is completed first and then if necessary the core testing can be conducted. McMahon added it is only one of the factors used; however, others are utilized as well. McIntyre stated before implementing the program, the training has been completed and will start March 4, 2013. The three people sent to the training will be able to conduct the assessments. Miller asked how the information is shared across the state. McIntyre stated it can be accessed thru the website viewable by anyone within the state that has been given access. McIntyre added that juvenile testing is also done similar to COMPASS testing and is used for truancy, substance abuse and drug offenses. McIntyre advised he has found it to be a real good system within the juvenile system. Miller noted that a hierarchy of needs can be set and then staffed accordingly. Sackett asked if school counselors have access to this information. McIntyre stated according to the state, they do not have access to this information, but it can be shared with releases from the parents. Miller asked how long the committee has operated. McIntyre stated it has been in operation 3 of the 5 years and was grant funded.

Update on Trempealeau County Diversion Program

Bell stated referrals started in June/July of 2010. Numbers are at 155 diversions, 90 successful completions, 14 revoked, 8 are in Jackson County and 55 in Trempealeau County. There are 15 precharge and don't appear in court pending they complete the program. There are 40 post-judge as well. Assessment is done prior to precharging. There is a Memorandum of Understanding with Jackson County for a \$30 month fee to assist their county. Bell advised there are 5 pending in our county and very few revocations. If they are revoked they come back for sentencing as the plea is already completed. Bell added the grant runs out this month and it was a 3 year grant, with an extension of two months given to spend \$28,000 which \$20,000 was able to be spent and will send the remaining \$8,000 back to the State. Bell added that the levels for participants are minimum, medium and maximum classes. McMahon advised that Jackson County has twice the criminal cases as Trempealeau County, which is why we chose to assist them. Miller stated once the funding ceases, the funding will come from Trempealeau County and Jackson County will then pay their portion of the contract.

Criminal Charging Statistics for 2012

McMahon stated the numbers are in process and noted there were 48 OWI (2nds) in 2011 and 27 in 2012, 6 OWI (3rds) in 2011 and 15 in 2012. Opiate crimes are on the rise. 2012 statistics are too detailed and will be broken down and given out at a later date. McMahon noted that the 2011 numbers are for crimes charged and would like it broken out further. McMahon asked about the possibility of reaching out to the tavern leagues with the possibility of reducing the numbers with their help. Also, meeting with the Principal with Dairyland Schools discussing the truancy issues. Parents are overwhelmed and Principals feel powerless and questions were asked if the truants are being referred to the District Attorney's Office. Miller asked if the DA Office would work with any referrals that come in and McMahon said yes. McIntyre stated that truancy is not the problem and there are underlying family issues that need to be looked into. Sheriff asked if statistics were available for the cause of truancy. McIntyre stated truancy stems from the absence of one or both parents within the home. Sackett acknowledged that 50 % of kids come from a single family within our county. Reinders asked if the Juvenile Risk tool could be utilized to show these statistics. McIntyre stated absolutely and then another assessment can be done in 6 months.

Trends in Treatment Court

McMahon stated after being involved for 7 months, he went thru training in Ramsey County and has gained more insight to the Recovery Court program. Bell stated there are 51 Courts in the State of Wisconsin. There are 18 participants in Trempealeau County. This program originated in 2006 and we will have our first female graduating in April. Falkner has been involved with this program for two years

which has provided the stability from the Probation/Parole Office. Training will be conducted in April in Appleton, Wisconsin. McIntyre added that additional funding from Joint Financing Committee would be greatly appreciated and the program would not need to rely on grant monies that are not guaranteed to be disbursed. Damon added that attendance at a participant's graduation is worth attending. Miller added that every element in this system is extremely important to carry out this process and much thanks goes out to all who are involved with this program.

Review of Jail Population, Issues & Trends

Lt. Niederkorn advised that the DOC is redoing their codes for County facilities in the State of Wisconsin, which will mean our policies will be changing again. Some of the noted changes include rights on religion, mail access, custody and care is changing as well. Also noted training requirements are increasing. Our jail population is starting to decrease as jail alternatives are put in place. No out of county housing has been utilized in the last two months. There has been an increase in female population, pregnancy issues, addiction problems both female and males, child care issues, increase in mental health and medical health issues. Also, difficult cases that involve working with Human Services and Probation. There has been an increase in drug related issues, heroin addictions which cause medical and mental health issues. Noted that meth issues have decreased slightly. Niederkorn added that jails are lacking in reentry due to funding and staffing issues. There should be some type of placement with Community Service to prevent a fall back into the cycle they came out of. Miller asked Damon if there was any control once they complete their sentence or if the Court lacks that control. Damon stated that they are out of our control once they have completed their sentence.

McIntyre stated that this is not a county problem. The State of Wisconsin fails at preparing people to reenter into the community; no training for employment or social networking skills provided. McMahon asked how many people on Electronic Monitoring. Niederkorn replied currently 4 on EM and 2 inmates on Huber and 30 people in-house.

Reentry discussion should be added to the Agenda at a later date in time.

What is Punishment and what is Sanction per McMahon.

Creative sanctions versus incarceration should be a community discussion. Incarceration doesn't always help a person behave differently.

Set Next Meeting Date/Time

May 8, 2013 at 1:00 pm

Miller adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Carol L Ressler
Trempealeau County Sheriff's Office
Office/Fiscal Manager