



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Commission on Sensitive Crimes

Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

8:30 AM

A. Call To Order

Others present: Jennifer Ginsburg, Ellen Merker, Amy Scarr, Howard Thomas

Chair Miyasaki called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Present 8 - SHANNON BARRY, HEATHER CROWLEY, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO,
Supervisor MAUREEN McCARVILLE, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, DANA PELLEBON,
and Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO

Absent 3 - AMY BROWN, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, and GREG ESSER

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#) MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2022
[MIN-677](#)

Attachments: [2022 0215 COSC Minutes](#)

This item was tabled

C. Action Items

None.

D. Presentations

None.

E. Reports to Committee

1. Agency Updates

Freeman reported Dane County Adult Protective Services' Intellectual/Development Disability Victim Advocate is on leave and expected to return in April. World Elder Abuse Awareness planning continues for the June 15 event. APS and the Collaborative Stabilization Coalition hosted a lunch and learn on February 17 with a focus on crisis response entities and contact information. Approximately 190 people attended. Freeman is planning for a diversion setting or other option for persons with dementia or older adults who are in a crisis or victims of abuse or neglect. Dane County Department of Human Services buildings are scheduled to reopen employees and the public in June following closure due to COVID-19.

Pellebon reported Rape Crisis Center (RCC) is moving forward with its CCS program. One CCS staff member is in place and a second is being hired. RCC is recruiting for bilingual/bicultural therapist and bilingual/bicultural CCS service facilitator positions. RCC is providing a lot of training, including a session today with Women & Children's Horizons Inc. in Kenosha on supporting Black survivors. RCC will present at the Victims Rights Conference on supporting LGBTQ survivors. RCC is involved with trainings with the Madison Police Department. RCC is working with the University of Wisconsin and Promoting Awareness / Victim Empowerment (PAVE) on increasing sexual assault awareness. RCC is working with Madison Metropolitan School District to create curriculum for students, teachers and staff to support students who are victims of sexual violence.

Kato reported The Rainbow Project's wait list for services is growing. Personnel interviews are underway for intern, billing, marketing and therapy positions. Partnerships with Kennedy Heights and Goodman Center are going strong. Rainbow Project is receiving requests to lead more reflective practice support groups for staff in early childhood programs to help individuals cope with stress. Evidence-based trauma informed groups are being conducted in MMSD schools for third-grade students and middle school students. Rainbow is planning a stakeholder forum on April 27 during National Child Abuse and Prevention Month. Kato is working with Women in Focus Inc. to raise funds for students of color to go to college and on a literacy project. In April, she will work with the Third Street Moms to share child abuse prevention resources and information on Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Training has increased with the majority of the sessions focusing on trauma.

Barry reported Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) plans to launch a texting helpline on May 1. The DAIS Luncheon is scheduled for June 6 at the Concourse Hotel. Support groups have resumed after being on hiatus during the pandemic. Recruiting is ongoing for a bilingual legal advocate. A bilingual case manager opening is anticipated in the fall. A referrals specialist position also has been posted. DAIS recently redesigned its website and is redesigning its brochure. DAIS is working with an evaluation team from UW-Madison to discern if resources would be better deployed elsewhere. The DAIS strategic plan is being finalized after more than 100 people provided feedback. A common theme in the feedback was that DAIS should concentrate on working with victims of intimate partner violence and their families.

Crowley reported DCDHS continues work toward creating a Behavioral Health Division, a process that is expected to take up to a year. Human Services is seeking partnerships with POS agencies that feature more diversity and can relate better to clients. There have been recent hires made in crime response, for the Behavioral Health Resource Center and in Youth Justice. The recent death of Youth Justice Program Leader Josh

Clauer has had a profound impact on the unit.

Ginsburg reported Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center continues to be very busy. Mental health referrals have been difficult due to long wait lists, which is affecting staff morale. Cases have been more severe. The organization continues to do a good deal of training with law enforcement agencies, with a focus on how to talk to minors in the field and what not to ask during sexual assault investigations. The Rent Event fundraiser is scheduled for April 23 at Goodman Community Center.

2. CCR Updates

Child Abuse: Kato reported planning continues for the Trauma-Informed Community Summit in November. The CCR is seeking new individuals to chair after some recent heavy turnover.

Sexual Abuse/Domestic Violence: No report.

I/DD: The speaker for last month's meeting canceled. Today's meeting has been canceled.

Elder Abuse: Attendance has been strong since meetings were reduced to every other month. Three banks have reached out to learn more about the Financial Abuse Specialist Team. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15. The Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference is slated for October 13 and will be held virtually. The theme is how to assist with survivors who have dementia and how to work with caregivers.

Legal Issues: This month's meeting was canceled.

Child Exploitation Subcommittee: The group recently sent a letter to federal court asking that sentences match the severe impact on the youthful victims.

3. Legislative Updates/Announcements

McCarville reported the County Board approved a resolution putting another \$16 million toward the Dane County Jail consolidation project. Several County Board Supervisors aren't running for re-election. In-person committee and commission meetings are expected to resume in June.

Castillo reported the original jail resolution was for \$24 million. The version that passed for \$16 million reduces the number of beds to 825 and the height of the building by one floor.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Tuesday, 19 April 2022, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None.

I. Adjournment

A motion was made by FREEMAN, seconded by KATO, to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote (8-0).

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas pending Commission approval.