



# 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?*

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Tuesday, February 15, 2022

8:30 AM

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#### A. Call To Order

*Others present: Anthony Cooper, Nela Kalpic, Ellen Merker, Amy Scarr, Allison Schlotz, and Howard Thomas*

**Chair Miyasaki called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.**

**Present** 8 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, HEATHER CROWLEY, BETH FREEMAN, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, DANA PELLEBON, Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO, and GREG ESSER

**Absent** 3 - SHARYL KATO, Supervisor MAUREEN McCARVILLE, and KRISTA EWERS-HAYES

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#) MINUTES FROM JANUARY 18, 2022  
[MIN-612](#)

**Attachments:** [2022\\_0118\\_COSC\\_Minutes](#)

A motion was made by BARRY, seconded by FREEMAN, to approve the minutes. The motion carried by a voice vote 8-0.

#### C. Action Items

*None.*

#### D. Presentations

*None.*

#### Attendance Update

*Kato joined the meeting.*

**Present** 9 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, HEATHER CROWLEY, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, DANA PELLEBON, Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO, and GREG ESSER

**Absent** 2 - Supervisor MAUREEN McCARVILLE, and KRISTA EWERS-HAYES

**E. Reports to Committee**

## 1. Agency Updates

*Brown reported case workers in the DA's office are averaging 550 cases. The two new positions added in the 2022 Dane County Budget are posted through February 18. Brown read her opinion piece regarding RES-320, which calls for \$24 million in additional funding for the Dane County Jail project. Brown is currently reading about the Ontario Domestic Violence Risk Assessment tool and shared information about it.*

*Freeman reported the Dane County Adult Protective Services Helpline had 3,600 contacts in 2021, 3,200 of which were consultations and 400 of which led to investigations. There continues to be an increase in calls involving adults at risk who are residents of assisted living facilities and certified homes and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services is investigating the statewide trend. A priority for APS is creating safe spaces for people who are in crisis. The Collaboration Stabilization Coalition will host a lunch & learn session focusing on crisis response on February 17. More than 200 individuals have registered.*

*Schlotz reported that due to a staffing shortage, Forensic Nurse Exam services at UnityPoint - Meriter remain unavailable on the NOC shift Tuesday-Thursday each week; 24/7 coverage is expected to resume in March. In 2021, 941 FNE exams were conducted with 598 involving sexual assault allegations. Of the exams, 19% included strangulation, 15% involved domestic violence and 8% involved trafficking. Approximately 12% of exams involved a person with an intellectual or developmental disability. The busiest shifts in 2021, in order, were Monday evenings, Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.*

*Kato reported The Rainbow Project's rapid response unit is responding to more incidents involving gun violence, domestic violence, home invasions and accidents related to unsafe driving. Individuals involved in Rainbow Project programming have received rapid response services. A registered nurse began working with psychiatrists this week and adult psychiatrist interns have been added.*

*Barry reported the shelter at Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS), which has reduced capacity after a loss of funding, is always full. The number of people who can be sent to hotels to shelter has been reduced due to a cut in funding from the City of Madison. DAIS received a Housing First Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families that will be used for rental assistance and landlord incentives, among other things. Strategic planning work has included receiving feedback from 109 individuals with the top priorities mentioned being crisis intervention, training and community education, and outreach. Five individuals were recently appointed to the DAIS Board of Directors, including Commission on Sensitive Crimes member Heather Crowley.*

*Pellebon reported the Rape Crisis Center (RCC) Helpline received 1,500 calls in 2021 and staff met with 400 individuals. Clients are receiving services longer, in part due to the court case backlog caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since January 1, RCC has 113 new clients. A waiting list is being considered. RCC is working with Madison East High School students to formulate a curriculum for students and teachers. Once complete, an age-appropriate version will be developed for middle school students. RCC will soon respond to FNEs at Planned Parenthood.*

*Crowley reported Dane County Human Services buildings are scheduled to reopen to the public on June 18. Neighborhood Intervention Program offices will reopen to employees in March after undergoing a remodel. DCDHS Director Shawn Tessmann has authorized a*

multi-disciplinary team to work on child protection cases; Crowley is a member. The numbers of individuals referred to the Youth Justice program is not rising, but there are many in the program re-offending. A human trafficking multi-disciplinary team is in place to receive referrals about youth who may be on the fringe of being trafficked. The Dane County Sheriff's Office has added a full-time position to focus solely on human trafficking. DCDHS is in the process of starting a Behavioral Health Division that will draw staff from existing divisions and consolidate services. The Behavioral Health Resource Center of Dane County, which opened in late 2020, is adding staff after a busy first year. Youth Justice is expanding its internal mentors program.

Kalpic reported Marsy's Law Wisconsin is planning a victims rights conference that will feature half-day sessions on April 13 and 14. The virtual event is free and will feature three tracks: courts, survivors/advocates, victims rights.

## 2. CCR Updates

*Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities:* Merker reported she will meet with Dane County APS staff in an attempt to increase engagement in the group. In January, the group had a presentation regarding sexual education in the I/DD population.

*Child Abuse:* Kato reported the CCR is regrouping due to heavy turnover among partner agencies. Feedback from the recent Trauma-Informed Advisory Council Summit is expected soon, and planning will so begin on the next summit.

*Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence:* Pellebon reported the Survivors Group and Implementation Group are being formed and meeting times will be determined soon. The Survivors Group will lead the work. A major concern of survivors is the way judges interact with victims during hearings.

*Elder Abuse:* Scarr reported the CCR is meeting every other month in 2022, as is the Financial Abuse Specialist Team. Planning is underway for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15 and for the virtual Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference in October.

*Child Exploitation Subcommittee:* The group is involved in a major data collection project regarding human trafficking and other social conditions. Information is being collected from the Dane County Youth Assessment Survey, as well as the Wisconsin Child Protective Services and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

## 3. Hosting Annual Candidate Forum for Judges Seeking Re-election to Respond to Questions About Sensitive Crimes.

Miyasaki shared direction provided by Dane County Corporation Counsel regarding a proposed event in which the Commission on Sensitive Crimes would invite judicial candidates to appear before the body to answer questions regarding sensitive crimes.

## 4. Legislative Updates/Announcements

None.

## F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Tuesday, 15 March 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 KATO, seconded by BROWN, to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote 9-0.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.*

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas pending commission approval.*