



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, November 16, 2021

8:30 AM

A. Call To Order

Staff and guests present: Cortney Doescher-Hino, Greg Esser, Beth Freeman, Jennifer Ginsburg, Marlys Howe, Nela Kalpic, Jeff Kostelic, Joe Parisi, Amy Scarr, Shawn Tessmann, and Howard Thomas

Chair Miyasaki called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Present 7 - AMY BROWN, HEATHER CROWLEY, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, Supervisor MAUREEN McCARVILLE, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, and Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO

Absent 3 - SHANNON BARRY, DANA PELLEBON, and KRISTA EWERS-HAYES

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#) MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 19, 2021
[MIN-432](#)

Attachments: [2021_1019_COSC_Minutes](#)

A motion was made by KATO, seconded by BROWN, to approve the minutes. The motion carried by a voice vote 7-0.

Attendance Update

Barry and Pellebon joined the meeting.

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

Absent 1 - KRISTA EWERS-HAYES

C. Action Items

None.

D. Presentations

1. Budget Discussion with County Executive Parisi and DCDHS Director Tessmann

Parisi touched on several 2022 Dane County Budget items that may interest the Commission, including:

- *The addition of positions to the District Attorney's Office to provide victim services mandated by Marsy's Law*
- *The addition of a human trafficking detective in the Sheriff's Office*
- *The extension of the hotel sheltering program for the vulnerable population during the COVID-19 pandemic*
- *The Hotels to Housing Program*
- *A 6% cost of living adjustment for most POS agencies*

Tessmann provided updates on the following topics:

- *The first-year success of the Behavioral Health Resource Center and plans for expansion*
- *The addition of youth mentors within the Youth Justice Department*
- *The planning process for the Crisis Triage Center*
- *First-time funding for outreach to those experiencing homelessness*
- *How the DCDHS strategic plan will positively impact safety in communities*

Parisi and Tessmann participated in a question-and-answer session.

Attendance Update

Ewers-Hayes joined the meeting.

Present 10 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, HEATHER CROWLEY, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, Supervisor MAUREEN McCARVILLE, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, DANA PELLEBON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, and Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO

E. Reports to Committee

1. Agency Updates

- Freeman reported two recently hired Adult Protective Services investigators have completed training and are being assigned cases. APS has received 2,200 contacts since January, with approximately 1,900 involving time spent consulting with citizens and stakeholders and 352 reports established. APS will increase efforts to raise awareness about abuse of adults in 2022, including training with EMS staff through a pilot program with the Department of Justice. The Collaborative Stabilization Steering Committee continues its work to assist adults with dementia and intellectual and development disabilities. A crisis summit is being planned for February 2022. Effective November 8, APS is located at the South Madison Office on Park Street following a move from the Northport Drive building.

- Brown reported County Executive Parisi included two FTE positions in the 2022 Dane County Budget to provide services mandated by Marsy's Law -- a victim witness case manager and a trauma specialist. In addition, the County Board increased a .6 FTE administrative legal assistant position to FTE status. The District Attorney's Office continues to conduct trials for pre-pandemic charges due to the suspension of court activities in 2021. A higher percentage of sensitive crimes trials are seeing not-guilty verdicts than was the case prior to the pandemic.

- Pellebon reported Rape Crisis Center (RCC) has seen an increase in the number of forensic nurse exams (FNEs). RCC is now responding to FNEs at University Health Services (UHS). Since mid-September, there have been 14 FNEs at UHS. A therapy expansion is underway with three full-time therapists, including one who is bilingual and bicultural (Spanish). Efforts are underway to hire a fourth therapist and a Development Coordinator. RCC is seeking to hire two bilingual, bicultural advocates, a multicultural advocate and a youth advocate, and has hired four on-call advocates to help alleviate staff burnout. RCC is in the process of getting approved for CCS expansion, with one person hired and two open positions. RCC is working with Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) to place advocates in the schools and to provide more educational opportunities. The plan is to hire five youth advocates who are assigned to the high schools and will also work with the middle schools.

- Kato reported The Rainbow Project, Inc. has hired a nurse and is strengthening its staff wellness policy as staff resiliency wanes during the pandemic. Groups are meeting in schools throughout the county and the agency's other groups also have resumed meeting after a pause earlier in the pandemic. The wait list continues to grow with students back in schools.

- Barry reported Virginia Escudero has left the Legal Advocate Program at Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) to become Executive Director at UNIDOS. DAIS is in the hiring process for two legal advocates, with one of the positions being bilingual, and a case manager. Kianna Hanson was promoted to Legal Program Coordinator. The shelter continues to operate at capacity. DAIS is placing some people seeking shelter in hotels. The agency's case management program has seen a 250% increase in services provided since it began going into the community as opposed to offering only in-house services.

- Crowley reported the inability of DCDHS to hire and retain Child Protective Services Initial Assessment social workers is creating high stress levels for incumbent staff. Youth Justice continues to support MMSD schools as the district deals with escalated violence. A Youth Justice Coordinator position has been approved to support outreach

and coordination of services for 10- to 16-year-olds.

• Ginsburg reported Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center's service delivery increased as students resumed having contact with mandatory reporters as pandemic restrictions lifted. Safe Harbor is exploring ways to work with schools to provide outreach, prevention and education.

• Esser reported the annexation of the Town of Madison into the City of Madison and Fitchburg on 31 October 2022 will exacerbate already difficult staffing challenges for the Madison Police Department. As the staffing crisis continues or worsens, officers currently assigned to specialized units -- community policing teams, neighborhood officers, mental health officers, restorative juvenile justice-focused officers, etc. -- are likely to be pulled away to work patrol shifts. The current Police Academy class is participating in field training this week, and academies are scheduled for the spring and fall of 2022. The number of academy applicants has decreased. MPD continues work with MMSD officials about how the department can best partner with the district now that School Resource Officers are no longer stationed in schools.

• Ewers-Hayes reported many positions remain unfilled in the Dane County Sheriff's Office and some individuals working in the Dane County Jail have been required to work 70-80 hours of overtime per pay period. Applications from qualified applicants have decreased and some deputies are leaving ahead of their mandatory retirement dates. The newly created Human Trafficking Detective position will make a big impact. Like the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office is seeing more not-guilty verdicts in trials and is spending considerable time supporting victims after trials.

• McCarville reported the Dane County Board will vote Thursday on a state-mandated redistricting plan triggered by each United States Census. It's likely some incumbent supervisors will have to face each other in the 2022 election should they wish to remain on the Board. Some areas will be left without a supervisor, creating opportunities for new candidates.

Attendance Update

Barry departed the meeting.

Present 9 - AMY BROWN, HEATHER CROWLEY, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, Supervisor MAUREEN McCARVILLE, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, DANA PELLEBON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, and Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO

Absent 1 - SHANNON BARRY

2. CCR Updates

Child Abuse & Neglect: The consortium has developed a platform for Children, Youth & Families. Planning continues for the Trauma Summit on 28 January 2022, with secondary trauma one of the primary focus areas. The keynote speaker is Marvin Tolliver, a social worker who developed several trauma-informed best practices for Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities.

Elder Abuse: There isn't a meeting scheduled in December. The Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) is meeting this month, but not in December. The planning committee for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (15 June 2022) will launch in January. The Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference, held virtually on 28 October 2021, was a success.

Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities: Doescher-Hino attended her first meeting in October after moving into her new position as the I/DD Victim Advocate with Dane County APS and was appointed co-chair, joining Ellen Merker.

Legal Issues: The subcommittee will not meet in November or December following the departure of Virginia Escudaro from DAIS to become Executive Director at UNIDOS. Generating a plan for 2022 will commence in January.

3. Marsy's Law White Paper/Letter Update

None.

4. Anti-Spyware Project Update

None.

5. Legislative Updates/Announcements

None.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Tuesday, 18 January 2022, 8:30 a.m.

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 MCCARVILLE, seconded by FREEMAN, to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas pending Commission approval