



Dane County

Minutes - Draft

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, May 20, 2025

9:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the Aging & Disability Resource Center (Room 109) or virtually via Zoom.

See below for additional instructions on how to attend the meeting and provide public testimony.

A. Call To Order

Chair Pellebon called the meeting to order at 9:39 AM

Others in Attendance: Joe Aguilar, Amy Scarr, Jennifer Ginsburg, Kelsi Gullickson

Present 11 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, VANESSA STATAM, DANA PELLEBON, ERIN WELSH, MOLLY CARADONNA, JENEILE LUEBKE, HOPE EDGREN, and SONJA LISTON

Excused 5 - KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, ANTHONY GRAY, GREG ESSER, JOHNNIE MILTON, and NELA KALPIC

B. Consideration of Minutes

A Motion by FREEMAN, a Second by CARADONNA to approve the Minutes. Motion carried by a voice vote (12-0).

[2025](#)
[MIN-063](#)

MINUTES FROM APRIL 15, 2025

Attachments: [04.15.2025 Commission on Sensitive Crime Minutes](#)

C. Action Items

D. Presentations

E. Reports to Committee

1. Agency Updates

Caradonna reported for UW-Madison (survivor support services) – They are in the process of internalizing forensic nurse exams so that they'll be available at Meriter at the Lucky Building, and then for college students at University Health Services. They had a successful sexual assault awareness month where there was a lot more collaboration with community orgs and campus partners. UHS as an organization is launching a strategic plan. They will see what develops from that and how that impacts their work. They have a new mental health provider starting in the next few weeks.

Statam reported for Anesis Therapy – They are trying to help clients that are no longer eligible for MA. That seems to be a thing that's coming back up. They are planning for families for the summertime, what's going to happen with kids, lack of resources, strain on food and housing. They are trying to figure out what services realistically we can offer. There is still time to register for their event. There is still an early bird that doesn't end until the 30th of this month.

Freeman reported for Adult Protective Services (APS) –They have a full time investigator starting on June 16 to fill a transfer. A couple weeks ago they had a Dementia Support Case Manager start and her role is to work with persons in the community experiencing behavioral crises related to their dementia. They have an offer pending for a Project Manager to look on a feasibility study for a Dementia Stabilization and Care Transition Unit so that they'll have a setting into which persons who need further time to spend to stabilize, medication adjustment, will have a place. They are hoping to have a decision on that by the end of the month and then start the feasibility study because the funding is intended for feasibility to determine if they can do this setting. That is where the work of the Dementia Support Case Manager would help inform, and be involved in that project. They are getting their 2026 budget planning started. They have been asked to do a flat budget with no changes. Their elder abuse and adults at risk supervisors are working with Corporation Council to update all of our memorandums of understanding with law enforcement and financial institutions. Their interpretation has created some barriers to being able to easily share information with law enforcement partners when they need to do investigations. Elder Abuse Awareness Day is next month on June 15th. They are having a Shred Fest on Friday, June 13th at Warner Park. It's free, it's open to the public. It's a great opportunity for people to bring things to protect their confidentiality, minimize risks of anyone accessing personal information that could put them at risk.

Kato reported for Rainbow - The grandparents and other relatives who are parents group is growing. They have hired two new group facilitators who are from this group originally. They are having another separate art therapy group for those grandparents who need to grieve many things, but especially the loss of their adult children, either literally or figuratively. They provide childcare for attendees. They have a new child psychiatrist, Dr. Tanner, who will be starting at end of June.

Brown reported for the District Attorney's Office for updates in the victim-witness unit, last week they had their statewide victim witness conference. Julie Foley receive a lifetime achievement award. They are recruiting for a Bilingual Spanish Victim Witness Case Manager. They hope to be in the interview phase next week.

Sonja Liston reported for UnityPoint Health Meriter Forensic Nursing Program - They have multiple medical leaves in June and July that are coinciding. They are trying to make that as least disruptive to their population as possible. Otherwise they are fully staffed and things are moving smoothly.

UNIDOS Executive Director Virginia Gittens Escudero reports that they are fully staffed. They are implementing a system that will allow clients to text. People can email, or they can walk in Monday to Friday or call the helpline. The text system will be available for the public on May 27. They received a grant and they are exploring an opportunity for a Senior Center to do some programming for older adults.

Jennifer Ginsburg reported for Safe Harbor – April was one of their busiest months. Their mental health staff are now fully trained in a new short term trauma treatment model that's five to eight sessions and they are starting to take clients for that. It is child focused. There is a small parent component, but it doesn't address the whole family system. They had a successful fundraising event on May 3rd.

Hope Edgren reports that their co-responder team in Madison are attending a training at the end of this week in Milwaukee where all state co responders come together. Hope is a co-chair of the committee that puts this on. The co-responder model is starting to take off and they are trying to establish a general best practices for the state because we're realizing that since Wisconsin is a county by county service situation, everyone does things a little differently. A big message that the committee is trying to work on is having local law enforcement agencies partner with their county DA and victim witness unit so that they can work on individuals who suffer with chronic persistent mental illness, but who are being charged with domestic violence and seeking treatment going the emergency detention route prior to jail.

Jeneile Luebke reports that she is about one year out from finishing a study that she is collaborating with the Bad River and Forest County Pottawatomi Tribes. It's funded by the National Institutes of Health and it's to better understand barriers that are specific to the intersection of mental health and substance use for survivors of violence. There is also an aim about better understanding connection to culture and reconnection to culture as part of their healing journey. She has done 32 in depth storytelling sessions and then launching a survey that will hopefully wrap up by summer. The next step of that project is to develop a measurement tool that's culturally specific. She also mentioned that she had a few grants canceled and terminated recently.

2. CCR Updates/ Items on CCR Agendas

Scarr reported for the Elder Abuse CCR for Dane County Adult Protective Services: Lots of good ideas coming out of membership about gaps in services to victims, older victims of crime and abuse and exploitation. The Domestic Violence in Later Life subcommittee are not doing a conference this year. They did make two grants available to local agencies that do work with older adults who are experiencing family and domestic violence. NewBridge of Madison and Outreach each got a grant this year from the Domestic Violence in Later Life.

Joe Aguilar reported for Elder Abuse CCR—DCDHS: The IDD CCR meets quarterly. They met on April 16th, and had Officer Nicole from the Mental Health Unit present. They did the wants and needs of the group about gaps in services related to anyone that supports IDD and submitted that in their report. The next meeting is July 16. If you would like to come, let Joe know and he can get you on the roster.

Kato reported for the Child Abuse CCR: They are having a meeting this Friday, May 23rd at 1:00pm. If anyone wants an invite, please reach out. At the last meeting everyone sent names of people who should be included. They are following up on that and adding to the priority list that was developed. They are talking about how the structure can change in terms of efficiency with the Child Abuse CCR and then being automatically members of Children, Youth and Families Consortium, that they can be much more efficient in their time and how they are sharing and coming together even stronger to make sure they have what are the current platforms needed in this area. After attending the United Ways Advocacy Group meeting, many of those members who've never been a part of it, have signed up to be a part of the CYF. They are trying to look more in terms of unifying, because they all are coming up with similar things that they are seeing as critical. The CCR is going to talk about priorities and focusing more on what's happening in the POS world. The Leadership Coalition is also planning a conference in October where they each will be able to provide separate but unified messages around who they are collectively, that will hopefully clarify a lot and unify some of their work.

Pellebon reported for the DVA CCR: They have a survey that they are sending out to both survivors and service providers to focus what it is that they are working on. One of the things that they have been very cognizant of is system work versus what it is that survivors specifically would like for them to be focused on. They are making sure that they are keeping themselves aware of what the community is specifically wanting to see from them as a CCR.

3. Legislative Updates/ Announcements

Supervisor Erin Welsh reports that she is the Deputy Director in the Office of Crime Victim Services for the State Department of Justice. Last week at the County Board meeting, before the meeting, they had a presentation about the status of where things are at with the regional housing strategy. Things are moving into the implementation planning phase. That has impacts across a lot of different systems, including criminal justice and access and affordability of housing, which can have major impacts on survivors. Another update from the state level that impacts the county is that a week and a half ago, Joint Finance met and they put out ahead of time what the intention was for things to be cut from the governor's proposed budget. Included in there was additional funding and or a change in structure of funding for victim witness services throughout the state. It had been previously proposed that there would be an additional infusion of funding to support those programs. Alternatively, a floor of 60% reimbursement from the state would be provided and both of those were removed from the proposed budget. There's a lot of other additional funding for Victim Services to the tune of about 68 million. That's still technically in the budget request. It remains to be seen where that will go.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 09:30 AM, this will be a hybrid meeting held virtually via Zoom and in person at the Aging and Disability Resource Center (Room 109)

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

1. Discussion on PPJ / HHN Meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2025

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by KATO, Seconded by BROWN that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 10:43 A.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kelsi Gullickson, pending Commission approval.