



Dane County

Minutes

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, July 15, 2025

9:30 AM

A. Call To Order

Others in Attendance: District Attorney Ozanne, Joe Aguilar, Amy Scarr, Marlys Howe and Priscilla McCarthy

Chair Pellebon called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M.

Present 12 - AMY BROWN, BETH FREEMAN, DANA PELLEBON, ERIN WELSH, GREG ESSER, HOPE EDGREN, JENEILE LUEBKE, JOHNNIE MILTON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, SHANNON BARRY, SHARYL KATO, and SONJA LISTON

Excused 2 - MOLLY CARADONNA, and VANESSA STATAM

Absent 2 - ANTHONY GRAY, and NELA KALPIC

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-127](#) MINUTES FROM MAY 20, 2025

Attachments: [05.20.2025 Commission on Sensitive Crime Minutes](#)

The Minutes were not acted on

C. Action Items

D. Presentations

E. Reports to Committee

1. Agency Updates

DA Ozanne reported for the District Attorney's Office, they are facing a 4% cut to the base budget on the County side, this will likely result to a cut of positions. On the State side of things, funding for ARPA funding was not given and they also lost grant funding for Sex Assault and Stalking Resource Prosecutor. This will cause a loss of three positions; one will be added though by October.

Lt. Ewers-Hayes reported for Dane County Sheriff's Office, in working on the 2026 budget they have identified they will be about \$4 Million short and are currently about 30 positions understaffed but are expecting this to double or triple by the end of 2025.

Lt. Esser reported for City of Madison Police Department, the Dept. is identifying the next Police Chief, they have identified three candidates, they are hoping to have a decision no later than October. No other significant updates.

Welsh reported for the Dane County Board of Supervisors, the 4% ask to all base budgets has been requested. State budget wise, there was a lot of advocacies put in for Victim Witness Services, there was an ask of \$66.8 Million, but only \$20 Million is allocated for one year of the biennium. In addition, there was no increase in services and only \$4 million (over the next two years) went into Child Advocacy. A lot of hard discussions need to happen at this point.

Freeman reported for Dane County Human Services, APS (Adult Protective Services) is almost done filling the positions that were approved in last year's budget. Community members struggling with Dementia is a area of focus for APS - these are tough situations, especially when members may need to go to jail as the only safe place. We recognize this is not in the best interest of anyone, APS will continue to explore these areas. Is there a way we can develop a place for the community to support people, perhaps at Badger Prairie?

Barry reported for DAiS, they are budgeting for 2026 and 2027, they have identified two funding cliffs, they are looking to see if positions need to be cut or what other options are available. DAiS is up for city funding RFP this year but are still doing the best they can with fundraising.

Edgren reported for Journey Mental Health - Emergency Crisis Unit moved from 702 West Main to 37 Kessel Court Madison, WI 53711.

Brown reported for the District Attorney's Office - Victim Services they are currently filling three positions (2 Victim Witness Case Managers and 1 in the Crime Response Unit) there is also a posting for an Assistant District Attorney. They are working with Pre-Trial Services a lot on defendant's pre-charge that have previous history and are not following the monitoring rules. The GPS monitors are tracked 24/7 but are only monitored Monday - Friday. This has led to several instances of

offenders not being tracked for several hours - more to come on this soon.

Liston reported for UW- Health, in light of recent funding changes they are hoping to bring on staff so they will be fully staffed before any financial changes. There has been an increase in violent assault cases and seeing a larger increase in the intersection between mental needs and forensic needs.

Kato reported for the Rainbow Project, they are hiring for three full time therapist positions and are finally getting some interest. They are noticing an increase in higher levels of trauma for children due to increased bullying in schools, which can lead to self-harm. The Rainbow Project is looking at how to close these gaps.

Lubke reported she is finishing up some manuscripts for publication about data looking at indigenous women and the intersection between gender-based violence, mental health and substance use. Also looking at the other tools they are creating and getting these tools out there.

Pellebon reported for the Rape Crisis Center (RCC) they have an open house happening on 07/28/2025 from 3-7 PM, victim witness partners will be there as well. They are hiring for: a helpline and volunteer coordinator, a CCS facilitator and a multi-cultural advocate for the black and indigenous communities. RCC is working on the ten years of Game Changers, they will start doing interviews for teams for this!

2. CCR Updates / Items on CCR Agendas

Aguilar reported for the Individuals with Development Disabilities CCR, 7/16 from 2-4 PM is the next meeting and it is virtual. They have Pam Olin from DRW on how to best support and work with members with I/DD.

Kato reported for Child Abuse and Sexual Assault CCR - they are meeting monthly but do not have a next date yet. They do have a steering committee based off of a Sanford Collaborative model, this includes: Vanessa Statam (Anesis Therapy), Virginia Gittens-Escudero (Unidos), Heather Crowley (Dane County - Children, Youth, and Families), Alice Edan (University of Wisconsin) and Sharyl Kato (the Rainbow Project). They are hoping to start with a survey involving many different programs and groups of people. They are hoping to share the results at the POS Summit in November.

3. Legislative Updates/ Announcements

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Tuesday September 16, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Tuesday October 21, 2025 at 9:30 AM

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

A Motion to Adjourn was made by BARRY, Seconded by KATO that the meeting be adjourned at 10:12 A.M.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Priscilla McCarthy, Pending Commission approval