



# Dane County

## Minutes - Final

### 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, April 15, 2025

9:30 AM

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

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

#### A. Call To Order

CHAIR PELLOBON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:45 AM

Other Staff Present: Amy Scarr, Joe Aguilar, Jennifer Ginsburg, Priscilla McCarthy, Kelsi Gullickson

**Present** 9 - AMY BROWN, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, VANESSA STATAM, DANA PELLEBON, MOLLY CARADONNA, GREG ESSER, NELA KALPIC, and SONJA LISTON

**Absent** 7 - SHANNON BARRY, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, ANTHONY GRAY, ERIN WELSH, JOHNNIE MILTON, JENEILE LUEBKE, and HOPE EDGREN

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

The Minutes were moved by BROWN, Seconded by FREEMAN to approve the Minutes. The motion passed by a voice vote (9-0).

[2025](#)  
[MIN-001](#)

MINUTES FROM MARCH 18, 2025

**Attachments:** [COSC Minutes 03-18-2025](#)

#### C. Action Items

#### D. Presentations

#### E. Reports to Committee

## 1. Agency Updates

*Sonja Liston reported for UnityPoint Health Meriter Forensic Nursing Program - They are currently orienting two new staff. They have seen an increase in DV and strangulation cases within the past month, and an increase in complex mental health cases that are presenting as repeated sexual assault; finding resources for those has been difficult. They have seen a decrease in 13-17 year old sexual assault population.*

*Freeman reported for Adult Protective Services (APS) – no updates since last meeting.*

*Lt. Esser reported for Madison Police Department – no updates since last meeting.*

*Nela Kalpic reported for Marsy's Law. They wrapped up the Wisconsin Virtual Crime Victim Rights Conference, with the Department of Justice and the Attorney General presenting, who highlighted the importance of supporting funding for victim services.*

*Statam reported for Anesis Therapy – no updates since last meeting.*

*Brown reported for the District Attorney's Office for updates in the victim-witness unit. They started two new Deputy Director positions on April 7th. Brooke Barcena is the new Crime Response Deputy Director and will overlap for 90 days with Julie Foley, who retires on June 25th. Antonella Pallozzi is the new Bilingual Deputy Director. They recently won two sexual assault trials (one adult and one child).*

*Kato reported for Rainbow – They are noticing more referrals from the child care community. They are seeing more complex trauma, meaning more than one trauma, and also, over time, multiple traumas. They are seeing children who are witnessing and exposed to domestic violence. Community exposure to gun violence is something that they are seeing more of and responding to.*

*Caradonna reported for UW-Madison (survivor support services) – Sexual Assault Awareness Month Programming link <https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/connect-reflect/>*

*Jennifer Ginsburg reported for Safe Harbor – Their fundraiser, The Rent Event, is on Saturday, May 3rd. The theme is The Love Boat. People are encouraged to come in costume. There will be a live auction, food, and a speaker. If you are unable to attend, Safe Harbor is in need of volunteers. They also have the "Grub Grab," where attendees can buy gift certificates to area restaurants and then donate the gift certificate directly to The Rent Event.*

*Chair Pellebon reported for the Rape Crisis Center (RCC) – They are hiring a CCS Service Facilitator Supervisor and have a couple of open positions that they are hiring in the advocate space. They are currently working with the other DV agencies and Sonja Liston to talk about the DV response in the hospital. They will be meeting about that next month. Their plan is to have a concentrated DV response program for hospital advocacy by the end of the year. They will also have their text line up and going, hopefully by the end of May, so that people will be able to text them 24 hours a day, or do a virtual chat option, so that the people who don't use phones will be able to utilize their helpline in a different manner. They have been talking about the five-year Marcy Law anniversary and about funding around that. The VOCA dollars are vitally important. They have been doing a lot of lobbying. Dana has been doing a lot of media contact about the governor's line-item budget to be able to bring VOCA funding up to previous levels.*

## 2. CCR Updates/ Items on CCR Agendas

*Kato reported for the Child Abuse CCR: They had their last meeting in March. Their next meeting will be on May 20, and there will be about 20 people attending, representing many agencies. They are going to be meeting monthly. On the bigger picture, they are thinking about how the child abuse CCR can also work in as a part of the Children, Youth and Families Consortium. They are seeing at Rainbow that 60% of the adults they see have been affected by domestic violence and 40% of the children are exposed. They've been trying to keep better data on all of these things, including homelessness, which is higher as well. They are trying to keep more methodical data on this because they work with those who are exposed to domestic violence, sexual assault, neglect, as well as child abuse. They are also keeping an eye on the data exposure to addiction and human trafficking. Those are some things that they are seeing particularly in work with the schools. The schools will be a part of the Child Abuse CCR as well. They are trying to get more inclusion in terms of who is represented and what they will be doing together as a bigger group through the Children, Youth and Families Consortium. There was a County Board's resolution proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month that they attended with the goal to provide more detail for policymakers and funding sources about what is a part of child abuse and neglect, and to have more depth in understanding that, and understanding trauma. That is one goal: to provide information to policymakers and funding sources.*

*Joe Aguilar reported for Elder Abuse CCR—DCDHS: The IDD CCR meets quarterly. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 16th. Officer Schmitgen from the Mental Health Unit will attend and present.*

*Scarr reported for the Elder Abuse CCR for Dane County Adult Protective Services: They had a successful year last year with APS needs as it relates to individuals at risk and vulnerable adults. They had positions added to Adult Protective Services, especially with folks who are experiencing dementia and IDD related crises. Now is the time to talk about continued gaps in services.*

*Pellebon reported for the DVA CCR: They are talking about DV response. They were part of the proclamation at the County Board. One of the things that Dana noted for the County Board is that our rate of perpetration in Wisconsin is higher than it is across other parts of the nation. Across the nation, it is 1 in 4 female-identified and 1 in 6 male-identified. In Wisconsin, it's 1 in 3 female-identified and 1 in 5 male-identified. On the DV end, 1 out of every 6 domestic violence homicides across the nation are from Wisconsin. This is one of the reasons why they are mobilizing at RCC to look at that DV response, because people are dying at a high rate in Wisconsin. This year they are tracking their criminal and civil cases. They are part of the Court Watch Program and are contributing to that database. In addition, they are going to be tracking cases to see what the levels of reports are to levels of what is charged and what is the disposition of cases. This will allow them to be able to see where the cases are going and to reduce myths around what happens after perpetration. They are hopeful that by the end of the year, they will have good data tracking of what happens once perpetration happens. They currently meet monthly, on Wednesdays at noon (due to a conflict with Rotary meeting, they are working on changing that time).*

## 3. Legislative Updates/ Announcements

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 20, 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****I. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 A.M.

A motion was made by KATO, Seconded by FREEMAN, to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote (9-0).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Priscilla McCarthy and Kelsi Gullickson, pending Commission approval.