

TO: Dane County Board of Supervisors Health and Human Needs Committee and Dane County Board of Supervisors Public Protection and Judiciary Committee
FROM: Mike Murray, Chair, Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes
RE: 2014-15 Commission on Sensitive Crimes Annual Report
DATE: December 22, 2015

As most of you know, the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes (COSC) is a body mandated by Dane County ordinance to serve as a forum to coordinate services related to sensitive crimes, discuss and make policy recommendations regarding sensitive crimes, and collect and maintain data relevant to sensitive crimes in Dane County.

After a decade of dedicated leadership in her role as chair of the COSC, Kelly Anderson decided to step down as chair once she finished her employment with the Dane County Rape Crisis Center this April. I was selected by the other COSC members to replace Kelly as chair and assumed my new role in April. Shannon Barry (Executive Director of Domestic Abuse Intervention Services - DAIS) and Sharyl Kato (Executive Director of the Rainbow Project) are the newly elected Commission Vice-Chairs.

The Commission has been very active in 2014-15. In addition the above-mentioned leadership changes, the Commission has welcomed several new voting and non-voting members. The Commission has also engaged in extensive discussions regarding our statutory charges, specifically in regard to whether we should more actively engage in our public policy and data collection roles as enumerated by the enabling ordinance.

The overwhelming consensus among Commission members was that we have done an outstanding job of fulfilling our role as a forum for service coordination, but we could more fully engage our policy and data related roles. The Commission agreed that it would be best for me to meet individually with each Coordinated Community Response (CCR) team to receive further feedback from them about which specific roles and projects on which they would like the Commission to focus. I have had several productive discussions with the CCR's since then and should be able to report back to the Commission soon with comprehensive feedback. In general, there appears to be broad interest from the CCR's for the COSC to conduct a community "mapping" project that would provide an accurate representation of the experience of victims of sensitive crimes through the initial point of victimization to their entire experiences with the county criminal justice and human services systems.

The Commission continues to play an important role as a forum for discussing issues related to sensitive crimes and the work occurring within the individual CCR's. As Kelly has mentioned in her previous reports, the majority of the work related to discussing sensitive crimes issues still occurs within the community-based CCR's. As in Kelly's past reports, I have attached copies of each CCR's report regarding their 2014 activities and projects, so please take a moment to review them when you have a chance for a more comprehensive look at all of the work going on in our communities surrounding sensitive crimes.

Please know that the Commission is always available to serve as a resource to the HHN and PP&J Committees—and the entire Board—regarding any questions, comments, or concerns Board members may have regarding sensitive crime services in Dane County or county policies regarding sensitive crimes. Our members have a wealth of expertise and experience that they are happy to share if that would ever be of help.

Thank you all for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.