



# 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?*

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Tuesday, February 17, 2026

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 Pellebon called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M.

**Present** 9 - AMY BROWN, BETH FREEMAN, DANA PELLEBON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, ERIN WELSH, GREG ESSER, HOPE EDGREN, NELA KALPIC, and SONJA LISTON

**Excused** 2 - SHANNON BARRY, and VANESSA STATAM

**Absent** 5 - SHARYL KATO, ANTHONY GRAY, MOLLY CARADONNA, JOHNNIE MILTON, and JENEILE LUEBKE

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

#### C. Action Items

#### D. Presentations

#### E. Reports to Committee

*Agency Updates*

Lt. Eric Vossburg introduced himself from the Madison Police Department, he has 25 years of experience with the department, spending at least half of that time supervising detectives and went mainly from violent crime units and most recently has gone into internal affairs, he is very excited to be joining the group again and learn some of the knowledge he knew previously. MPD has had a very busy beginning to the year, they are currently working with volunteers who will be helping out as Domestic Violence liaisons and help us make connections in the community, there are 11 in the southern community who will be able to help build relationships and guide others to resources.

Edgren reported that Sgt. Briar is new to the Mental Health Unit, there are 3 new Mental Health Officers that joined the department as well they are learning and transitioning into their roles. After 4 years some officers get to go back to street units and a new batch of officers will get to work in the mental health unit!

Barcena reported for the DA's Office, Crime Response there is a grant that was given in collaboration with Public Health for \$100,000 this is for violence intervention for gun violence victims. There is a new position that was filled in the unit that is handling more of the children cases.

Liston reported for Meriter, they are recruiting for multiple open positions, they are continuing to train staff who will be placed at Beaver Dam. The annual statistics from 2025 are in and they saw 467 victims and did 52 consults, total including suspects was around 480.

Freeman reported for Human Services they have a memorandum of understanding going out to the community (sharing information and working on an MOU for financial institutions). APS was asked to look at the scope of cases, there have been about 7,000 contacts to the helpline in the past two years; 11 cases have lead to charges being brought against others, 9 of them were financial loss in the range of \$1.2 Million and 1 was a egregious case of abuse. The team is working hard to always find new ways to help and protect those in the community.

Kalpik reported for Marcy's Law, they have been holding a virtual conference for Victims of Crime over the past several years and this year will be April 16-17 and the link is live and will be able to be circulated. It's meant for all criminal justice stakeholders and partners, it looks to highlight access to rights and emphasize the importance of collaboration. There will be presenters from Wisconsin but also national presenters as well.

Ginsburg reported for Safe Harbor, they are piloting a satellite location in Columbia County, there are youth from other counties but barriers are involved with traveling, this is based in the sheriff's office in Portage, if this does well this would be likely turned into their own location. This location will serve Columbia, Juneau, Adams, and Sauk Counties, currently it's operating Monday's and Wednesday's. This is piloting for a year to see if support and funding will follow.

Pellebon reported for Rape Crisis Center, they are always looking for on call

advocates, there will be big updates they will be announcing soon.

### Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Updates

Pellebon reported for DV/SA CCR they have a survey that will be able to collect information from survivors and those who work with survivors. They are looking to expand membership as always with the DV/SA CCR.

Aguilar reported for IDD CCR they met last in January 2026, Dave Urban from Waisman Center presented on the Crisis Stabilization Program they have and learned a great deal about the new program. March 19, 2026 will be Disability Advocacy Day at the capitol, please feel free to show up and support this matter.

Scarr reported for the Elder Abuse CCR, they meet monthly on the second Wednesday of every month. They are watching legislation pass through relating to elder financial abuse and relates to the safety of financial banking. The Assembly Speakers Bipartisan Task Force on Elder Services released a report about the legislation they are supporting. The Financial Abuse Specialist Team is celebrating 26 years, they have a robust membership from the community and they discuss several crypto and cyber crimes happening. The first AI generated, AI-run scan went out on Jan. 3 and is something to always be on the look out for. The Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference will be held later in the year. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15 and they will be releasing more about this later.

### *Legislative Announcements*

Supervisor Welsh reported for The Board of Supervisors, recognized Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January and in the rest of the Health and Human Needs Committee meetings for 2026 DCDHS Director Schlueter will be speaking about the 2027 budget process. This will include updates about savings, program utilization rates are, position discussions, office sharing plans, etc... This update may seem bleak but it's necessary to make decisions for next year.

### **F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

March 17, 2026

April 21, 2026

May 19, 2026

June 16, 2026

July 21, 2026

No Meeting in August

September 15, 2026

October 20, 2026

November 17, 2026

No Meeting in December

**G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

**H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law**

**I. Adjourn**

A Motion was made by FREEMAN, Seconded by WELSH for the meeting to be adjourned at 10:07 A.M.

*Minutes Respectfully submitted by Priscilla McCarthy, pending Commission approval*