



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

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, February 18, 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

Call to Order: Chair Pellebon called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM

Sharyl Kato arrived at 9:57 AM

Other Staff Present: Joe Aguilar, Nela Kalpic, Jennifer Ginsburg, Amy Scarr,
Marlys Howe, Amanda Vernia, and Kelsi Gullickson

Present 10 - SHANNON BARRY, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, VANESSA STATAM,
DANA PELLEBON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, ANTHONY GRAY, ERIN WELSH,
MOLLY CARADONNA, and GREG ESSER

Absent 2 - AMY BROWN, and MATTHEW NORDQUIST

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2024](#)
[MIN-437](#)

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 21, 2025

Attachments: [Minutes_01.21.25](#)

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

C. Action Items

*Chair Pellebon advised the committee of an upcoming presentation to the Health and
Human Needs Committee in May regarding the annual advisory committee updates.
Annual to PP&J - Supervisor Gray to reach out to Chair Andre to ask for a time to
present to PP&J in the next quarter.*

D. Presentations

E. Reports to Committee

1. Agency Updates

Marlys Howe reported for the District Attorney's Office, the application for their courthouse dog for their victim witness unit went in this week. The recruitment for the Bilingual Spanish Deputy Director position has closed, and the next steps are going to be interviews. The annual report has been submitted, and they served 9,072 victims in 2024, which is about 300 less than last year. The 2025 Victim Witness Professionals have a yearly conference. Their office is going to put in a nomination on behalf of Julie Foley, who is retiring in June. In terms of legislative work, their VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) grant will be done in June, and that grant funds the Violence Against Women Resource Prosecutor (John Rice). The understanding is John Rice will continue to do this caseload even though they do not have funding for that specific type of caseload.

Erin Welsh reported for the Office of Crime Victim Services (Wisconsin Department of Justice). They are looking for the impacts of federal funding pauses, reductions, and freezes, any issues that people are seeing, and what that impact is, or is not in the community.

Update from Krista Ewers-Hayes on federal pauses and freezes: most of the pauses and freezes are falling within temporary restraining orders; there should not be pauses taking place. If there are any agencies that are not able to access funds, contact Wisconsin DOJ. The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) had a number of solicitations up, and those were taken down over the last two weeks. This is temporary and will be reviewed at the federal level, and those will be back up at some point in time. No details on when that will be. There have been no pauses at the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) at the federal level at this time. At the state level, that's the administering agency for a lot of those grant funds, there has been no indication that any of the formula funding that is received through their office will be impacted.

Lt. Esser reported for Madison Police Department, Acting Chief Patterson is in place, and they are working through the department shift change. They are in week three of the new sensitive crimes detective work units. On February 2nd, the patrol operations assignments, and the detective assignments switched. There are two separate units that work together. Adult Sensitive Crimes Detective Work Units are supervised by Lt. Esser and Detective Tracie Jokala. Lt. Esser is supervising eight detectives that cover the west side of Madison, including the South District, the Midtown District, and the West District. Detective Tracie Jokala is supervising eight detectives that cover the east side of Madison, including the North District, the East District, and the Central District.

Lt. Ewers-Hayes reported for the Dane County Sheriff's Office. They are onboarding a new detective who will start in April and just promoted another detective.

Caradonna reported for UW-Madison (survivor support services); they are re-launching a CCR that was set aside a few years ago. They are doing some technical assistance with WACASA, establishing mission vision, and initial goals. They are looking for partners and creative ideas on how to administer their Survivor Empowerment Fund to be able to fundraise some direct monies for student survivors of sexual and domestic violence. They have an approved capital project to turn a room into a forensic nurse exam room; this is going to be more student center, survivor center, and trauma-informed. The completion date will be over the summer, and it will be ready by fall. They are paying attention to VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funding. Currently, nothing that they have is VOCA funded. It's been a few years since they had anything VOCA funded, but with all

the higher education implications, NIH (National Institutes of Health) is a real big trickle down to them.

Barry reported for DAiS, they are currently in the process of hiring a full-time Crisis Intervention Advocate. They hired a Development Officer. They have a Development Data Specialist position opening to help run their donor database. They are hiring for a Legal Advocate that is posted internally. The shelter is full and has a waiting list. 2024 stats: over 8,000 calls on the helpline. ARPA dollars will end at the end of this year (2025). Those monies support their community outreach education and training program as well as their DV Housing First. The Department of Children and Families will not be continuing the DV Housing First. DCF used ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) dollars to pilot some DV Housing First projects, including DAiS. DAiS received \$100,000 a year for direct aid for housing for victims of intimate partner violence.

Freeman reported for Adult Protective Services (APS), they are going through many staffing transitions, they are taking a close look at being out in the community to assist, do outreach, and education to make sure they have the capacity and staff bandwidth to continue to do that, reach out and they will figure out if they can meet those needs and if they can't, they will attempt to refer to someone else in the community. They are posting for a part-time investigator position, and will have a full-time investigator position posted on Friday, February 21, 2025. In regards to the federal impact, their DHS partners are not sure what's going on in the world of Adult Protective Services at the federal level. The ACL has created federal Adult Protective Services guidelines to create a national standard of adult protective services work across the nation. That compliance is due in 2028; keeping an eye on whether that process will be impacted. Currently, the state is working through that. Wisconsin already has some consistency with those guidelines. A couple of the key areas they shared information about was creating a more standardized decision or screening guidance for cases and how they're assessed. Changing voluntary service language. The services are voluntary and limited in terms of what they can do when things come to the degree that involuntary action might be needed and how they collaborate with other community partners and support individuals who may touch lots of parts of their systems and trying to be effective and efficient in working together. The ARPA monies are done. In the last few years, they have had some Older Americans Act monies come through to APS, which helped with significant hoarding cleanup. They had almost \$300,000 over the course of ARPA monies having been available and that money was spent. They do still have some funding for adults at risk or older adults who are in need of services.

Nela Kalpic reports for Marsy's Law, there is a link to sign up and follow updates as they relate to the OVW funding. She has been working with Wisconsin National Guard over the past month and military to look into victim experiences where jurisdictions overlap, focused mostly on military victims and what that looks like when there is an overlap between jurisdictions. They are bringing together stakeholders to look into where victims may be falling through the cracks and how to best collaborate with each other and, and serve victims of crime along the way. The mapping is on February 28th. They will have the FBI present and other stakeholders. If anyone is interested in attending, please email Nela. The cut-off is by Monday, February 24, 2025. There is another victim mapping in June with the Department of Corrections. Nela has been working with Elizabeth Lucas and others to create a mapping that will look into victim experiences post-conviction.

Jennifer Ginsburg reports for Safe Harbor, they have a halftime position, and they hired a full-time position who starts March 10th in their mental health department. They are going through a training on an evidence-based practice out of Yale called Child and Family

Traumatic Stress Intervention. This is a five to eight session model for what's called the peritraumatic period for people who have undergone a recent incident. This is for children ages 7 to 18. This brief intervention model is approved by the National Children's Alliance. The training process starts in April. They had Representative Tony Kurtz, who's the Vice Chair of Joint Finance, come to Safe Harbor for a tour and to meet staff. Their main fundraising event is on Saturday, May 3, 2025, called The Rent Event. It is a live auction and raffle. It's a costume party, and the theme this year is The Love Boat.

Joe Aguilar reports for DCDHS Adult Protective Services nothing on PPJ to report. He will be requesting to schedule an opportunity for COSC to present to PP&J and hear about the initiatives that are taking place.

Vanessa Statam reports on Anesis Therapy, they have a Multicultural Mental Health Conference for Anesis that will be in August at Monona Terrace. It will be a day and a half. They are looking to have more people this year and more diverse topics. If anybody is interested in submitting a proposal, they would like to see a lot of our own community providing topics in the area of mental health. Vanessa will send the link to Chair Pellebon to distribute.

Kato reported for The Rainbow Project the main issues right now for the Rainbow Project are the community violence response and also the challenges of immigration. They are feeling very determined and doing a lot of processing with their staff in terms of support and wellness to be able to continue their persistence. They are adding another psychiatrist and perhaps a pediatrician to the Rainbow Integrated Health Team to look at trauma from all aspects and looking at some of the physical issues and somatic issues that are that are coming forward for children and adults. When people are thinking about medication trauma victims, most of the time, the team is actually reducing medications or changing them so that they are less intrusive. Regarding their CCR, they sent out a doodle poll, and are going to be able to regroup and rally, and they have some really good things to share. At the last meeting, Kato spoke about the past Commission on Sensitive Crimes retreats and mentioned they had outside facilitators. At the retreats they had all the CCRs had their priorities, put them all together, and then were able to establish what the commission's priorities were going to be. When she thinks about the Briar Patch and their shelter, that was one of the goals that they all got together, wrote federal grants together to get that started. That is something that happened with Safe Harbor in the past; they really tried to rally the CCRs and then were able to see what each of the CCRs was prioritizing and then what they could work on together.

Pellebon reported for the Rape Crisis Center (RCC), they have in full place a new Director of Client Services. They have a new Mental Health Supervisor. She has taken over their mental health department including their therapists, and CCS program. They are still looking for a third CCS person. They will be moving spaces in May to a building on East Washington Avenue. They will be having an open house in July to coincide when we had their first helpline call back in 1973. They will be asking community partners to do tabling at the open house.

2. CCR Updates / Items on CCR Agendas

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence: Pellebon shared that they are re-launching their DVSA CCR in March with a survey for providers and clients with things that are known, and asking for things that are unknown to focus the new work that they will be doing in that space. They are going to fold-in their SART team into that space, with the idea that if there is a case that they want, as a group, to work through or look at, they will then ask the SART team to convene to review that case and then they will reach out to all of the agencies that worked on that case to then uphold case review. This will eliminate duplicating the efforts that we are seeing in this space. Currently the meeting is held on Wednesdays at Noon, they are looking to move that meeting time.

Elder Abuse: Dane County APS Victim Advocate Amy Scarr shared that the Elder Abuse CCR continues to meet each month. The membership brings most of the discussion. She keeps track of all the subcommittees for Elder Abuse CCR. One of the subcommittees is the Financial Abuse specialist team (FAST) which is in its 25th year here in Dane County. That is similar to the Elder Abuse CCR. It's people who have an interest in financial abuse, exploitations, crimes, scams, and frauds against vulnerable adults. This brings together numerous professionals in the community who have an interest in that. This includes all of our community partners who have a hand in helping people with regard to financial crimes and exploitation. One of their subcommittees, the Hoarding Task Force, had its last meeting last week. They updated the brochure for hoarding resources for Dane County, it's available through APS or through the Aging and Disability Resource Center. They have a subcommittee for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day which is June 15th of every year.

Child Abuse & Neglect: Sharyl Kato, Executive Director of The Rainbow Project Child & Family Counseling & Resource Clinic, shared they are going to re-rally the Child Abuse CCR. It is a matter of seeing what they can do efficiently in terms of covering so much with fewer resources and time. Sharyl feels that over time there's always been a rally to recalibrate depending on the situations and the players. She is looking forward to how we can do that in a creative and powerful way. They also are looking into some of the issues that overlap with PP&J.

Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities: Dane County APS Social Worker Joe Aguilar stated they meet quarterly and have not met since the last COSC meeting. The last meeting was January 15, 2025 and the next one will be April 16th. They are still working on getting a presenter to come to that meeting.

Maryls Howe reported on legislative updates. They have not met in a year. When she gets anything that she thinks is worthy to send out, she sends it out to the group. She has been updating it as they go along. She feels that this has been a big loss in terms of this group meeting. The courthouse staff and many people that used to meet can't meet. She feels what has been happening is a lot of organic emails going back and forth. When people have issues with what's going on in the courthouse, they do let her know. They meet with DAIS legal advocates as often as they can.

3. Legislative Updates/ Announcements

Carousel Bayrd, Executive Assistant for County Executive Agaard registered to speak. Chair Pellebon asked her to report on status of appointments that are in the County Executive's office for this commission. No updates to report. Bayrd said that it is a priority on the County Executive's list.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 09:30 AM

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kelsi Gullickson, pending Commission approval.