



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Public Protection & Judiciary Committee-Fines & Fees Subcommittee

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

12:00 PM

Virtual Zoom Meeting:

See top of agenda for instructions on how to join the
webinar or call in by phone.

A. Call To Order

Meeting called to order at 12:02 p.m.

Others present: J. Cooke, D. Floeter, C. Pabellon and S. Stavn.

Present: 10 - JOSEPH BARING, CAROUSEL BAYRD, CARLO ESQUEDA, CATHERINE DORL,
LINDA KETCHAM, ARVINA MARTIN, WESLEY SPARKMAN, SARAH DAVIS,
HEIDI WEGLEITNER and ERICA NELSON

Excused: 1 - NICHOLAS McNAMARA

Absent: 3 - DOMINIQUE CHRISTIAN, DAVID MAHONEY and ISMAEL OZANNE

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020](#) FINES AND FEES SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2021
[MIN-472](#)

Attachments: [2020 MIN-472 02-10-2021](#)

A motion was made by BARING, seconded by SPARKMAN, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: 10-0

Ayes: 10 - BARING, BAYRD, ESQUEDA, DORL, KETCHAM, MARTIN, SPARKMAN, DAVIS,
WEGLEITNER and NELSON

Excused: 1 - McNAMARA

Absent: 3 - CHRISTIAN, MAHONEY and OZANNE

C. Presentations

2020
PRES-174

FAMILY COURT SERVICES FEES

Attachments: [2020 PRES-175 Family Court Service Fees 03-10-2021](#)

Cooke and Floeter presented on Family Court Counseling fees. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Davis asked whether there was an indigency waiver process, asked about the order to show cause hearings, and the use of the Stark collection process. Floeter explained the order to show cause hearings are judicial proceedings. Clerk Esqueda explained that the Stark Agency has a separate agreement with Family Court Counseling. Cooke also explained that Family Court Counseling may be looking at other collection options. Cooke further explained that the waiver process uses a form to gather information, and waives fees when information is provided. Martin asked if the waivers are open records or sealed. Cooke explained that the waivers are confidential. Martin then asked if online payments are possible. Cooke explained that most fees can be paid online, but the parent education fees are typically cash payments. Nelson asked if there was a way to determine which individuals who owe the fees fall into which Tiers. Nelson also asked if there is a cross-system communication of individuals who may be in arrears. Cooke answered that there is no mechanism for identifying which individuals fall into which tiers, but a new online database may help. Floeter and Cooke explained there is no such cross-system communication however, the order to show cause hearing provides a vehicle to look broadly at an individual's circumstances. Bayrd asked if every family who goes through the divorce system is required to use family court services. Cooke explained that the only families that use family court services are those who have obstacles and challenges. Sparkman asked if the fees are set by ordinance, and Cooke answered that the Tiers are set by ordinance. Sparkman offered to assist the department with identifying certain groups. Davis informed the Committee that the State just developed an affidavit that individuals can use to demonstrate need.

Supervisor Wegleitner asked which ordinances control the Family Court Service fees, and expressed concern that the County was shifting these costs to the individuals.

(Martin, Dorl and Wegleitner leave at 1 p.m.)

Present: 7 - JOSEPH BARING, CAROUSEL BAYRD, CARLO ESQUEDA, LINDA KETCHAM, WESLEY SPARKMAN, SARAH DAVIS and ERICA NELSON

Excused: 1 - NICHOLAS McNAMARA

Absent: 6 - DOMINIQUE CHRISTIAN, CATHERINE DORL, DAVID MAHONEY, ARVINA MARTIN, ISMAEL OZANNE and HEIDI WEGLEITNER

Committee is adjourned by operation of no quorum at 1:04 p.m.

D. Future Meeting Items and Dates

E. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

F. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

G. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie A. Stavn