



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, May 18, 2021

8:30 AM

Virtual Zoom Meeting

A. Call To Order

Others present: Jennifer Ginsburg, Marlys Howe, Carrie Pomije, Amy Scarr, Vanessa Statam, Howard Thomas, and Faye Zemel

Chair Miyasaki called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Present 10 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, HEATHER CROWLEY, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, Supervisor MAUREEN McCARVILLE, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, DANA PELLEBON, ANGELA KAMOSKE, and Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO

Absent 1 - KRISTA EWERS-HAYES

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#) MINUTES FROM APRIL 20, 2021
[MIN-048](#)

Attachments: [2021_0420 COSC Minutes](#)
[2021_0420 COSC Public Registrations](#)

A motion was made by MCCARVILLE, seconded by PELLEBON, to approve the minutes. The motion carried by a voice vote 10-0.

C. Action Items

None.

D. Presentations

None.

E. Reports to Commission

1. Agency Updates

Kamoske reported all Madison Police Department commissioned staff have returned to working in the office. Civilian staff are returning to the office in tiers. The Special Victims Unit is inundated with Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) and other child-related cases.

Statam reported Anesis has hired a service facilitator who identifies as transgender. Two new service facilitators, a Black woman and a Hispanic woman, will start providing service at the end of June. Some employees currently filling dual roles will be transitioned to doing solely psychotherapy work instead of also providing service facilitation so new referrals can be accepted. The in-home program that works with families that are court-involved with Child Protective Services or Youth Justice is operational.

Barry reported Domestic Abuse Intervention Services is in the final planning process for hiring a case management staff coordinator. The agency's bilingual legal advocate is leaving at end of month. More people are working in the office as vaccination rates increase.

Pellebon reported all Rape Crisis Center staff are responding in person. RCC is fully staffed on the direct services side, having recently hired two college campus advocates. The agency is recruiting for an office coordinator. In February, RCC transitioned an education staffer to manage marketing and social media and is now recruiting to fill the education position, which works in schools. The Sexual Assault Response Team will take part in the Sexual Abuse Kit Tracking Initiative, which is designed to allow survivors to follow progress as the kits move from the hospital to the lab, and from the lab to law enforcement. Victim advocates could also track the kits with the survivor's permission.

Crowley reported Dane County Department of Human Services has not announced a date for reopening buildings to the public. When department workers do return to their offices, it is expected to be at far less than capacity, with most employees splitting time between working in the office and from home. Youth Justice staff have returned to working in some schools, depending on each district's policy. DCDHS this week launched its redesigned website, which is easier to navigate and find resources. The DCDHS five-year strategic plan was recently rolled out to community stakeholders and staff.

Brown reported Dane County District Attorney Office and other staff are returning to the courthouse, with in-person hearings having resumed on 17 May. Live streaming is not being offered during in-person hearings. Jury trials are scheduled to resume on 1 June, with four trials scheduled per week. The majority of scheduled trials involve homicide, attempted homicide and domestic violence charges. The DA's Office is in the process of hiring a new full-time victim witness case manager and two LTE case managers to meet the service requirements of Marsy's Law as well as the unusually large caseloads caused by the courthouse being closed during the pandemic.

Kato reported The Rainbow Project is seeing increasing referrals with more challenging behaviors reported as more kids return to the classroom. The agency is fielding requests to meet in-person at neighborhood centers after school and to see kids during school hours. The clinic reopening date has not been determined. Core programming and Early Childhood Zone programming are operating virtually, as is the office in the Early Head Start building. Recruitment is underway to hire a part-time nurse and an administrative assistant. Rainbow is partnering with Goodman Center to help transition pre-schoolers to public schools. The Rhumba for Rainbow fundraiser is scheduled for 17 September and

will allow limited attendance at Union South. The event will be live-streamed. The agency is seeing an increase in homelessness among its consumers.

Freeman reported Carrie Pomije's last day with Adult Protective Services is 19 May and that it's expected her replacement will be an external hire. In addition, an Elder Abuse investigator is retiring on 1 June. APS workers are meeting in-person with consumers when possible.

Ginsburg reported Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center is meeting clients in-person and that 50% of staff are working in the office at a time. The January-March quarter was the agency's busiest ever. After a slow down in April, May has been very busy. Safe Harbor's bilingual/bicultural staff person is extremely busy.

2. Sexual Assault Awareness Month Activities Update

Pellebon reported the focus of Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities shifted this year from fundraising to public programming. This year's theme was "Centering Black Women as a Form of Self-Care and Collective Liberation." A virtual luncheon was held and daily programming offerings such as meditation, fitness, discussion, art and recipes were offered. Community feedback was positive.

3. Anti-Spyware Project Update

Barry shared DAIS' referral forms as well as those it has from other agencies with UW-Madison Assistant Professor Rahul Chatterjee, who hopes to launch a monthly anti-spyware clinic at DAIS in late June.

4. CCR Restructuring Update

Pellebon reported the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence CCRs have combined. In the most recent meeting, District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Manager Marlys Howe provided a presentation on the historical role of the CCRs and a discussion ensued about how to move forward as a combined group. A small group will meet before the next SA/DV meeting to form potential models for moving forward with a survivor-led group.

5. CCR Updates

Child Abuse & Neglect: The Prevention & Early Intervention and Mental Health subcommittees, the Trauma-Informed Advisory Council and the Steering Committee, which includes subcommittee chairs, continue to meet and each has some overlap with the Anti-Sex Trafficking group. There has been increased coordination between the groups. The last CCR meeting featured DCDHS Coordinated Community Services Manager Julie Meister, who answered questions about coordination and duplication of services. Family Service Madison, Inc. now is represented on Mental Health Subcommittee. The dire need of the bilingual/bicultural community continues to be a theme with all the subcommittees -- with youth and adults who are not caregivers the biggest void.

Elder Abuse: The Hoarding Task Force has updated its resources for providing help. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is 15 June. May is Older Americans Month. The Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference will be held virtually at the end of October and focus on general trauma as well as the trauma caused by COVID-19 and lessons learned in delivering services to older adults during the pandemic.

Intellectual Disabilities: Ellen Merker plans to return as the group's leader after maternity leave. Last month Merker presented on neurodiversity. Alie Kriofske from UW Rehab Psych and Special Ed is presenting today on I/DD individuals' sexuality and dating.

Legal Issues: MMG Law Attorney Matt Gillhouse provided a presentation on U Visas at the most recent meeting. The District Attorney's Office has streamlined its U Visa protocol, including moving to all-electronic filing.

Sexual Abuse: Two victim specialists from the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit of the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Criminal Intelligence Division will present at the meeting on 19 May. They will explain what they do and how to access services. Shauwa Guinn from Dane County Corporation Counsel will share data on the approximately 24 CPS cases that were screened in. A training on I/DD special services will be rescheduled for spring. After meeting with recently hired Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes, the group will stay in touch with him about how to do more comprehensive training around the service needs of the I/DD population.

6. Legislative Updates/Announcements

McCarville reported the Public Protection & Judiciary Committee expects to learn about Public Health Madison & Dane County's new guidance on COVID-19 protocols and about staffing shortages in the District Attorney's Office due to mandates from Marsy's Law at its meeting later this month. As work picks up for the 2022 Dane County Budget, McCarville stated PP&J would like to hear from agencies about perceived needs. For the Dane County Board, which continues to meet virtually, finding suitable housing alternatives for individuals who have been placed in hotels and motels during the pandemic is among the top priorities.

Castillo reported the Health & Human Needs Committee has recently focused on the equitable distribution of American Recovery Act Plan funding.

Barry reported that End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin and DAIS registered in opposition of Wisconsin Senate Bill 112/Assembly Bill 107, which would require a statement of fact (i.e. restraining order, etc.) if a parent receives less than 25% physical placement -- a measure that puts more pressure on survivors to "prove" that there was domestic violence and is problematic for those who don't use the criminal or civil court systems.

Miyasaki announced her interest in creating a subcommittee to qualitatively document trends and concerns community stakeholders are seeing and to serve in a supportive way for grant proposals.

Miyasaki will invite recently appointed Dane County Sheriff Calvin Barrett to an upcoming meeting.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Tuesday, 15 June 2021, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None.

I. Adjournment

A motion was made by BROWN, seconded by FREEMAN, to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas.