



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, August 17, 2021

8:30 AM

Virtual meeting

A. Call To Order

Guests and staff present: Jennifer Ginsburg, Allison Schlotz, and Howard Thomas

Chair Miyasaki called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Present 8 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, BETH FREEMAN, Supervisor MAUREEN McCARVILLE, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, DANA PELLEBON, ANGELA KAMOSKE, and Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO

Absent 3 - HEATHER CROWLEY, SHARYL KATO, and KRISTA EWERS-HAYES

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#)
[MIN-199](#)

MINUTES FROM JUNE 15, 2021

Attachments: [2021_0615 COSC Minutes](#)

A motion was made by FREEMAN, seconded by MCCARVILLE, to approve the minutes. The motion carried by a voice vote 7-0 (Barry abstained).

C. Action Items

None.

D. Presentations

None.

Attendance Update

Ewers-Hayes joined the meeting.

Present 9 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, BETH FREEMAN, Supervisor MAUREEN McCARVILLE, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, DANA PELLEBON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, ANGELA KAMOSKE, and Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO

Absent 2 - HEATHER CROWLEY, and SHARYL KATO

E. Reports to Committee

1. Agency Updates

Freeman reported the Dane County Adult Protective Services Unit is in the process of hiring two Adults at Risk Investigators and will have the services of two student interns beginning in September. APS offices will move from the Northport Drive location to the South Madison location in late September. Due to the increased presence of the COVID-19 delta variant, most Dane County employees will continue to work primarily at home until at least January. Work continues to clarify and share the supports that can be provided to individuals under age 18 in the Intellectual/Development Disabilities (ID/D) population.

Brown reported the Dane County District Attorney's Office has been conducting jury trials since early June, with the majority of those so far being older cases involving violent crimes that were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lower-level felony and misdemeanor trials are likely to be delayed until late 2022 due to the backlog created by the Dane County Courthouse being closed for more than a year. Victim Witness Unit cases dipped by approximately 1% in June but are increasing again. The Victim Witness Unit has stopped participating in most community meetings, Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center interviews and other non-mandated activities in an effort to comply with the increased workload caused by Marsy's Law mandates. An effort to hire LTEs to help with bloated caseloads due to Marsy's Law and the pandemic is being made so the Victim Witness Unit can restore its previous levels of commitment to sensitive crimes work. The DA's Office continues to be concerned about the reduced level of services to sensitive crimes victims due to resources being diverted to the activities mandated by Marsy's Law.

Ginsburg reported Safe Harbor's Labor Day Dash 5K and 10K run-walks will be held September 6 in Vilas Park. Sponsorships pledges and pre-registrations for the fundraiser have been strong.

Kamoske reported Madison Police Department (MPD) calls for domestic violence and sensitive crimes stabilized somewhat as more people returned to the workplace after COVID-19 restrictions lifted, but calls for shots fired and gun violence incidents continue to rise. Assistant Chief Vic Wahl and Interim Assistant Chief Richard Bach will each retire in September. Captain Brian Austin has been promoted to Assistant Chief. In September, Kamoske will be transfer to a new unit and she will leave the Commission. She will alert Chair Miyasaki about who is interested in taking MPD's position. Due to the increased prevalence of the delta variant, MPD employees -- including officers in the community -- have resumed masking.

Pellebon reported Rape Crisis Center (RCC) has seen increases in forensic nurse exams in both adults and pediatric victims. An effort is underway to reduce the amount of hours on-call staff are working due to the burnout being experienced. A plan will be presented to the RCC Board of Directions today that calls for adding four full-time therapists -- there currently is one -- to the staff. If approved, three of the therapists would provide free services and the services of the other two would be billed out to insurance. Forensic nurse exams have started on the UW-Madison campus at University Health Services. RCC is partnering with Safe Bar Network, which focuses on teaching the entire staff of an establishment how to have a continuous conversation about noticing concerning behavior, interrupting effectively, and offering support to increase safety. In-person Chimera classes, a self-defense program designed for the needs of women which teaches awareness, assertiveness and physical protection skills, have resumed. Pellebon invited Commission members to RCC's Java Jive fundraiser on August 21 at

Breese Stevens Field.

Barry reported most Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) employees are working in the office, but that they have been given the ability to work remotely again due to the prevalence of the delta variant. There are also few volunteers in the office. DAIS is in the hiring process for five open positions: two case managers, a bilingual legal advocate, an executive assistant, and an operations assistant. Helpline call volume remains consistent but is fielding record numbers of first-time callers. The number of families with small children using shelter services is up 100% in the past year. At last count, there were 26 children, with 25 under the age of 6, sheltering. Many families continue to struggle finding permanent housing. DAIS is doing more work with the Homeless Services Consortium of Dane County and extending the length of shelter stays, which is causing a longer wait list. DAIS has heard from multiple law enforcement agencies interested in replicating the Law Enforcement Advocate Program (LEAP) the agency partners on with MPD. LEAP generates an automatic referral to DAIS with each domestic police call. Barry invited members to the DAIS golf outing and dinner fundraiser on August 30.

Ewers-Hayes reported the Dane County Sheriff's Office is putting employees' return to the office on hold as the delta variant surges. A large amount of resources the past four to six weeks have been spent on the case that produced multiple charges, including homicide, for DeForest resident Chandler Halderson. Sheriff Calvin Barrett has instituted an department-wide initiative to begin referring to incarcerated individuals as "residents" or "those in our care" in an attempt to help the individuals transition more easily once they are no longer in custody. Domestic violence detectives have been very busy and human trafficking investigations are on the rise.

Castillo reported work on the 2022 Dane County Budget has begun.

McCarville outlined the process for requesting funding in the Dane County Budget. Tim Rockwell and Jeff Weigand have joined the Dane County Board of Supervisors. Rockwell has been appointed to the Public Protection & Judiciary Committee, which McCarville chairs, and Weigand is expected to join PP&J as well. Housing and services for those experiencing homelessness continue to be major focus areas for the County Board.

Schlotz reported the number of Forensic Nurse Examinations at Unity Point Health-Meriter continues to rise, specifically among the pediatric population.

2. Anti-Spyware Project Update

Barry stated UW-Madison Assistant Professor Rahul Chatterjee met with DAIS direct service staff regarding the launch of an Anti-Spyware Clinic that would first be available to DAIS clients, then be made available to other area agencies. Work continues on the logistics of holding the once-per-month clinic at DAIS. Miyasaki stated Chatterjee provided anti-spyware services for a Project RESPECT client and that she was impressed with Chatterjee's ability to educate the individual about ways someone close to her could track her movements.

3. CCR Updates

Domestic Violence/Sexual Abuse: Pellebon reported the plan to move forward with a survivors group and an implementation group was approved. Seven individuals have expressed interest in serving as survivors group members. A meeting on August 20 will establish next steps, with the goal of both groups launching in September.

DV/SA Subcommittee on Child Exploitation: The group met with MPD Chief Shon Barnes on July 7 and invited him to attend four of the monthly meetings each year to maintain the flow of communication.

Intellectual/Development Disabilities: Freeman reported the August meeting was canceled. The next meeting is September 21.

Elder Abuse: A discussion about updates to area resources, especially regarding scams, was conducted at the meeting on August 11. Dr. Yee Xiong, a Board Certified Psychiatrist, will provide a free four-workshop series next week entitled "Mental Health in the Hmong Community." Freeman will share the flyer for the trainings with Commission members and attendees.

Registration will open soon for the Domestic Violence in Later Life virtual conference on October 28 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

4. Legislative Updates/Announcements

Miyasaki stated the VOCA Fix Act to sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 passed in the Senate last month. The House of Representatives approved the measure in March.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Tuesday, 14 September 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 BARRY, seconded by PELLEBON, to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas.