



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, April 20, 2021

8:30 AM

Virtual Zoom Meeting

A. Call To Order

Staff and guests present: Rahul Chatterjee, Jennifer Ginsburg, Maryls Howe, Ellen Merker, Carrie Pomije, Amy Scarr, Vanessa Statam, Howard Thomas, and Faye Zemel

Chair Miyasaki called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Present 9 - SHANNON BARRY, HEATHER CROWLEY, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, BARBARA MCKINNEY, Supervisor MAUREEN McCARVILLE, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, and CECELY CASTILLO

Absent 3 - AMY BROWN, DANA PELLEBON, and ANGELA KAMOSKE

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#) MINUTES FROM MARCH 16, 2021
[MIN-001](#)

Attachments: [2021_0316_COSC_Minutes](#)

A motion was made by KATO, seconded by FREEMAN, to approve the minutes.
The motion carried by a voice vote 9-3.

C. Action Items

None.

D. Presentations

None.

E. Reports to Committee

1. Agency Updates

Dane County District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Unit Manager Marlys Howe reported some judges will begin in-person criminal hearings the week of 17 May and that the process of issuing restraining orders is likely to resume soon. Jury trials are expected to resume on 1 June, with backlogged homicide and sexual assault cases dominating the docket through December. Judges plan to backfill one- and two-day trials when time permits. YouTube streaming, which many victims and witnesses have found helpful, is expected to discontinue with the reopening of the Dane County Courthouse. COVID-19 restrictions are expected to make court accompaniment services difficult. Assistant District Attorney Matt Mosher tendered his resignation, effective 7 May.

DCDHS Social Worker Carrie Pomije reported she has accepted a new position with DCDHS.

Executive Director Sharyl Kato reported The Rainbow Project is providing the services of two non-traditional psychiatrists -- one to work with children and one to work with adults. The Rainbow Project's wait list is growing. The agency continues to work on a reconstitution plan and hopes to reopen its office soon. The agency continues to see young children, adolescents and adult clients contracting COVID-19.

DCDHS Youth Justice Early Intervention Services Unit Supervisor Heather Crowley reported mandated in-person services have resumed after months of virtual service due to the pandemic. DCDHS offices remain closed to the public with a tentative reopening date of sometime in the summer. Youth Justice has had low numbers in detention and ongoing caseloads during the pandemic. Crowley recommended viewing a recent webinar conducted by Public Health Madison & Dane County's Violence Prevention Unit. Crowley will meet with Che Steadman, Madison Fire Department Assistant Chief of Medical Affairs, regarding the City of Madison's Mental Health Crisis pilot, with a focus on informing how to best help indigenous people. U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Holland launched a task force to focus on missing and murdered indigenous women and study how the problem is related to domestic violence and sex trafficking.

Freeman reported DCDHS Behavioral Health Manager Carrie Simon and Steadman will attend a strategic planning meeting of the Collaborative Stabilization Coalition to inform the group on strategies for reducing crises and hospitalizations among I/DD individuals and to look at ways to expand the scope of service.

Executive Director Shannon Barry reported Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) has been providing in-person services and that volunteers are returning to staff the helpline, lifting a huge burden off of staff. DAIS' shelter program continues to see high demand, partially fueled by individuals experiencing homelessness rather than what the program is designed for -- to shelter those experiencing domestic violence.

2. Anti-Spyware Project Update

University of Wisconsin assistant professor Rahul Chatterjee reported he anticipates being able to launch an anti-spyware clinic at DAIS in late May. The plan is to hold the clinic one day per month, which would allow clinic volunteers to examine the devices of 8-10 consumers for spyware installed by intimate partners. The initial sessions would include DAIS clients with the hopes a registration system can be implemented to include consumers referred by other providers.

3. CCR Restructuring Update

No report.

4. CCR Updates

[2021](#)
[RPT-024](#)

THE SEXUAL ABUSE TO PRISON PIPELINE: THE GIRLS' STORY

Attachments: [The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline -- The Girls' Story](#)

Elder Abuse: Efforts to publicize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15 will begin soon. Dane County Supervisor Maureen McCarville plans to sponsor a resolution to recognize the event. The Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference is scheduled to be held virtually on 28 October.

Domestic Violence: The group did not meet in April.

Sexual Assault: New Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes attended the March meeting of the Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation Subcommittee and addressed several topics, including collaboration with community partners to improve police training -- especially when it comes to meeting the needs of I/DD individuals. The CCR will form a subcommittee to keep Barnes informed on pertinent issues. Detective Sergeant Julie Johnson volunteered to create a short video that can be played during MPD roll calls to educate officers about working with I/DD individuals. Planning continues for a media information session.

Child Abuse & Neglect: The Prevention & Early Intervention Subcommittee merged with the Advocacy Subcommittee. DCDHS Comprehensive Community Services Manager Julie Meister will speak at the Mental Health Subcommittee meeting on 30 April to inform on coordination of services for families and making sure there is an awareness by CCS workers about the continuum of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and child sex trafficking. Meister also is expected to provide clarification about CCS policies. The Mental Health Subcommittee is inviting referral coordinators to meetings to provide updates about new programming and inform on wait list numbers. The Trauma-Informed Advisory Council continues planning for its November summit. May is Trauma Awareness Month and Mental Health Awareness Month. The Prevention & Early Intervention Subcommittee is planning a series of virtual events through May. The Rainbow Project is conducting weekly sessions in April regarding child abuse and neglect. The Children's Mental Health Collaborative, which includes mental health professionals working with schools, is scheduled to meet in May.

I/DD: The CCR includes a large numbers of case managers, who have been having a conversation about what they can do to better support their clients -- especially in cases when individuals are in dangerous or abusive situations but don't see that there is a problem. Today's CCR meeting will include a presentation on trauma and neurodivergence.

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

5. Legislative Updates/Announcements

[2021](#) LEGTRACK 040621
[RPT-023](#)

Attachments: [LegTrack 4.06.21](#)

McCarville reported Calvin Barrett, who was appointed by Governor Tony Evers to replace retiring Dane County Sheriff Dave Mahoney, was introduced to the Public Protection & Judiciary Committee at its most recent meeting. It's expected the Dane County Board will appoint a committee to advocate for improved broadband capabilities in rural areas. Dane County Controller Charles Hicklin is scheduled to provide an update about CARES Act funding during the Committee of the Whole meeting on 22 April.

Dane County Supervisor Cecely Castillo reported the County Board recognized Black Maternal Health Week (April 11-17) via resolution.

Madison Alder Barbara McKinney reported public safety initiatives and mental health services are among the top focuses for the Madison Common Council.

Barry reported the National Network to End Domestic Violence will hold an legislative advocacy day on 21 April to raise awareness about, and support passage of, the Victims of Crime Act of 2021.

Miyasaki reported the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization Act of 2021 passed the House of Representatives in March but remains stalled in the Senate because Republicans oppose the gun restrictions. Democrats are trying to use VAWA to keep firearms away from current and former dating partners convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence, closing a gap known as the "boyfriend loophole." Under current federal law, convicted abusers are banned from possessing guns only if their victim is a current or former spouse, someone with whom they lived or had a child, or someone to whom they are a parent or guardian.

Miyasaki shared the April LegTrack with commission members.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Tuesday, 18 May 2021, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

Lauri Schwartz, citing the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families' 2019 Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report, stated the problem areas have become worse during isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and that child welfare agencies are not intervening enough on behalf of children.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

McKinney, who serves as the City of Madison Public Safety Review Committee (PSRC) representative on the commission, announced this would be her last meeting as she has been removed from the PSRC by the mayor and assigned elsewhere. Miyasaki thanked McKinney for her service on the commission.

I. Adjournment

A motion was made by MCKINNEY, seconded by FREEMAN, to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas