



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, October 19, 2021

8:30 AM

A. Call To Order

*Others present: Greg Esser, Maryls Howe, Nela Kalpic, Jenny Rusch, Amy Scarr,
Allison Schlotz, and Howard Thomas*

Chair Miyasaki called the meeting to order at 8:54 a.m.

- Present** 6 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, HEATHER CROWLEY, SHARYL KATO, Chair
JAN MIYASAKI, and Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO
- Absent** 4 - BETH FREEMAN, Supervisor MAUREEN McCARVILLE, DANA PELLEBON, and
KRISTA EWERS-HAYES

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#) MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
[MIN-349](#)

Attachments: [2021_0914 COSC Minutes](#)

A motion was made by KATO, seconded by CASTILLO, to approve the minutes.
The motion carried by a voice vote (6-0).

C. Action Items

None.

D. Presentations

None.

E. Reports to Committee

1. Agency Updates

Kato reported The Rainbow Project's wait list has grown significantly. The agency is implementing safety measures ahead of re-opening the office to the public following the shutdown caused by COVID-19. Rainbow Project is receiving requests for services from community centers, child care programs and schools and is developing protocols to assess each site for safety amid the pandemic.

Scarr reported referral calls are up for both elder abuse and adults at risk. Two new Adult Protective Services investigators were hired recently and are in training. Adult Protective Services will begin moving from the Northport location to the South Madison office this month. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and November is National Dementia Caregivers Month, and APS is involved in activities and trainings for both. The virtual Domestic Violence in Later Life conference on Oct. 28 has reached capacity, but a wait list is being kept.

Rusch reported Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center has completed its Drug Endangered Child Protocol and multiple law enforcement agencies have signed it. Work continues on a trafficking protocol.

Barry reported Domestic Abuse Intervention Services is trying to hire a bilingual legal advocate, a case manager and a part-time person for its help line. A new executive assistant will start with the agency on 20 October. Volunteers will soon return to the office from a COVID-19 hiatus and the lobby is expected to open to the public soon. The shelter at DAIS remains at capacity.

Brown reported the District Attorney's Office has been working with the County Executive and the County Board in seeking additional positions to provide service mandated by Marsy's Law. The County Executive's 2022 budget proposal funds two new positions and lobbying efforts continue at the County Board level for additional positions. A surge in violent crime and gun violence continues, with Dane County seeing a historic number of homicide cases this year. As many as three jury trials are being held weekly in an attempt to clear the backlog caused by the courthouse being closed for more than a year due to COVID-19. As bail reform efforts continue around the country, this commission may wish to take an interest in how victims can be protected if the cash bail system is changed significantly.

Crowley reported Dane County Youth Justice has had fewer cases during pandemic, but is working with many repeat offenders. YJ continues to monitor how the Madison schools are responding to students' needs with School Resource Officers no longer in the schools. The County Executive's 2022 budget proposal includes funding for a resource coordinator for those 14 to 17 years old with hopes of making an impact like the resource coordinator for those 17 to 25 years old. Five youth workers are being hired for the in-house mentorship program to make sure referrals are flowing appropriately. A trauma-informed care coordinator also is included in the County Executive's budget proposal. The position will work with Child Protective Services and Youth Justice with case planning and staff support. YJ's school groups have resumed after pausing because of the pandemic.

Castillo reported the Human Services budget hearing is on 21 October via Zoom. The County Board will deliberate on the budget beginning Nov. 8.

Schlotz reported that some closures continue in UnityPoint Health Meriter's Forensic

Nurse Examiner department due to staffing shortages. A proposal to hire one full-time FNE is being considered and the goal is to have all shifts covered by January 2022. Volume has increased since beginning of 2021, with as many as three individuals presenting during some shifts. The department is working with the District Attorney's Office to learn on it can better serve survivors while performing documentation and charting.

Kalpic reported Marsy's Law for Wisconsin recently distributed a letter of support for American Rescue Plan Act dollars to be used to fund the law's mandated services. With October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the organization has been traveling around the state to educate about victims rights.

Esser reported the Madison Police Department continues to experience a staffing crisis. Violent crime and sexual assault cases are increasing.

2. CCR Updates

Domestic Violence/Sexual Abuse: The CCR did not meet in September.

Legal Issues: The CCR did not meet in September. Two representatives from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin are scheduled to present at this week's meeting. The topics are the domestic violence annual homicide report and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Project.

Child Abuse & Neglect: Mental Health and Prevention & Advocacy committees have met regularly. There's been a recent focus on parent and caregiver isolation. Joanna Becker recently resigned as Mental Health Committee chair. The Children, Youth & Families committee is putting together a Children, Youth & Families Platform that will be circulated for approval by all the committees. The Trauma-Informed Community Advisory Council is beginning to plan for a summit on 7 January 2022.

Elder Abuse & Neglect: The Financial Abuse and Financial Crimes Subcommittee have had good meetings with information on constantly evolving exploitation. The Hoarding Task Force has updated its resources for 2021.

3. Marsy's Law White Paper/Letter Discussion

Miyasaki will rewrite the letter she shared with the commission in September to focus solely on securing additional personnel in the District Attorney's Office in the 2022 Dane County Budget to better provide services mandated by Marsy's Law.

4. Anti-Spyware Project Update

Barry reported University of Wisconsin-Madison assistant professor Rahul Chatterjee and other volunteers for the project received DAIS Advocate Training. UW-Madison refused to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, so DAIS will administer the program and operational protocols are being developed.

5. Legislative Updates/Announcements

None.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Tuesday, 16 November 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

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 due to a lack of quorum.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas