



# 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?*

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Tuesday, April 19, 2022

8:30 AM

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#### A. Call To Order

*Others present: Jennifer Ginsburg, Cindy Grady, Virginia Gittens Escudero, Nela Kalpic, Amy Scarr, Howard Thomas*

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

- Present** 8 - AMY BROWN, HEATHER CROWLEY, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, Chair  
JAN MIYASAKI, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, GREG ESSER, and CECELY  
CASTILLO
- Absent** 3 - SHANNON BARRY, DANA PELLEBON, and MAUREEN McCARVILLE

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#) MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2022  
[MIN-677](#)

**Attachments:** [2022\\_0215 COSC Minutes](#)

A motion was made by FREEMAN, seconded by MIYASAKI, to approve the February minutes. The motion carried by a voice vote 8-0.

[2021](#) MINUTES FROM MARCH 15, 2022  
[MIN-708](#)

**Attachments:** [2022\\_0315 COSC Minutes](#)

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

#### Attendance Update

*Pellebon joined the meeting.*

- Present** 9 - AMY BROWN, HEATHER CROWLEY, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, Chair  
JAN MIYASAKI, DANA PELLEBON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, GREG ESSER,  
and CECELY CASTILLO
- Absent** 2 - SHANNON BARRY, and MAUREEN McCARVILLE

**C. Action Items**

*None.*

**D. Presentations**

1. Public Health Madison & Dane County Violence Prevention Coalition

[2022  
PRES-007](#)

PHMDC VIOLENCE PREVENTION UNIT & MDCVP COALITION  
PRESENTATION

**Attachments:** [PHMDC Violence Prevention Unit & MDCVP Coalition Presentation](#)

*Public Health Madison & Dane County Violence Prevention Supervisor Cindy Grady delivered a PowerPoint presentation and answered Commission members' questions.*

**E. Reports to Committee**

## 1. Agency Updates

*Brown reported the Victims Services Office remains very busy with a backlog of sensitive crimes and homicide trials caused by the COVID-19 pandemic shut down of the courts. Two new positions have been allocated and a Victim Witness Case Manager has been hired. Project attorney positions are unfilled.*

*Ginsburg reported March was the busiest month ever for Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center, with 42 forensic interviews. The organization's annual fundraiser -- The Rent Event -- is scheduled for April 23.*

*Kato reported with schools and early childhood centers open after the pandemic, The Rainbow Project is being inundated with referrals. Onsite re-entry work planning and air quality upgrades continue after a shutdown during the pandemic. Protocols for off-site work continue to be developed. Suicide ideation, depression, and anxiety remains high among younger children. Support groups are growing across the board. Requests are increasing for reflective practice support groups for professionals. Rainbow Project is hosting a stakeholder forum on April 27 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.*

*Freeman reported Dane County Adult Protective Services is attempting to hire LTEs to cover for an extended leave by the unit's Intellectual/Developmental Disability Specialist. Planning continues for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15. APS continues to work with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to investigate reports of poor care for individuals residing in certified adult family home settings. The Madison Plaza Hotel, which has been housing individuals experiencing homelessness during the pandemic, will close in June. Two of Journey Mental Health's diversion settings -- Bayside Care Center and Recovery House -- are scheduled to close at the end of June, with Journey planning to do more crisis stabilization support via mobile response.*

*Pellebon reported The Rape Crisis Center worked with slightly more than 200 clients, with 78 Forensic Nurse Exams, in the quarter ending March 31. There were approximately 350 calls to the help line during the same period. RCC is hiring for a bilingual therapist position and for an advocate. Another advocate opening is expected soon. RCC has trained two bars in downtown Madison as part of the Safer Bar Program. In-person Chimera self-defense workshops have resumed. Efforts are underway to expand work with the Madison Metropolitan School District. Engagement with teens has increased four-fold in recent months.*

*Crowley reported County Executive Joe Parisi is supporting remote work for employees whenever possible as a way to retain staff and ease staffing shortages. Children, Youth and Families and Youth Justice both are operating with many openings. YJ is hiring a bilingual program leader for the Madison school-based Gang Response Intervention Team. Incidents in schools are having an increased toll on young people.*

*Gittens-Escudero reported UNIDOS is in the process of hiring a legal advocate and will soon post a community engagement position. Employees are returning to the office two days per week with the goal for a full return by the end of the year. Housing continues to be a major issue for clients. Many landlords are requesting higher incomes and charging more for application fees. Lack of affordable legal representation is leaving clients to represent themselves. Site visits will be conducted soon.*

*Kalpic reported Marsy's Law For Wisconsin hosted a two-day Crime Victim's Rights Conference last week that was attended virtually by more than 500 people. There were*

*three tracks: Survivors and Advocates, Systems and Courts, and Victim's Rights Attorneys. Crime Victim's Rights Week is April 24-30.*

*Ewers-Hayes reported the Dane County Sheriff's Office received an additional detective position in this year's budget and the new hire will start work at the end of May. The hire will allow for a full-time human trafficking detective to focus more time on those cases/victims and community partnerships. The human trafficking detective will be chosen soon.*

*Esser reported a new Madison Police Department academy class is scheduled to commence soon and the number of applicants is increasing. The detective bureau currently has two vacancies. Gun violence/shots fired, stolen vehicles and reckless driving will be the primary focuses for MPD heading into the summer months. Younger people possessing guns is an increasing concern. The Madison Common Council is expected to vote tonight about equipping officers in the North District with body-worn cameras as part of a yearlong pilot program.*

## 2. CCR Updates

*Elder Abuse: Scarr reported that for the first time, financial exploitation has surpassed self-neglect as the top category for Adult Protective Services investigations involving individuals 60 and older, rising to 41 percent of all cases. A guest will present on imposter scams at an upcoming meeting of the Financial Abuse Specialist group. Planning continues for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15. Five billboards are planned, the governor's residence will be illuminated in purple and tables at farmers markets are planned to raise awareness.*

*Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities: Ellen Merker reported via an email that the group is scheduled to meet today. The March meeting was canceled. Work continues on revamping the CCR by reviewing the mission and purpose and working with the members to think about ways to address violence against people with I/DD in more meaningful, tangible ways (such as creating committees to discuss policy advocacy, getting more self advocates on the committee, creating resources and training to share with organizations, etc).*

*Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault: Pellebon reported a survey will soon be distributed to members in four languages in an effort to select new meeting times for the Lived Experience Group and the Implementation Team. A good portion of the individuals who started the process of combining the two previously separate CCRs remain active.*

*Child Abuse & Neglect: Kato reported the Child Abuse Prevention & Advocacy Committee is scheduled to meet on May 19. The Trauma-Informed Community Council Advisory Group is meeting every other week and planning this year's trauma summit. The Mental Health Committee and the Children, Youth and Families Consortium are both planning to resume meeting quarterly. There's a major focus to keep agencies updated on new mental health programming and waiting lists for existing services.*

## 3. Legislative Announcements/Updates

*Castillo reported that 11 new members of the Dane County Board of Supervisors, including Pellebon, will be sworn in this evening and suggested that agencies confirm which supervisor represents their district.*

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

Next meeting: Tuesday, 17 May 2022, 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 KATO, seconded by CROWLEY, to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote 9-0.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.*

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas pending Commission approval.*