



Dane County

Minutes - Final

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, July 19, 2022

8:30 AM

A. Call To Order

*Others present: Susan Alan-Lee, Julie Foley, Jennifer Ginsburg,
Virginia Gittens-Escudero, Marlys Howe, Amy Scarr, Howard Thomas*

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

- Present** 6 - SHANNON BARRY, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, DANA PELLEBON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, GREG ESSER, and Supervisor APRIL KIGEYA
- Absent** 5 - AMY BROWN, HEATHER LE MONDS, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, and Supervisor OLIVIA XISTRIS-SONGPANYA

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2022](#) MINUTES FROM JUNE 21, 2022
[MIN-158](#)

Attachments: [2022_0621 COSC Minutes](#)

A motion was made by BARRY, seconded by MIYASAKI, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 4-0 (Kigeysa and Pellebon abstained).

C. Action Items

None.

D. Presentations

None.

Attendance Update

Kato, Le Monds and Xistris-Songpanya joined the meeting.

- Present** 9 - SHANNON BARRY, HEATHER LE MONDS, SHARYL KATO, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, DANA PELLEBON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, GREG ESSER, Supervisor APRIL KIGEYA, and Supervisor OLIVIA XISTRIS-SONGPANYA
- Absent** 2 - AMY BROWN, and BETH FREEMAN

E. Reports to Committee

1. Agency Updates

Pellebon reported Rape Crisis Center has three open positions -- UW advocate, multi-cultural outreach and licensed clinical therapist -- as well as two CCS worker openings. One licensed clinical therapist is working and two are in training. The Java Jive fundraiser is on August 20th at Breese Stevens Field.

Kato reported The Rainbow Project is launching its Radical Psychology Clinic serving children and adults on August 1st. Three new interns, including one who specializes serving individuals with disabilities, are beginning work. The wait list has nearly tripled in recent months, but the wait times for services are improving. Rainbow Project is partnering with Madison Metropolitan School District schools on a prevention program. The Rhumba 4 Rainbow fundraiser is on September 16th at Union South.

Barry reported Faye Zemel began serving as Director of Services at Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) on Monday. The legal advocacy program is fully staffed. Court Watch is operational and a report is expected in the spring. DAIS is hiring for a prevention and outreach specialist, two case managers and a lead shelter advocate. The shelter has a wait list. Two support groups have resumed meeting. The text line is slated to launch in September. DAIS received funding via a three-year pilot program called Domestic Violence Housing First and has begun distributing the assistance. A coordinator for the program began work on Monday. For the first time in more than 40 years, the Wisconsin Department of Children & Family has made its domestic violence grant competitive. With the new funding formula, Dais will experience at least a \$60,000 funding hit to its shelter funding.

Scarr reported Dane County Adult Protective Services (APS) has a wait list for all services. Two LTEs have been hired. The APS Helpline has been very busy. The virtual Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference is scheduled for October 11th.

Ginsburg reported Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center is in the midst of its busiest year and is on pace to conduct more than the roughly 400 interviews it did in 2021. A new advocate was recently hired. The Labor Day Dash 5K and 10K fundraiser will be held at Vilas Park on September 5th.

Alan-Lee reported the UnityPoint Meriter Forensic Nursing Program treated 51 patients in June, up from 30 to 40 patients most months. The program is fully staffed.

Howe reported the Dane County District Attorney's Victim Witness Unit is still working with large caseloads due the suspension of jury trials early in the pandemic. The District Attorney's Office was victorious in all three of its major jury trials last week. Howe's caseload is as high as it has been in her time in the office. Two LTEs are helping keep victims informed. The office is waiting to hear if grant funding will allow it to retain Assistant District Attorney John Rice via the Violence Against Women Grant. Foley reported the Victim Witness Unit teamed with Public Health Madison and Dane County to write a successful grant for alarm pendants for victims that report they're in distress directly to 9-1-1. There are 50 pendants to start with and Foley will reach out to agencies to distribute them.

Le Mond reported she doesn't expect any funding cuts to Dane County Youth Justice programs during the 2023 budget and that the department is being allowed to hire.

Gittens-Escudero reported UNIDOS remains very busy. Its new legal advocate begins work on August 8th. Work toward hiring a new community engagement coordinator is

underway.

Kigeya reported she and fellow Dane County Supervisor Pellebon will attend the National County Board Conference in Denver.

Ewers-Hayes reported the Madison Police Department's first full-time Human Trafficking Detective began his duties two weeks ago.

2. CCR Updates

Elder Abuse: Scarr reported her groups have returned to meeting once a month after meeting every other month for a time. Planning for the virtual Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference on October 11 is ongoing.

Child Abuse & Neglect: Kato reported the Trauma-Informed Advisory Council continues planning for the Trauma Summit in November and that the Prevention Advocacy Committee is going strong. Work is underway to re-establish the Mental Health Subcommittee.

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault: Pellebon reported that, beginning in September, the Lived Experience Group will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Anyone who identifies as a survivor of domestic abuse or sexual assault can join the group, which is an advisory body for the Implementation Group. Individuals do not have to survivors to join the Implementation Group, which will meet virtually on the first Wednesday of the month at 12 p.m. beginning in September. Interested parties can email danecountydvccr@gmail.com.

Sexual Exploitation of Children Subcommittee: Miyasaki reported the group meets every other month. The next meeting is tomorrow. Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes is scheduled to attend the meeting on the third Wednesday of September.

Legal Issues Subcommittee: Howe reported there was not a meeting in July. Attendance has been sparse during the pandemic and agenda topics are not being submitted. A judge has not attended a meeting for years. Commissioners attend occasionally.

3. Legislative Updates/Announcements

Supervisor Pellebon stated Commission members may wish to register in support of two positions being added to the Victim Services Unit in the District Attorney's office. The County Board will take up the matter on Thursday.

Pellebon also solicited feedback on the ongoing debate over the Dane County Jail project.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Tuesday, 19 September 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

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 9:47 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas pending Commission approval.