



# 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, September 20, 2022

8:30 AM

---

#### A. Call To Order

*Others present: Susan Alan-Lee, Virginia Gittens Escudero, Shari Gray-Dorn,  
Nela Kalpic, Jenny Rusch, Allison Schlotz, Carrie Springer, Howard Thomas*

**Chair Miyasaki called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.**

- Present** 7 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, HEATHER LE MONDS, SHARYL KATO, Chair  
JAN MIYASAKI, GREG ESSER, and Supervisor APRIL KIGEYA
- Absent** 4 - BETH FREEMAN, DANA PELLEBON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, and Supervisor  
OLIVIA XISTRIS-SONGPANYA

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2022](#) MINUTES FROM JULY 19, 2022  
[MIN-273](#)

**Attachments:** [2022\\_0719\\_COSC\\_Minutes](#)

A motion was made by KATO, seconded by BARRY, to refer approval of the minutes to the October meeting. The motion carried by a voice vote (7-0).

#### C. Action Items

*None.*

#### Attendance Update

*Esser departed the meeting.*

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

#### D. Presentations

##### 1. Dane County Legislative Liaison Carrie Springer

*Springer provided her employment history, gave an overview of her duties as Dane County  
Legislative Liaison and answered Commission members' questions.*

**E. Reports to Committee**

## 1. Agency Updates

*Rusch reported that Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center initiated a partnership with the Sun Prairie Police Department's new embedded social worker and continues to partner with the Fitchburg Police Department's embedded social worker.*

*Brown reported the District Attorney's Office has a caseload of approximately 6,900, which is 700 fewer than last year. The average number of cases in recent years was closer to 4,000 to 5,000. There has been an increase in violent and severe cases, which precipitates increased service provision to those victims. There are sensitive crimes trials every week. The hiring process is underway for an Administrative Legal Assistant and will begin soon for a Case Manager in the Victim Witness Unit. Members of the Victim Witness Unit recently completed reading "What Happened to You?" by Oprah Winfrey and Dr. Bruce Perry -- a work that focuses on the impact of trauma. New employee training was recently completed. Work continues with the Corporal Punishment Initiative, with staff being trained how to address the impact of violent parenting on children and provided information on the Deferred Prosecution Program for parents who have administered corporal punishment to their children*

*Schlotz reported the Forensic Nurse Examiner unit at UnityPoint Health - Meriter would like to partner with Safe Harbor on trainings in Sun Prairie and Fitchburg.*

*Gittens Escudero reported UNIDOS is recruiting for a Legal Advocate and Victim Services Advocate.*

*Barry reported Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) continues work regarding Domestic Violence Awareness Month and invited Commission members to attend events. DAIS' Text Line will launch on Sept. 29. A news conference with County Executive Joe Parisi is being planned to announce the 24-hour, seven-days-a week Text Line. The Case Management team is now fully staffed. The final touches are being put on the Court Watch Data Collection for the past year and the volunteers will continue on for another year. The report for the past year should be available in early 2023. There is a wait list for the shelter. Recruiting has begun for a full-time Volunteer Coordinator and for a Youth Violence Prevention Advocate. With the Town of Madison to be annexed into the City of Madison, DAIS representatives met recently with the Madison Police Department's North District ahead of the change. A video will be produced for officers that explains the confidentiality restraints under which domestic violence programs exist.*

*Le Monds reported Astra Iheukumere continues to serve as Interim Director for Dane County Human Services. County Executive Parisi recently visited many divisions to seek feedback ahead the 2023 budget process. An internal work group has been formed to improve language access services. Youth Justice is working on projects with restorative justice that seek to incorporate victim interactions and voice more. A Youth Justice Coordinator has been hired to help social workers provide resource support for system-involved individuals. Youth Justice also hired three part-time Youth Workers and plans to hire three more to serve as mentors with lived experience who will provide support to court-involved individuals. Child Protective Services is hiring Case Managers in addition to Social Workers to broaden its ability to support families. Youth Justice workers are back in schools, which are greatly lacking in resources.*

*Gray-Dorn reported Adult Protective Services (APS) I/DD Victim Advocate Cortney Doescher-Hino remains on leave. Gray-Dorn reported the following statistics covering the period of Jan. 1 to Sept. 19: 2,494 contacts to the APS Helpline (2,658 over same period*

in 2021); 1,495 consults on Helpline (1,583 in 2021); 66 Adult at Risk Intakes (46 in 2021); 187 EAN Intakes (215 in 2021). Consults & intakes seem to be more complex in nature so numbers do not reflect the full picture of cases/intensity of the work. One investigator is on maternity leave. One LTE has been hired and APS is seeking an additional LTE for EAN/AAR and one for the Adult Guardianship Program (AGP) to support the work load. APS has requested two additional positions in the 2023 budget – one for AGP and one for an Elder Abuse/Adults at Risk investigator. The Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference will be held virtually on Oct. 13 from 8 a.m. to noon. Registration should open by the end of this week.

Kato reported the Rainbow Project's "Rhumba 4 Rainbow" fundraiser was a success, with more than 650 in attendance. The Rapid Response Team has seen an increase of instances involving children and caregivers witnessing horrific crimes. Many have required ongoing services. An Integrated Health Team consisting of psychiatry, nursing and mental health clinicians was launched on Sept. 12 and is off to a strong start in informing families about psychotropic medication and answering questions about diagnoses. The Rainbow Project has a new contract with the Madison Metropolitan School District to provide Observation Consultation Recommendations for those who work with students having difficulty adapting in the classroom. The Grandparents & Other Relatives as Parents support program is thriving with more diversity and energy than at any other time since it launched in 2004. The Spanish Speaking Moms group is meeting weekly. Rainbow Project recently hired a therapist and has three new interns.

Kalpic reported Marsy's Law Wisconsin recently conducted a mapping exercise in Winnebago County looking into the implementation of Marsy's Law and how services are provided by various stakeholders. There was an earlier mapping exercise of Brown County. The workshops traced Sexual Assault in Juveniles and Domestic Violence from when a call came in to law enforcement through the entire process. On Sept. 6, Marsy's Law Wisconsin presented oral arguments before the Wisconsin Supreme Court regarding a lawsuit contending state voters weren't given an accurate summary of what they were voting on when they supported the constitutional amendment two years ago.

## 2. CCR Updates

*Elder Abuse & Neglect:* Scarr reported a citizen attended a recent meeting and talked about a very complex financial scam to which she fell victim. Members learned what happened to her, how she's attempting to recover and the systemic issues she's had to deal with in doing so. Aurielle Smith, Director of Policy, Planning and Evaluation for Public Health Madison & Dane County, will speak in October about gun violence affecting the elderly population.

*Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence:* Faye Zemel reported via email that the Implementation Group and the Lived Experience Group both recently conducted their first meeting virtually and both went very well. The CCR is recruiting for a new Leadership Circle, which will help facilitate and organize the work.

*Legal Issues Subcommittee:* No meetings were conducted in August or September.

*Child Sex Trafficking Subcommittee:* Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes will join the meeting on Sept. 21 at 1 p.m.

3. Legislative Updates/Announcements

*None.*

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

Next meeting: Tuesday, 25 October 2022, 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 10:04 a.m.*

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