



# Dane County

## Minutes

### 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, March 18, 2025

9:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the Aging & Disability Resource Center (Room 109) or virtually via Zoom.

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#### A. Call To Order

*Chair Pellebon called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM*

**Others in Attendance:** Amy Scarr, Jennifer Ginsburg, Nela Kalpic, Kelsi Gullickson, and Priscilla McCarthy

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

**This resolution was approved**

**Present** 11 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, VANESSA STATAM, DANA PELLEBON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, ANTHONY GRAY, ERIN WELSH, MOLLY CARADONNA, and GREG ESSER

[2024](#)  
[MIN-532](#)

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 18, 2025

**Attachments:** [COSC Minutes 02-18-2025](#)

**A Motion by BARRY, a Second by WELSH to approve the Minutes. Motion carried by a voice vote (10-0).**

#### C. Action Items

*Chair Pellebon will present in May to PP&J and HHN. Her presentation will assist in developing and coordinating policies relating to the prevention, treatment, investigation and prosecution of sensitive crimes.*

#### D. Presentations

#### E. Reports to Committee

## 1. Agency Updates

Freeman reported for Adult Protective Services (APS), they are seeing a trend in financial exploitation with reports involving older adults and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Perpetrators often known to victims in IDD cases; and they are strangers in older adult cases. State data reports due by March 31st; expected Dane County-specific report for 2024 back in late April. Report has been consistent the last couple of years. Normally the highest types of abuse reported are self-neglect and financial exploitation. They have had some success in cases with attempting to bring charges against those individuals who alleged to have done the financial exploitation. They have had some new positions added in 2025, with that internal staff shifting, it is affecting elder abuse and adults at risk investigator capacity. They are working on developing an information system specific to Adult Protective Services with an anticipated go live date in August of 2025. The Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference that is usually held in October has been postponed due to difficulties securing federal speakers. They still have the funds and are looking to use those a different way this year.

Caradonna reported for UW-Madison (survivor support services). Their focus the past couple years has been increasing their victim advocacy staffing. They have 2 FTE for a campus of 50,000 students, for both sexual assault and domestic violence. They are funded exclusively by the student segregated health team and they have continued to be interested in funding mental health providers which they have enough coverage for versus victim advocacy. Their sexual assault awareness month of programming is coming together in April.

Supervisor Welsh reported for the Office of Crime Victim Services (Wisconsin Department of Justice) Resolution 308 passed through the board and was signed, that was in reference to common sense gun reform. Update on Resolution 313 that was a contract that was executed for a new 911 public safety communications building project that was part of the capital budget, that contract has gone through and that will be starting soon. The Dane County Office of Justice Reform has been on a pause for the past couple of years and that is now fully up and running and staffed. They will continue working on the implementation of pre-trial risk assessments.

Barry reported for DAiS reported they have hired a new legal advocate, Natalie. Upcoming Lobby Day, they will lobby at the Capitol in support of the DOJ request for \$66 million to bring the funding floor back up. There is concern for positions that they may not be able to fill and services that they may have to eliminate if the state funding bill goes through, there may be some areas where they have to consider reducing their capacity.

Lt. Ewers-Hayes reported for Dane County Sheriff's Office reports that in April they will be fully staffed with detectives until January which is their next round of retirements. Detective Lazami is their human trafficking detective and he has organized a donation drive at the sheriff's office and at the courthouse. Donations being accepted are household items, non-perishable foods, bedding.

Nela Kalpic reports for Marsy's Law - Update is about the upcoming Virtual Crime Victims Rights Conference that is going to be held on April 3rd and 4th. The conference is free to access. Nela will provide a link for anyone interested. Some of the topics that are going to be covered are navigating the media in the wake of tragedy from National Center for Victims of Crime, Restitution Rights in Indian Country, Fundraising for nonprofits, Judicial Inquiry, Victims Victim Services in the FBI.

Jennifer Ginsburg reports for Safe Harbor – They are doing a lot of advocacy on the state level to endorse the \$66 million out of the Department of Justice. They are having

*legislators come for tours and going up and visiting with people.*

*Brown reported for the District Attorney's Office - In the last month the District Attorney's office management team has met with all of their bilingual staff in the District Attorney's office to talk about the impact of the national environment and the people that we serve. They are hearing from their staff that victims and witnesses are struggling to trust the criminal justice system even more. They are needing to talk about that and the impact on the criminal justice system that happened in the last month and will continue to be a conversation that they have in the District Attorney's office. They are looking forward to filling their new bilingual management position in the District Attorney's office. This is going to be the first management position in the District Attorney's office that is specific to bilingual services. One of the duties of this new position will be to continue to enhance their language access program in the Victim Witness Unit and in the District Attorney's office. They recently attended the Behavioral Health Fair. That was an opportunity to meet with all of the different agencies that service the courthouse, and there was a lot of collaboration that happened there. In the past month they submitted an application to have a facility dog in the Victim Witness Unit and are on a waiting list. They have identified their handlers, and have a team of people who have been working on this. They are looking forward to offering the facility dog to all victims and witnesses who are experiencing trauma.*

*Lt. Esser reported for Madison Police Department- Lt. Esser is the detective lieutenant for the West District, that supervises eight detectives who specialize in domestic violence and sensitive crimes investigations. They are in month two of their detective reorganization. They are striving to build relationships with the community, to build that trust, that we need to those who are observing fear in the criminal justice system. A safe place to come to is the goal every day. They do have a centralized financial crimes unit that works out of the City County Building, that is led by Lieutenant Tim Radke, and they're taking a citywide approach to all financial crimes. Legislatively, vulnerable adults who are able to get a restraining order fall into a very low tier. Legislatively they will be looking at trying to have restraining orders for vulnerable adults be a high tier. They might be able to potentially amend legislation that way. They have had some grant funds that have been paused.*

*Statam reported for Anesis Therapy: They are encountering some significant challenges with housing for clients. Predominantly persons that are under the poverty line receiving Medicaid benefits. There is some concerns about how they will be able to obtain services to meet their mental health and physical health needs. Concerns about if people aren't having housing with that looks like when people double up and triple up. This compromises the stable housing that the individuals that they go stay with have, such as if they have Section 8 or Section 42 housing because of the restrictions. ANESIS Conference will be at the Monona Terrace on August 21-22.*

*Supervisor Anthony Gray from PP&J – Most of their conversations have been about provider continuation, not just the cuts that have already come, but how do they plan out a flight of services knowing that there are more coming. How are they able to plan their services knowing that some of the money that they're counting on is likely not to be there? Regarding digitizing mail, when the sheriff talked about it, it was primarily a safety mechanism, and not just for the inmates, but also for the sheriffs. He talked about the ways that contraband gets snuck into jails and that the digitizing of files, so long as privacy is maintained. This creates a much safer environment, according to the sheriff, for both the inmates and for the deputies. One of the concerns they had as a criminal defense attorney was legal privilege; was how do they send things in and out to clients that they want to make sure that no one sees but them.*

*Kato reported for Rainbow - Eric Crawford is their new Program Manager at Rainbow. They are continuing to respond to the communities and are working more with the gun violence prevention. They have hired two new group facilitators who have lived experience. They have been working more internally and externally around the new changes, whether it's funding, child care cuts, the things that are so much of a foundation for the families that they work with. They have expanded the Rainbow's Integrated Health team, and added another psychiatrist. They are able to do a wraparound of looking at trauma from the mental health, behavioral health, physical health lens. The majority of times they are reducing medications that have been previously prescribed by others. They have expanded in early childhood zones. That's multiple funding sources and it is based on a model in Minnesota, that model was the whole zone of the center of Minneapolis. When it came to Dane county, there were little pockets, the north side, Sun Prairie and in Verona. They have expanded that to include Park Street. It's a wraparound, there is housing, employment, education, health, all their wraparounds to provide, besides the behavioral mental health, to work as a team, particularly for the very young and new moms, where they are seeing more postpartum depression and where research is showing addiction. Addiction is prevented when you have strong attachment in those early years.*

*Chair Pellebon reported for the Rape Crisis Center (RCC): One of the big initiatives that they are starting this year is collecting crime data from victims. They will be tracking court interactions and law enforcement interactions so that they can encapsulate what is happening for survivors. Their 30th annual Java Jive is scheduled for September 13th at East Towne Mall. They will be having their Open House for their new space on July 28th. They will be inviting community partners to do tabling. Dana is on the POS Leadership Committee and they are currently working on a symposium for their summit. A summit of their purchase of service agencies so that they can gather together all the purchase of service agencies in the county and talk about duplication of services. They want to want to discuss better coordination of services in every aspect. They are looking at that for the fall. They are hiring a CCS Service Facilitator Supervisor, if they still have Medicaid. They are also thinking about what does it look like to expand services on the hospital advocacy end. They are talking about what that means and looks like to be able to encompass some more DV spaces. They are the only 24 hour crisis response agency that responds to hospital and law enforcement calls 24 hours a day. They are fully staffed with the exception of the CCS position. They are on a hiring freeze. If they have staff leave or if there are cuts, they will not be hiring. They are only hiring CCS because their contract requires it. They lost a potential contract that they were working on with the City of Madison.*

## 2. CCR Updates/ Items on CCR Agendas

*Scarr reported for the Elder Abuse CCR for Dane County Adult Protective Services and she also runs the Financial Abuse Specialist team CCR which is a subcommittee. They meet monthly. The last two meetings they had they have tried to process some of the things that have been happening on the federal level which has been very difficult for membership. Joe Aguilar, who runs the IDD CCR for Dane county APS, wasn't able to be here today. He meets quarterly. Their next meeting is in April. At APS, they have their Crisis Stabilization Coalition annual summit being held at the Alliant Energy Center on Thursday this week, and focusing on topics that relate to mitigating the risk that people with IDD or vulnerable adults with dementia that may be hospitalized or evicted from settings because they're not able to be supported.*

*Kato reported for the Child Abuse CCR Friday at noon they are having their CCR meeting. The Latinx Mental Health Coalition started some time ago and their mission and direction is such that sometimes it's a matter of where organizations are in collaboration. There are some important possibilities, creative possibilities to work together on certain issues that are arising, particularly at this difficult time. Cheryl is looking forward to the child abuse CCR because they have done so many good things and had the luxury of being very elaborate and having five committees within the CCR. On September 19th, they are having two celebrations in one event. Rainbow will be 45 years old, and there will be 21 years of their charity event Rhumba 4 Rainbow.*

*Pellebon reported for the DVA CCR. They are meeting again in April to talk about wrapping in the SART team so that the DVSA CCR can do referrals to that team and have the SART team come together to review cases as needed. They want to have the networking and information sharing happening at the CCR so that they are not duplicating spaces.*

## 3. Legislative Updates/ Announcements

### F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 09:30 AM, this is a hybrid meeting and will be held virtually via Zoom and In Person at the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

### G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

**Katy White spoke about the work she is doing in connection with sensitive crimes that take place in Dane County**

### H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

*Carousel Bayrd attended to answer questions for the committee. Regarding the question about the continuum of care contract. That was the first time we had a chance to really get a look at a brand new contract as proposed by the federal government and the details that went into to it. There were a lot of concerns in the proposed contract really that don't fit Dane County values. Within days of it being offered to us, it was rescinded by the federal government. That contract is now no longer before us. All positions on the Sensitive Crimes Commission have been recommended for appointment and are currently before the County Board.*

**I. Adjourn**

**A Motion was made by FREEMAN, Seconded by BROWN that the meeting be adjourned at 10:54 AM**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Priscilla McCarthy, Pending Commission approval*