



# 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, May 16, 2023

8:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the  
Aging & Disability Resource Center of  
Dane County or virtually via Zoom.

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#### A. Call To Order

*Guests and staff present: Joe Aguilar, Jennifer Ginsburg, Virginia Gittens-Escudero,  
Marilyn Howe, Nela Kalpic, Priscilla McCarthy, and Amy Scarr.*

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

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

**Absent** 2 - KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, and GREG ESSER

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)  
[MIN-089](#)

MINUTES FROM APRIL 18, 2023

**Attachments:** [Minutes\\_04\\_18\\_2023](#)

A motion was made by BARRY, seconded by FREEMAN, to approve the Minutes.  
The motion carried by a voice vote 8-0. Pellebon abstained.

#### C. Action Items

NONE.

#### D. Presentations

NONE.

#### E. Reports to Committee

## 1. Agency Updates

Barry reported that Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) is short-staffed in its shelter. Planning is underway for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Tickets are available for the Dance for DAIS fundraiser on June 2 at Garver Feed Mill. The Court Watch Report is nearing completion. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families changed its formula for the Basic Services Grant for domestic violence funding and DAIS lost \$109,000 that had been helping fund the shelter. The state distributed American Rescue Plan Act funding for 2023 to make up for the loss. DCF will visit the DAIS shelter in June to learn about the impact of the lost funding.

Freeman reported Dane County Adult Protective Services (APS) continues to offer community trainings. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 17. APS is fully staffed for the first time in approximately three years. Planning for the 2024 budget is underway. The \$200,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding directed to mitigating hoarding is nearly exhausted.

Le Monds thanked Supervisors April Kigeza and Dana Pellebon for their work on the County Board. There has been no information shared with employees on a timeline for hiring a new DCDHS Director. Youth Justice is planning a number of summer initiatives to keep youth engaged. Child Protection Services is hiring a manager to co-lead the unit with current CPS Manager Julie Ahnen.

Ginsburg reported Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center is fully staffed.

Brown, director of the Dane County District Attorney Office's Victim Witness Unit, reported the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled against Shiffra-Green motions that ask a judge to inspect a victim's mental health records and potentially share them with the defendant. Barriers have been removed for Spanish-speaking victims accessing services and a new LTE bilingual case manager position was recently posted. Marlys Howe, the Domestic Violence Unit manager in the District Attorney's Office, recently received a statewide award for victim advocacy services. The office is preparing for a reduction in Victims of Crime Act funding.

Pellebon reported Rape Crisis Center had its most participatory Sexual Assault Awareness Month in years. RCC has begun the hiring process for a licensed clinical therapist, a therapist in training, two CCS workers, a prevention specialist, a multicultural outreach specialist and two bilingual, bicultural advocates. RCC is preparing for its 50th anniversary on July 27 at Brittingham Park.

Kato reported The Rainbow Project was involved in National Child Abuse Awareness Month, National Trauma Awareness Month, and Mental Health Awareness Month activities in May. A recent stakeholder forum was very successful. The Rhumba 4 Rainbow fundraiser is scheduled for September 8. The organization is receiving more requests for grief and loss programming. Work continues in conjunction with other agencies on gun violence prevention.

Gittens-Escudero reported UNIDOS is in the process of hiring an assistant director. There's currently a high need for legal advocacy and restraining orders and the waitlist for counseling services is lengthy.

Kalpic reported the Wisconsin Supreme Court today ruled that Marsy's Law, an amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution expanding crime victims' rights, was properly worded in a statewide referendum and legally adopted. The decision overturned a Dane County judge's decision that the ballot description of the amendment didn't adequately

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*inform voters that it would diminish criminal defendants' rights.*

*Howe reported Supervisor Pellebon helped the District Attorney's Office gain Dane County Board approval for its three-year Violence Against Women Act Grant-funded regional prosecutor grant. The regional prosecutor focuses on stalking, sexual assault, domestic violence and strangulation cases. As part of the grant, the office has been doing training sessions for some of the smaller law agencies in the county. Howe is preparing for a site visit regarding the VAWA Grant.*

**Supervisor KIGEYA left the meeting at 8:57 AM.**

- Present** 8 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, HEATHER LE MONDS, BETH FREEMAN, SHARYL KATO, Chair JAN MIYASAKI, Supervisor DANA PELLEBON, and Supervisor OLIVIA XISTRIS-SONGPANYA
- Absent** 3 - KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, GREG ESSER, and Supervisor APRIL KIGEYA

## 2. CCR Updates

*Elder Abuse & Neglect: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15 and Dane County Adult Protective Services has events and educational activities planned for the entire week. Shred Fest is June 16 at the ADRC from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference is on October 13. The Financial Specialists Team will receive a Crypto Scams 101 presentation in July. Reports of imposter scams and family emergency scams generated by artificial intelligence have started in Dane County. The Better Business Bureau is tracking the AI scams. The first Hoarding Task Force Subcommittee meeting of 2023 was held this month and included a presentation by Public Health Madison & Dane County's Animal Services Unit.*

*Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault: The current priority is producing a community assessment, which hasn't been done the past couple of years. More outreach is planned to add members to the Survivors Group.*

*Child Abuse & Neglect: Members of four subcommittees and the Advisory Council for the Trauma Summit met recently to begin determining how the groups can best collaborate while going to quarterly meeting schedule.*

*Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: The next meeting is May 18.*

*Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities: The group has not been meeting but plans to resume this summer.*

*Legal Issues: The body has not met recently but plans to institute quarterly meetings.*

## 3. Legislative Announcements/Updates

*Pellebon reported the Public Protection & Judiciary Committee last week listed funding for victim witness services and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and elder abuse among its priorities within the Dane County Legislative Agenda.*

## F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. at the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Dane County and 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 FREEMAN, to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 a.m. The motion carried by a voice vote 8-0.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Priscilla McCarthy pending Commission approval.*