



Dane County

Minutes - Draft

CJC-Community Court Advisory Subcommittee

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

12:15 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the City County Building in Room 351; attend virtually via Zoom

A. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by PELLEBON at 12:19 pm.

CHALECKI representing BLACKAMORE.

REECE representing COOPER.

FOLEY representing BROWN.

GRAYSON representing ANDERSON.

GRAYSON arrives at 12:22 pm.

GRAYSON leaves at 1:30 pm.

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)
[MIN-206](#)

Minutes of the July 11, 2023 CJC-Community Court Advisory subcommittee meeting.

Attachments: [2023 MIN-206](#)

A motion was made by OZANNE, seconded by KETCHAM, that the minutes be approved. Unanimous approval by voice vote.

C. Action Items

None.

D. Presentations

1. FACILITATED ACTIVITY: WORLD CAFÉ: WHAT IS COMMUNITY? WHAT IS JUSTICE? WHAT IS A CENTER? (SHELTON-MORRIS)

In small groups, committee members answered the following questions:

- 1) When you envision "Community" what do you want to see? - for the PEOPLE*
- 2) When you envision "Justice" what do you want to see? – for the PROCESS*
- 3) When you envision a "Center" what do you want to see? – for the PLACE*

Committee members provided feedback in report back format to the full committee:

Q1. Community

We have to have art. At the center of community is trust, so how do we have items in the space to develop trust? There must be a diversity of staff and people with lived experience and the involvement of Dane County residents. Problem solving without punitive measures. Language access, not just language line, is important with multi-cultural, multi-lingual staff. A network of caring people. People with all abilities. Comment on having the community define the physical space to promote a community environment. Envision harm reduction strategies. On-going recognition and celebration activities. Individualized responses to cases.

Key question is how to build trust? Comment on engaging with social media and have people who have gone through the court to discuss their experience. Engaging with family group conferencing. To engage in the opposite of white supremacist responses with an anti-racist response. To provide an ongoing assessment of how communities fare and continue evaluating the services and programs offered.

Q2. Justice

Envision a focused process with a general consensus on looking at basic needs, culturally specific mental health services, language, legal support, housing, and job security. Addressing racial inequities in the criminal justice system. Creating a safe space for victims. An acknowledgment of and working with law enforcement to be aligned with community rather than a feeling that they are against community. Transparency in the system and its processes. Acceptance of responsibility, accountability, and repair harm agreements. Empowering victims in the community in the outcomes.

Envision looking at the whole person and looking at the complexities within the legal system and trying to address the victimization of the participant or defendant and acknowledging that the defendant may also be victim and to address the trauma that they may have experienced. Envision that the system focuses on being restorative; no cages, that basic needs are met. Having reasonable and swift, not necessarily punitive, consequences. Having pathways to justice without the legal system. Ron Johnson envisioned that the CRC would operate as such, to be outside of the criminal justice system. Addressing the root causes. Collaborating with multiple stakeholders in the community. Working towards a less adversarial system with multiple points of access. Ensuring sustainable and sufficient resources for counseling and education. Ensuring we are aware of how cases are viewed or listed on CCAP. Acknowledging that there may be multiple entries for the same person that may be literally the same incident. Access to childcare is needed. An awareness of unintended consequences, for example if city passes an ordinance for trespassing, what happens to individuals seeking safety that may unintentionally commit new violations as a result of new ordinance. Make sure that different parts of the system are talking to each other, for example child support concerns. The system should communicate with each other. The biggest theme is that we have reasonable and acceptable requirements that an individual can actually obtain.

One of the most important aspects of justice is to center the humanity of the people served and create revolutionary approaches outside of social constructs and systems. Traditional ways of doing things are often incongruent with the people we serve. In order for justice to be true for the people and by the people, the people should be served by the people of their peers.

Comment that the community at-large doesn't always have a good understanding of the system or common definitions. Community education and outreach to the media is required.

Q3. Center

The center must have an accessible, trauma informed design and a non-traditional feel to the space. Child care and other amenities should be provided. There is a preference on a multiple site v one site design and to have a core of the community travel to sites on a schedule that will service a particular area. The concern with multiple sites is over policing and where you place those in places with "higher need" and issues that may arise as a result. Most of the dialogue was on a multiple site design v. one-site design.

The space will need to feel inclusive. Green space, not sidewalks and asphalts surrounding the building(s). Churches would be a possibility, however acknowledging that this may also raise its own issues and concerns. Non-traditional security. Community (peacemakers) may be able to provide security, support and peer mentor roles. Law enforcement present should not be uniformed and less formal feel for participants. It will need some level of financial infrastructure to pay for sites, food, childcare, or other costs related to running the site. Something that is not grant funded, but should be sustained funding. Accessibility. It needs to be built to empower participants and to support confidentiality so that individuals feel comfortable to participate fully. Neutral spaces is at the heart. Hiring, nontraditional supports, no metal detectors. Self-care spaces, quiet spaces, access to medical supports or services, access to a pharmacy. Parking should be free and accessible via public transportation. Lots of community art, café etc. Computer and phone access.

Community spaces often do not feel safe or comfortable and the community space should be designed with community input including the event space. The space should not managed by systems, it should be managed with and by a community organization or group that community trusts. For example, using existing nonprofits or spaces that can be provided rent to house the Community Court.

Facilitator further asks:

What was helpful in the exercise/process?

Comment that it was helpful to hear everyone and to build and feed off each other and each group. Movement was helpful.

Was there anything that is missing in the visioning process?

More community involvement of those with lived experiences.

Who else should be involved?

Respondents, people that have been through the system. Black Men Coalition works with newly released individuals. The voice of the victim. The voice of someone under the age of 22. People that are currently incarcerated in the Dane County Jail.

2. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & AGENCY DATA REVIEW & DISCUSSION.

Facilitator discusses homework questions posed to members including:

Please spend some time with your community and networks and ask the following questions:

Q1. What would most help people avoid being involved with criminal activity?

Q2. What would most help victims of crime in your community?

Q3. What words would you use to describe a safe neighborhood and a safe community?

Q1 Committee Feedback:

Understanding why people get involved in criminal activity by asking them why they got involved in the first place. Example provided regarding 3 to 4 shoplifting offenders committed the crime because their friend said they would get away with it.

Responses received via social media engagement from a variety of people who work in system or are formally incarcerated. Education, skill development, providing quality access to education and vocational training will support individuals from becoming involved. Finances. The lack of accessible resources to address the situations people are facing including healthy food, quality shelter, affordable and accessible transportation. The racist drug war and unchecked capitalism leading to poverty.

Pointing to root cause analysis to reframe question about activity happening/something has happened to ask how we even got there.

Funding. We do not have enough funding to sustain or address anything on root causes.

Early intervention when children are young. More support for families, traveling nurses. Programs to engage families early.

Responses from staff and participants from reentry groups include similar responses. Funding and greater access to treatment and health care services. Jobs that pay an actual living wage and have paid time off to afford taking care of family emergencies and to make ends meet. Employment opportunities, affordable and stable housing. Having positive outlets and activities in the community such as computer labs, game rooms, a space for families, kids, and adults to interact with one another in positive environments including hobbies, etc. To ensure a sense of purpose and hope.

One that is not fueled specifically by capitalism, but to make programming to keep people productive rather than joy.

Stop felony convictions from happening.

Personal, family and collective healing.

Addressing long waiting list accessing services that may increase trauma because people are just waiting.

Lack of cultural and linguistic appropriate services. Difficult to envision the community court having these things as the system still lacks in this area.

Q2 Committee Feedback:

Using a restorative approach and resources. As a victim it is difficult to get a response

no matter what part of the system it is. An approach that a victim is able to access the system.

A more immediate method to make a victim whole especially on the monetary side.

Not having to relive the trauma many times having to relay the trauma to several different agencies at one time. For example, a Safe Harbor for adults.

Victims of IPV need safe, emergency housing and case management services. More restorative options. Reduce the access of guns in the community. Safe roads to drive on. Child care during court appearances. Payment of restitution when defendants are not able to pay and its not covered by crime victim compensation.

Grief support.

*Q3. Committee Feedback:
Restorative.*

Diversity, Diverse Communities, Non-judgmental, Welcoming.

Available green space.

Neighbors connected to each other.

Education based in values.

A safe community and neighborhood is heaven. You don't have to lock your doors, people look out for one another, and you can sleep at night.

Sense of belonging, respectful landlords, advocacy, collective and shared leadership, access to affordable housing, accessibility, green/clean parks and playgrounds, walkable, mutual aid, and empathy.

Affordable and safe childcare.

Walkability, services, service providers, grocery stores, a bus within a few blocks.

Community Justice Center Pre Engagement Video: <https://youtu.be/8lXody-Ky-A>

[2023
DISC-006](#)

Community Justice Center: Community Groups Pre-Engagement presented on February 25, 20221

Attachments: [2020 PRES-154 Community Justice Center Presentation](#)
[2020 PRES-154 Facilitated Community Conversations Report](#)
[Families Back To The Table Letter 1](#)
[2023 DISC-006](#)

This presentation was placed on file.

[2023](#)
[DISC-007](#) Families Back to the Table Homework

Attachments: [2023 DISC-007](#)

This presentation was placed on file.

[2023](#)
[PRES-106](#) El Centro Homework

Attachments: [ElCentro Homework](#)

This presentation was placed on file.

E. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Site visit to Restorative Justice Community Court, Avondale in Chicago, IL on August 4, 2023.

2. NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 8, 2023

F. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

none.

G. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

none.

I. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by OZANNE, seconded by GLENN.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Isabel Anadon, pending CJC-Community Court Advisory subcommittee approval.