



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?*

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

8:30 AM

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

A. Call To Order

Call to Order: Chair Pellebon called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM

Attendance: Joe Aguilar, Virginia Gittens-Escudero, Nela Kalpic, Jennifer Ginsburg, Interim DCDHS Director Astra Iheukumere, Amy Scarr, and Priscilla McCarthy

Present 9 - SHANNON BARRY, AMY BROWN, BETH FREEMAN, VANESSA STATAM, DANA PELLEBON, KRISTA EWERS-HAYES, ERIN WELSH, MOLLY CARADONNA, and MATTHEW NORDQUIST

Excused 1 - SHARYL KATO

Absent 1 - ANTHONY GRAY

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2024](#)
[MIN-281](#) MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes 09.17.2024](#)

*The Minutes were moved by BARRY, Seconded by FREEMAN to approve the Minutes.
The motion passed by a voice vote (9-0).*

This resolution was approved

C. Action Items

D. Presentations

1. 2025 Budget Discussion with County Executive Agard and DCDHS Interim Director Iheukumere

County Executive Agard was unable to attend the meeting

DCDHS Interim Director Astra Iheukumere spoke on the 2025 Human Services budget that passed through the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive's Office. The highlights of the budget included Disability and Aging Services, Housing Access and Authority, Language Access Coordination and Employee Health Records in Human Services.

E. Reports to Committee

1. Agency Updates

Nordquist reported for Madison Police Department they are looking to move to a specialty model, they will now have an individual unit Sensitive Crimes/ Family Justice East side and West side. Lt. Nordquist will be falling off of the Commission and Lt. Greg Esser will now be on the COSC representing MPD.

Welsh reported for Health and Human Needs Committee they will be looking at getting housing contracts in place this year. We will carefully watch what HHN does for Housing Navigation this year.

Gittens Escudero reported for UNIDOS, they are preparing for next year, they are fully staffed and going through the budget process and meeting with leaders in the Latino community and are looking to do more with the community this year.

Brown reported for the DA's office, they are training new hires in the Victim Witness area, LTE crime response specialist has been posted. CARES team is doing a lunch and learn program during November. Revisiting Hate Crimes policies and procedures, looking at a T Visa program for Human Trafficking victims, seeing if this is something we can bring to Dane County. The Alliant Energy Center held a Mass Violence Preparedness and planning team, survivors from the Parkland School Shooting were there to help.

Barry reported for DAiS, fully staffed on Programming Side, hiring for a Development Officer to help fundraising services. Releasing a new court watch report the first week of December, there have been some concerning things with judges this year (Ex: Judges not following through with stat. requirements with injunctions but have also seen positive changes as well). Planning for 2025, hopefully passing budget soon and are able to minimize staffing cuts and reorganizing. 2026 will be a challenging program year as funding will diminish.

Statam reported for Anesis, discussing the outcome of the election within the community. Central Hispano is partnering to help with home ownership. They are working on how to support community members with new needs and changes to crisis drop in services so community members can connect to Anesis.

Caradonna reported for UW-Madison (Chancellor's Office), launched the campus CCR, watching what happens with the Dept. of Education after the new president is in office. Increased focus on violence prevention training in the community. Student Government and UW are looking to hire two mental health providers and hope to be hired in December.

Ewers-Hayes reported for Dane County Sheriff's Office, Amendment proposed for a new Human Trafficking Detective provider. Collaborations are happening with smaller office's to ensure that victims are being paired with Victim Services Providers. Threats of mass deportation are being discussed within the department and in the community.

Scarr reported for Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference was on November 1, 2024 (350 attending), and had a great program about Safety Planning that was needed in the community. 2025 planning is focused on

Financial Abuse Specialist Team and are hoping to expand FAST to five different areas in WI. Hoarding Abuse Task Force is taking a step back and seeing if they still need to meet or are these needs already being met internally.

Freeman reported for Adult Protective Services, expansion for APS is greatly appreciated, they are looking to hire many new positions. APS is moving to the Aging and Disability Resource Center, all of DAS should be housed together now (except disability services). Victim advocates are fully funded by levy funds, so there are positions that we will not be in danger of losing. Dementia stabilization unit will hopefully grow over the next few years, we don't have a great comprehensive response in place now and are feeling the effect of the community.

Pellebon reported for RCC, are working to expand the 2025 budget to include expansion for Mental Health specialist, full client services director, a couple advocate positions they are still working on filling. CCR for SA/DV is not meeting until January, working on a plan for next year and what topics to meet on.

2. CCR Updates

CCR Updates are added in under Agency Updates per Chair Pellebon's Request

3. Legislative Announcements/ Updates

Welsh reported for the Department Of Justice (She is the Deputy Director of Office of Crime Victim Services), the DOJ budget will go fourth to the governor will request for budget to the Legislature. Victim Service funding (approx. 66 million), the reason this is higher is because of the VOCA funding reductions on a federal level. Seeking for State of WI to step in and make up for reductions on a federal level, it may not increase in the future. The state has been able to award 26 million for funding and it's now down to 13 million over the next 3 years, statewide agencies are feeling this cut deeply. Hoping to get support on this topic and continue stressing this is needed for all victim services. This will carry over and give stress to other areas of victim services.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 8:30 AM

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

Chair Pellebon spoke on an alarming issue: there has been an individual who is making claims of Sex Trafficking that include the head of certain organizations, members of the COSC have been mentioned in these claims. Chair Pellebon has spoke to Law Enforcement about these accusations and is working with LE to keep the members safe and keeping the individual out of the system if possible.

Erin Welsh has nominated herself to be the Co Chair, we will vote on this in January. We will also be looking at what do we need to focus on in 2025 and what can we have as actionable items? Looking at including the DCDHS Director more throughout the year instead of the end of year budget update.

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by FREEMAN, Seconded by BROWN, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:34 AM

This resolution was adjourned

Minutes respectfully submitted by Priscilla McCarthy, Pending Commission approval