



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Community Justice Council - Pre-Trial Services Subcommittee

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

12:15 PM

Hybrid Meeting Attend in person at the City County
Room 357

Hybrid Meeting Attend in person at the City County Building Room 357

A. Call To Order

Meeting called to order at 12:16 PM

Ozanne joined 1:00 PM.

Present 10 - COLLEEN CLARK-BERNHARDT, NICK MCNAMARA, ISMAEL OZANNE, JEFF OKAZAKI, MELISSA AGARD, SHANNON PIERCE, PETER MIDDLETON, KELLY SPLINTER, MARIANNE OLESON, and JAMES MORGAN

Excused 1 - SARAH KRAHN

B. Consideration of Minutes

Agard moved, Middleton seconded. Minutes approved.

[2025](#)
[MIN-656](#)

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2026, CJC PRE-TRIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE

Attachments: [Minutes of the January 28, 2026 CJC Pre-Trial Services Subcommittee Meeting](#)

C. Action Items

None

D. Presentations

1. Welcome to New Community Members on the Subcommittee

James Morgan and Marianne Oleson were introduced.

2. Pathways to Pretrial Advancement Update

[2025](#) PATHWAYS TO PRETRIAL ADVANCEMENT UPDATE
[PRES-298](#)

Attachments: [Pathways to Pretrial Advancement Update](#)

[2025](#) Project Overview
[PRES-302](#)

Attachments: [project_overview](#)

Tamarine Cornelius, Research Analyst at the Office of Justice Reform, gave an update on the Pathways to Pretrial Advancement technical assistance project in partnership with Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research. Areas of focus in Dane County include improving court appearance rates and strengthening diversion pathways.

Discussion ensued regarding approaches for developing a system map.

3. Failure to Appear presentation

[2025](#)
[PRES-303](#)

Failure to Appear Updated

Attachments: [Failure to Appear Updated](#)

Emelia Currin, Intern at the Office of Justice Reform, summarized research about failing to appear in court and gave recommendations about improving Dane County's text messaging court notification system.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- The requirements to send court text reminder messages multiple times before the court hearing, instead of the current practice of one reminder. Changes to the frequency and timing of the reminders are possible when the calendar module for CCAP is re-written, which is scheduled to happen two or three years from now.
- Revisions to the wording of the reminder message, including offering the reminder in Spanish, would require approval from the State Courts Director and would not require technical changes. A request to provide the message in Spanish is currently pending. Any changes to the message would apply statewide.
- Third-party systems are available that could use CCAP data to send reminder messages. These systems are estimated to cost \$20,000 to \$25,000 annually, with start-up costs of approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000.
- Some defendants may fail to appear at an initial appearance because they are unaware that a case has been filed against them. These failures to appear are treated the same as other non-appearances, which may be inequitable.
- Additional data on failures to appear would be useful, including the number of non-appearances, the number of warrants issued, the types of hearings missed, and the case types involved.

Defendants should not communicate directly with the court regarding their ability to appear for a hearing. Such communication should occur through the defendant's attorney.

More information is needed to determine whether CCAP could transition to an opt-out text messaging model.

Pretrial services staff often receive updated phone numbers from defendants, but they are unable to update that information in CCAP.

E. Reports to Committee

None

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will be June 10, 2026. The meeting will be hybrid.

In the near future, an update on the research regarding Dane County's implementation of the Public Safety Assessment will be presented to the Community Justice Council and/or the Community Justice Council - Pretrial Services Subcommittee.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

Carousel Bayrd is leaving, and thanked for her service to Dane County.

I. Adjourn

Motion made by Agard, seconded by Pierce. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tamarine Cornelius, pending subcommittee approval.