

RICHLAND COUNTY CHAPTER 980 COMMITTEE

May 5, 2020

A meeting of the Richland County Chapter 980 Committee was held at 1:30 p.m. on May 5, 2020 via WebEx <https://richlandcounty.my.webex.com/richlandcounty.my/j.php?MTID=m0654d011e49db364b52e05010e5d472b> / Meeting number: 621 725 625 / Password: Richland / Join by phone +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll / Access code: 621 725 625.

Members Present: Tracy Thorsen, Mike Bindl, Lynn Newkirk, Benjamin Southwick, Scott Timm and Mary Collins Johnsrud.

Others Present: Meghan Rohn, Andrea Fields, Dane Knable, Marty Brewer, Attorney Bob Peterson and Clint Langreck.

Approve Agenda and Posting: Motion by Ben Southwick, seconded by Mary Collins Johnsrud to approve the agenda and proper posting. Motion carried.

Approve April 22, 2020 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes: Tracy Thorsen declared the April 22, 2020 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes approved.

Consideration of Housing Options for Impending Release of Sex Offender Richard Sugden: Benjamin Southwick reported on the hearing that was held on April 24, 2020 where both a request for an extension was made by the Richland County and a request for sanctions was made by representation of Mr. Sugden. The County was found in contempt and given 60 days, June 23rd, to identify a landlord willing to enter into a lease agreement to house Mr. Sugden. Discussion was held regarding what exact action must be taken by the county by the June 23rd deadline. Benjamin Southwick explained that the statute states that Richland County needs to identify a residence and the landlord needs to commit to a lease.

Tracy Thorsen discussed an email she received on April 27, 2020 regarding Richard Sugden's brother, Robert Sugden. Robert Sugden has not been in contact with his brother for several decades, however, he owns a property that he will be vacating soon and is willing to lease the property to the state. Lynn Newkirk was asked to map the property located at 24250 Pier Springs Road, Richland Center, WI, and it was reported the property meets the statutory requirements.

Tracy Thorsen discussed the situation with Scott Timm. While the state does have some reservations regarding leasing to a family member, it has been determined that they are willing to move forward. Andrea Fields, Victim/Witness Coordinator and Lieutenant Dane Knable were contacted regarding contacting surrounding residents and addressing any safety concerns they may have. Lieutenant Knable reported that they have not contacted residents at this time, however are planning to do so sometime this week. Report requirements were reviewed and it was noted that the statutes mandate the committee only request law enforcement develop a report and it is not required each of these properties are visited. The purposes of conducting these visits is to hopefully increase the chances of

the placement being successful. Scott Timm explained that once the County submits it's letter to the court with the placement recommendation, he has 30 days to submit the supervised release plan.

Discussion was held regarding ensuring the property is habitable and Scott Timm explained that Robert Sugden has been made aware that a walk through is typically done. Marty Brewer questioned if the county will have time to proceed with another property if this property falls through. Benjamin Southwick acknowledged the tight timeline and suggested the county continue to move forward with the property located at 29629 County Hwy B, Lone Rock, WI as a backup option. The timeline for this property was reviewed and it was noted the county would be taking ownership by June 2nd. Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mike Bindl that Richland County pursue the property located at 24250 Pier Springs Road, Richland Center, WI, as a housing option for Mr. Sugden, and continue to take any action necessary to acquire the property located at 29629 County Hwy B, Lone Rock WI, as of June 2, 2020 and make the property habitable. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding how the committee should proceed at this point in time. It was noted that Lieutenant Kanable and Andrea Fields would make residential contacts and submit a report. Lieutenant Kanable will also conduct a walkthrough of the house while in the area. Benjamin Southwick will then submit a report to Scott Timm identifying the placement. Scott Timm explained that the lease would be signed contingent upon the court approving the placement.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 20, 2020, at 11:00am. Due to the recent Public Health Emergency, this meeting will be held via WebEx.

Adjourn: Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Lynn Newkirk to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rohn

Confidential Administrative Secretary