

January 9, 2024

Attendees: Judge Lisa McDougal, Savanah DuCharme- Treatment Court Coordinator, Brandi Christian- Behavioral Health Services Manager, Tricia Clements- Director of HHS, Sheriff Clay Porter, Devon Rupnow-Jail Administrator, Attorney Jeff Erickson-SPD joined following court, Jenifer Laue- Judicial Assistant, Billy Jones-City of Richland Center, Police Chief joined

Judge McDougal called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

Proof of notification was confirmed by Savanah DuCharme

Tricia Clements moved to approve agenda, Second by Sheriff Porter

Sheriff Porter motions to approve minutes, second by Clements

No public comments

Introduction of new members:

A suggestion was made to invite Nathan McBain

Tricia Clements will reach out to Linda Tyler Doudna from the hospital and to Shannon from Passages

Introduction of Devon Rupnow in her new position as Jail Administrator.

Discussion on Diversion Programs: Jeff Erickson stated this is for pre-charging situations, although it has not had the impact they thought it would in neighboring counties. Jeff will send out the information on the diversion program to our folder.

Judge notes that treatment court is also a diversion program for lower risk people. Research shows that these people are more likely to self-correct and not be repeat offenders.

Discussion on the driver's license restoration program. Jeff will send out the materials. It was provided by Judge Jennifer Day and Judge Craig Day. There is a program called LIFT, Wisconsin (Legal Interventions for Transforming Wisconsin). This program is a considerable expense. In Jefferson County, they have a private entity running this program. In Grant County they are doing it through probation. 6 month price was \$35,000.00. They also have pop-up clinics that provide services. There are often multiple requirements to getting your license reinstated

Savanah states that getting there license back can be a huge challenge to people. She often has to explain what needs to be done at the DOT.
(Jeff Erickson leaves for court.)

Treatment Court Groups: Tricia Morzenti previously coordinated the groups. There has been some staff changes. Regular group sessions are being coordinated by Savanah and MacKenzie Fischer. There are also individual sessions held.

Future of courthouse and jail:

Jail: The jail is an outdated facility which does not have enough space. Often, they do not have the ability to separate by classification levels and this has become a concern. In housing the female population, there is not segregation based on charges, violent tendencies or mental health. People also have personal conflicts.

There is ongoing discussions regarding the timing of a new jail. They are trying to avoid housing inmates elsewhere.

The county needs to start planning for the new jail, it appears that people are on board with that. We need to finish paying for Pine Valley but maybe we can not wait until that is completed. The jail is back up to pre-covid numbers. Bookings are up and jail population is near capacity.

Billy Jones states that the city would welcome discussion on combined law enforcement as they too are growing. The fire department has also talked about needing a combined public safety facility. Sherriff Porter gives examples: City of Madison and Dane County, Viroqua has a public safety center. We would save money by utilizing the same shared areas and conference rooms. There is also great benefit and cost savings to being attached to the courts. It eliminates transports.

Jeff Erickson rejoins the meeting.

Quarterly Treatment Court Report: given by Savannah and Judge McDougal

We had a graduation, one expulsion, and one admitted to treatment court. The next graduation will be in March. Capacity is 15 people. It is now also a drug court, which makes the program more challenging. We also have Jessica Tisdale from Child Protection Services involved due to corresponding CHIPS cases. Toby Johnson has retired and Jake Rupnow has joined the team.

ACTION ITEMS:

Fee policy Update: Participation fee

Participants are currently on probation and often their fees are not being paid.

Judge comments on pros and cons to having fees.

Discussion on using "decision dollars" or community service hours. Savannah reads section C on incentives. The purpose of the fees so that participants recognize that it costs money to run treatment court and buy-in to the program. Often people value something more if they have to pay for it. Savannah will draft proposed language on ways to participants to reduce fees, etc.

Admission Policy and Treatment policy: Language was added to both policies.

Diagnostic criteria for approval. If a person is waiting sentencing, they need to be assessed every 3 months to establish accurate AODA diagnosis for continued program eligibility.

All in favor, none opposed, policy is adopted.

Phasing Policy Update: Language added: Participants in residential treatment will have a pause in phase time.

All in favor, none opposed, policy is adopted

Sanction Policy: Participants are to be informed that this is a sanction program. This change states that if they do obtain a violation, there is a requirement to appear in court within two weeks so that sanctions can be imposed. All in favor, none opposed, policy is adopted.

Future agenda items:

Domestic violence treatment

Anger management treatment.

Pretrial bail monitoring program

Next meeting is April 9, 2024

Motion to adjourn by Clay Porter, second by Billy Jones.

Respectfully submitted by Jenifer Laue