

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
Minutes – July 16, 2020

Call to Order. Vice Chair Perry called the meeting of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to order at 3:00 P.M. via teleconference.

Committee Members Present: Faun Moses (alt. for Kelly Mattingly), Chief David Moore, Steve Howland, Bill Rankin, Supervisor Shirley Williams, Carol Wickersham, Ryan Trautsch, Marc Perry, David O’Leary, Sheriff Troy Knudson, Vicki Brown (alt. for Angela Moore), Billy Bob Grahn and Chief David Zibolski.

Committee Members Absent: Judge Daniel Dillon, Kate Luster, Lonnie Brigham and Troy Enger.

Staff Members Present: Dr. Kendra Schiffman, Analyst; Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen, Justice System Manager; and Gina Koehl, Deferred Prosecution Director.

Others Present: Erin Davis, JM4C; Denise Peters-Kauihou, United Way; Ashley Morse, Matt Lantta, C. James Fitzgerald, Kevin Smith, and Michelle Brandemuehl, State Public Defender’s Office; Jonah Beleckis, Janesville Gazette; Lindsey Douglass and Lorin Cox, citizens.

Approval of Agenda. Mr. Grahn moved approval of the agenda, second by Ms. Wickersham. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2020. Sheriff Knudson moved approval of the minutes, second by Ms. O’Leary. ADOPTED.

Update on County Board Resolutions on Racial Justice. Mr. Perry said the two resolutions regarding racial justice passed the Rock County Board, including the one from CJCC. It is possible more resources may be available as a result of the resolutions.

Follow-Up to Presentation on Disorderly Conduct Data and Discussion of Next Steps regarding Criminal Justice System Racial and Ethnic Disparities Data. Mr. Perry said he wanted to circle back around to this topic to discuss where the CJCC can have impact/influence.

Chief Moore said his department has been looking at discretionary arrests and 90% were from a call for service which ended up in an arrest. He said there are many factors that go into disparity and the study of disorderly conduct arrests is not the bellwether proof some individuals has made it out to be. Chief Moore presented data his staff put together on areas where law enforcement has little/no discretion. He thinks CJCC needs to look more closely into the issue and all of the factors that go into who is in the justice system.

Chief Zibolski said there are more calls for service to low income neighborhoods so there are more contacts in those neighborhoods and police there more often.

Ms. Morse asked if the chiefs are saying there is no racial bias in their departments. Chief Zibolski said there is bias everywhere but analyzing crime data compared to census demographics is not a valid comparison—there are systemic issues involved. He said the CJCC needs to look at all points in the justice system. He said soon Incident-Base Reporting Data will be able to be used as another source of information and it contains more comprehensive data.

Dr. Schiffman agreed looking at other points in the system is a good idea and suggested we establish baseline data and measure successes. Ms. Wickersham said the CJCC should be thoughtful about what it is looking at and where resources are expended. Dr. Schiffman said the CJCC does not have to have all of the data to act and needs to set priorities due to limited resources.

Chief Moore asked what “right” looks like. Mr. Perry said “right” looks like bringing disparities down to more equitable levels so it looks like a level playing field.

Mr. Trautsch said the youth justice system has been looking at racial disparity. He said total admissions to detention are going down. Several CJCC members said they would like to look at youth justice and prevention efforts. Ms. Pohlman McQuillen said there are groups already established looking at youth justice issues and the group should be sure it isn’t duplicating other efforts already underway.

Supervisor Williams said race was a factor in initiating this topic at CJCC and the group should not look away from this.

Dr. Schiffman said CJCC should organize next steps. She suggested that each agency should decide on goals for their agency they are willing to commit to and then report on them at the CJCC regularly. Mr. Perry challenged each CJCC member to think about this and bring this information back to the next meeting.

Discussion regarding new Pinehurst Building. Sheriff Knudson said the architects are getting some preliminary information together now. He is interested in input from CJCC on space needs and programming space ideas.

Sheriff Knudson added that he has staff looking at data during the Covid period and will bring that back to a future meeting.

EBDM Update. Ms. Pohlman McQuillen said pretrial assessment and monitoring services will begin on Monday, July 20th. Mr. O’leary said his Diversion program is still up and running and they are working to get Enhanced Deferred prosecution operating.

Discussion Regarding Law Enforcement Concerns. Sheriff Knudson said during Covid the jail was down to 170-180 inmates. When the safer-at-home order ended they have started to accept more and are at about 220 inmates. He said no inmates have tested positive for Covid. Sheriff Knudson, Chief Moore, and Chief Zibolski said they are still citing/booking and releasing whenever they can.

Consideration of Future Areas for CJCC Focus/Action (from current and past meetings).

- Chief Moore would like to track school violence
- EBDM presentation on Risk Assessment
- Mr. Perry would like to speak with Homeless liaisons in Beloit and Janesville to get an update on unaccompanied youth population
- Ms. Wickersham would like a conversation on AODA/Mental Health services in the Rock County jail and wrap around services in the community. Mr. Brigham would like to extend this to Rock County youth.
- Safe Families presentation

- Mr. Perry said there have been several studies that name Wisconsin as the most segregated state. He would like to have a conversation around solutions to this issue. He will forward the links to these studies for Ms. Pohlman McQuillen to distribute.
- Mr. Brigham would like to know the percentage of juvenile citations in schools and how this is working.
- Mr. Brigham would like a presentation on bullying in schools and carryover outside of school (at risk youth behavioral data)

Citizen Participation and Announcements. Ms. Morse said if you look at all the criminal justice decision points, you will find that disparity exists in all of them. She thinks it is a better use of resources/time to measure progress and think about what to do to improve all agencies. She wants people to be serious about change.

Chief Moore said he sees some areas for improvement and will be making changes outside of CJCC and Chief Zibolski agreed.

The group agreed to skip the August meeting due to a number of members being on vacation. It was encouraged that during this time between meetings that each agency think about what they can do to measure and address disparity.

Future Meeting Date: Thursday, September 17, 2020, 3:00 P.M., Location TBD

Adjournment. Mr. Grahn moved to adjourn at 4:21 P.M., second by Ms. Wickersham.
ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen,
Justice System Manager

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