

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
September 17, 2009

Call to Order. Chair Deupree called the meeting of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to order at 4:00 P.M. in the Courthouse Conference Center on the second floor of the Rock County Courthouse-East.

Committee Members Present: Chair Neil Deupree, Rich Gruber, Perry Folts (for David O’Leary), Ed Pearson, Captain Russ Steeber (for Sheriff Spoden), Eric Nelson, Ruth Bettin, Supervisor Wopat, Regina Dunkin, Judge James Daley, Lorenzo Henderson, Charmian Klyve.

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Sandra Kraft, Art Thurmer, Jose Carrillo, Jan Devore, Chief David Moore.

Staff Members Present: Josh Smith, Assistant to the County Administrator; Ryan Trautsch, Beloit Juvenile Probation Supervisor.

Others Present: Acting Chief Norm Jacobs, Beloit Police Department; Supervisor Larry Wiedenfeld; Linda Owens; Kurt Reynolds.

Approval of Agenda. Captain Steeber moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Wopat. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes of August 20, 2009. Captain Steeber moved approval of the minutes of August 20, 2009, second by Ms. Dunkin. ADOPTED.

Criminal Justice Issues in Beloit and Rock County Acting Chief Jacobs introduced himself and said he thinks the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is doing a great job. He said the job of law enforcement is to maintain order. The problem, as he sees it, is that tactical skills and technology are forcing our hand. He referenced a recent training which pointed toward tactical skills – shooting, chasing, etc. Technology is providing better radios and equipment. While this has made us safer, we are losing some of our people skills. We need to get back to preventing crime by using our people skills along with technology and training. He commented that police departments cannot be judged by the number of arrests made.

Judge Daley said there is no measure for the number of crimes prevented. We need to find something that will show the community that aggressive patrol and crime prevention have a value to the community. He said he would like to see “street diversion” where minor offenders, i.e., disorderly conduct, are taken home and turned over to their parents. Acting Chief Jacobs said he liked that idea.

Mr. Nelson asked what should be done about gang violence. We need to get the word out to families, friends and relatives of victims to somehow get information to the police. Ms. Dunkin said the Merrill Community Center has extended its hours to 8:30 P.M. to provide a constructive place for young people to go in the evening.

Chair Deupree thanked Acting Chief Jacobs for addressing the Council.

Community RECAP Update.

Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant Funding. Mr. Smith reminded the Council that Rock County received \$156,814 through the TAD Grant for the next three years. He said a 6% cut is anticipated in the budget. Mr. Smith, Captain Steeber and Sgt. Sprecher attended a meeting last week on the TAD grant funding.

Community RECAP/Drug Court Caseload and Services. Mr. Smith advised the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council agreed on a 15:1 Case Worker/Client ratio for a total of 60 clients. The program peaked at 62 in 2008, however, the 2009 average is 47.5 clients/month. Rock County has one of the lower completion rates in the State, but a number of factors and programs are different. Captain Steeber said initially people were put in the program who could not make it there because they needed in-house services. More appropriate clients are now in the program and he commented that the successes have been quite remarkable.

Mr. Smith said we are getting a better understanding of the services that are needed. Over the past nine months, we have been paying for an extra Case Worker which we have not been able to use. In the 2010 Budget, elimination of one Case Worker is being proposed, while still maintaining the present services. He advised ATTIC is in agreement. ATTIC Social Workers have the capability of a 20:1 ratio.

Supervisor Wopat asked if this one position is eliminated, would there be funding available for additional residential placements? He said \$6,000 would allow for three 30-day residential treatments per month here in Rock County. Mr. Nelson commented he does not expect the number to stay at 47.5 as there is a huge number of potential crimes in the OWI issue. Judge Daley said the greatest statistical opportunity for success is a residential treatment with a 12-step program.

Judge Daley moved approval of eliminating one Social Worker slot in the ATTIC program for 2010, second by Captain Steeber. ADOPTED.

Chair Deupree said this can be re-evaluated during the year as the CJCC has oversight for this program.

Judge Daley said Veterans Court started today with one person. He explained the key to this process is Defense Attorneys identifying veterans and working out contracts with them. Reports from the Bar will be received on a weekly basis. Captain Steeber said there are approximately six new veterans coming in per week. Judge Daley said identifying them early will allow us to get them into the program. Judge Daley said there is a need for veteran mentors, as they are the key to the program.

Update on Discussion Regarding Alcohol Tax. Chair Deupree said they had a fruitful meeting, however, neither he nor Mr. Smith have their notes ready. Chair Deupree said he attended a panel with Representative Kim Hixson on alcohol DWI legislation that is going

through fairly fast. He said it is a replication of the Winnebago model which uses in-patient treatment in lieu of jail. Chair Deupree said there are eight or ten different parts of the bill, but one is sequestering the existing jail tax for treatment and enforcement. Ms. Klyve moved to send a letter of support for this legislation, seconded by Supervisor Wopat. ADOPTED. Chair Deupree said he will write the letter.

CJCC Priorities – Means of Evaluation. Chair Deupree said this will be placed on the October agenda.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations. Chair Deupree advised the next meeting will be Thursday, October 15th, 4:00 P.M., here in the Courthouse Conference Center.

Citizen Participation and Announcements. Mr. Henderson requested Linda Evans and Kurt Reynolds be considered for membership on the CJCC if there are future openings. He commented they regularly attend the Council meetings.

Judge Daley said the budget bill has a provision for really low risk prisoners to be put into treatment with the money that would be saved by not incarcerating them. He said this happened so quickly not much is going to get done until next year.

Ms. Dunkin requested information on the Juvenile Detention Center staff and what a day looks like at the Detention Center. She suggested inviting new Beloit School Superintendent Thompson to a meeting. Chair Deupree said Janesville has a new School Superintendent and we will invite him also.

Adjournment. Chair Deupree adjourned the meeting at 5:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Milligan
Confidential Administrative Assistant

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