

Manitowoc Youth Intervention Network (MYIN) – Victim Subcommittee Meeting
January 21, 2021 Minutes
Held Via Zoom 12:30pm – 12:45pm

Attendees: Stacy Ledvina (MCHSD), Rodney Zahn (MCHSD), Kevin Mueller (Probation and Parole), Jacalyn LaBre (District Attorney), Erica Rohrer (Restorative Justice Program Coordinator), Amy Plagemann (Victim Witness Coordinator), Becky Busses (Paralegal – DA’s Office), Larry Ledvina (Manitowoc Sheriff’s Office), Julie Poff (MCHSD), Angie Scarpelli (ADA).

- ❖ Introductions and welcome
- ❖ Review of history of victim subcommittee. Stacy explained that this subcommittee was created in fall, 2014 to discuss and focus on victims and victim issues. There was a great deal of work done to educate one another on our processes, procedures and forms/letters used with victims. The Restorative Justice Program Guidelines were developed as part of this work. Chris Nolan from the Dept. of Justice joined the group for one meeting to discuss our roles and it was confirmed that there is a great deal of duplication in the requirements from various parties (law enforcement, HSD and the DA’s office/courts).
- ❖ Current Restorative Justice Program Guidelines and Protocol – this was included with the agenda for this meeting. Stacy asked if there were questions, comments, concerns, suggestions and there were not.
- ❖ Erica Rohrer shared information on Covid-19 and the creative options that have been put in place to assist youth in completing community service and restitution obligations. When the pandemic hit, Erica was just beginning as the new Coordinator and had only met 2 of the 32 clients she was assigned to work with, which made things difficult. Staff started with virtual meetings, eventually moving to mostly outdoor visits and eventually allowing for some youth to be at the YWC. This fall it was necessary to cut back on in-person contact due to the increase in numbers and slowly we have been allowing for limited youth to be at the center in person. Erica shared photos of the Kids at Hope Community Garden and talked about community service including scavenger hunts in the community, cleaning up parks by picking up garbage, working concessions for Two Rivers Parks and Rec, helping family members and neighbors, and having youth choose and make meals for their families. Erica also showed a series of logos that one youth created based on the support she has gotten from the youth justice case management staff during the pandemic.
- ❖ Mary’s Law – Jackie indicated that the biggest issues are related to definitions, specifically the definition of privacy. Chapter 950 provides the statutes regarding victims and victim’s rights and Marsy’s Law has included a victim’s rights based on the constitution, but the statutory language has not had time to get caught up.

For example, in adult cases the victims are not named, they are identified as victim #1, victim #2, etc. No addresses are included either. Also, victims has always had the right to speak at dispo/sentencing, but Marsy's Law gives victims the ability to make a statement at ANY hearing. So, the need to be in contact with victims has increased and it has resulted in a big change in regards to moving case forward.

Amy explained that there is also a requirements that victims have the right to assistance in collecting restitution. It is possible that a separate discussion will need to occur about this, as HSD does not have a procedure in place for this. Historically, HSD has voluntarily continued to work with a youth for up to a year after a youth's order expires. There is then the ability to ask the court to order a judgement for the parent and/or youth but this process is a little unclear and has not been used since the last Restorative Justice Program Coordinator (Judy Wiesbrook) retired a year ago, but we do have a current case where a youth's order has ended and restitution was not paid.

- ❖ Future plans – it was suggested that the next meeting happen once there are additional updates on Marsy's Law, possibly to include a discussion with Chris Nolan from DOJ. Also discussed possible days of the weeks/times for a larger MYIN meeting. Stacy will look at sending out a Doodle poll for this.

Submitted by
Stacy Ledvina
1/21/21