

Manitowoc County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Minutes
February 2, 2022
Communications and Technology Building, Manitowoc

Attendance: Council members Present: Patricia Dodge, County Board Supervisor James Falkowski, Sheriff Dan Hartwig, Phil Hoff, Capt. Jeremy Kronforst (designee), District Attorney Jacalyn LaBre (Vice-Chair), Attorney Ann Larson, Kevin Mueller, Cindy Oswald, Judge Mark Rohrer (Chair), County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer and Clerk of Court Lynn Zigmunt.

Excused/Absent: Chief Paul Granger, Chief Brian Kohlmeier.

Others: Patricia Koppa, Don Sweet, Nancy Slattery, Jennifer Zick.

Meeting:

Chair Judge Mark Rohrer called meeting to order at 4:49. Attendance sheet circulated. Attorney Ann Larson moved to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2021 Council meeting. DA Jackie LaBre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously after voice vote.

Judge Rohrer noted that Chief Paul Granger was unable to attend.

Don Sweet, Treatment Court and Diversion Coordinator reported on the drug court. Eleven currently enrolled of which 7 are employed. Six are maintaining their on living quarters and paying rent. All are participating in the Comprehensive Community Services program. Four additional candidates are under consideration. A referral form is being created to make the initial process easier to access. Also in process of extending to a minimum 18 month completion period based upon alumni feedback. During the January Omicron surge operated with virtual court, but resumed in person today.

Don responded to Council member questions. There are 10 individuals interested in the alumni program at this point. Enrollment is currently lower but as we go back to pre-pandemic levels, will also need to consider filling the approved position for a separate case manager in addition to the coordinator position.

The diversion program will be discontinued in its current form. Not enough interest. Will consider alternatives down the road.

Discussion moved to resurrecting the pre-trial workgroup and the form the group would take. Willingness to be transparent in work to public but preference for flexibility and less formality. Attorney Larson is willing to continue as chair and will explore this. Should expand beyond individuals directly involved in the bail decisions. Greater Council and public participation desired. Perhaps begin with council education and determine specific issue or public education topics from there. Will report back at next meeting.

There has also been discussion regarding participating in or gaining more information from the Wisconsin CJCC. They have been working on a pretrial tool for example and we should know more about it. Ms. Slattery noted she had attended in the past and that there is public input at the end of the meetings. Officers will look into attending or at least getting information about current topics.

Continued with the elections. Before nominations began, Kevin Mueller noted that he will be stepping back and Jennifer Zick will be the representative for Probation and Parole.

Nominations began with the Chair position. Attorney LaBre nominated Judge Rohrer, the nomination was seconded by Attorney Larson. No other nominations were forthcoming and the nominations were closed. Voice vote taken and unanimously elected.

District Attorney LaBre was nominated Vice-Chair by James Falkowski with the second from Patricia Dodge. Again no other nominations and voice vote in unanimous approval.

The three other positions on the Executive committee resulted in a bit more discussion with some of those nominated declining due to other commitments. Ultimately Attorney Larson, Jennifer Zick and Supervisor Falkowski agreed to accept the positions and were unanimously elected.

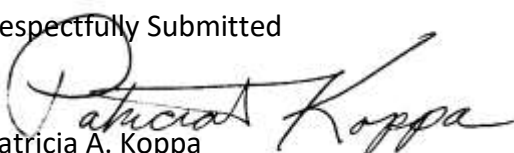
With the new Executive Committee in place, Judge Rohrer asked about further needs in the community. Nancy Slattery had copies of the study by the League of Women Voters showing the benefit of a mental health court. Judge Rohrer thought some invitation to the local state legislators might be appropriate. Discussed how this could be done as a way to express what the state could do for local government. Judge Rohrer and DA LaBre will work on how this could be done.

Patricia Dodge noted there are some new grant opportunities for housing and treatment costs. Human Services will be looking into those further.

The next Council meeting date is March 2, 2022. The Executive Committee will continue to meet by videoconference; next session is February 21.

Motion to adjourn made by Attorney Hoff, seconded by Attorney LaBre. Passed unanimously adjourning at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted


Patricia A. Koppa
Council Secretary