

## **Wood County Criminal Justice Task Force Minutes December 19, 2018**

**Present:** Melvin Pedersen, Grand Rapids PD; Greg Potter, Branch 1; Patrick Zeps, Marshfield PD; Lori Heideman, Wood County Dispatch; Kathy Frigo Drury, State Public Defender; Susan Byrnes, District 9 Court Administrator; Donna Rozar, Wood County Board; Todd Wolf, Branch 3; Cindy Joosten, Clerk of Courts; Bill Clendenning, Wood County Board; Dennis Polach, Wood County Board; James Wunrow, Wood County Jail; Theodore Ashbeck, Wood County Sheriff's Dept.; Craig Lambert, District Attorney; Michelle Neumann, Victim Witness; Jackie Arnold, Clerk of Courts.

**Minute Approvals:** Judge Potter called meeting to order. No additions or corrections to 9/19/18 Task Force minutes. Minutes are approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Additions to Agenda:** Alleged victims' names on bail bond forms.

Participants in meeting introduce themselves.

**Final Pre-Trials:** Judge Wolf requests that the Courts be made aware of any Public Defender or District Attorney conferences for scheduling purposes.

**Interpreter/Traffic/DAR:** The DAR (Digital Auto Recorder) in reserve courtroom cannot effectively pick up sound from phone calls which makes SWITS interpreter by phone difficult. Judge Potter suggests that duty judge should be doing those hearings in their courtrooms to alleviate that problem. Judge Wolf discusses scheduling between 9:00-10:00 a.m. on duty weeks while Family Court Commissioner is doing traffic intake. Judges will talk to Judicial Assistants about not scheduling contested matters during that time slot so duty judge is available to take pleas or cases that need interpreters.

**No Paperwork for Jail on Civil Contempts:** Judge Wolf addresses a recent case where he ordered a person to serve jail time on a civil contempt and gave him a reporting date and when he tried to check in to jail was told that the jail had no paperwork to book him in. It appeared that the correct process was followed by the Court to get order to the jail. Matter will be discussed with jail after meeting today.

**Restorative Justice:** Craig Lambert indicates that the sub-committee recently met. Committee members were assigned tasks. They are looking into what it would take to hire a Criminal Justice Coordinator. They are meeting again next month. Donna Rozar questioned new law that was recently signed about releasing prisoners and how that would affect Wood County. Craig states that it would only affect federal prisoners and would have minimal impact on Wood County.

**Drug Court:** Judge Wolf states that a report was sent with agenda. There was recently a budget modification with state monies. There was money available for inpatient treatment, but participation in drug court is at max so there is a lot of testing. So money was transferred from the inpatient account to the testing account. Question arose if there is a waiting list for drug court. Drug court is at maximum capacity, but there is not a waiting period more than a few weeks. Susan Byrnes asks how long drug court has been going and what judges participate. Drug Court has been going for approximately 15 years. Judge Potter states that Judge Wolf runs the drug court and he fills in when

Judge Wolf is gone. She states that Court Ops will be observing and seeing how we are doing and we will get some feedback.

**Round Table:** Donna asks about how CBRF closure affected drug court. Judge Wolf says it mostly affected participant's housing. The Oxford House is being used, but person needs to be sober for 30 days. The funds supplied by the county greatly helped on the Marshfield end for testing there.

Jail questions not having names on bonds. CCAP is just listing "alleged victim". Craig says it is being done to protect victims' privacy. Jail states issues of no contact provision not being followed in jail because they are not aware of the person the inmate is not to have contact with. Craig or Michelle will work with jail to get them the names of the victims so it can be monitored in the jail. Victim's phone numbers can then be blocked and staff can see if the inmate is attempting to call the phone number.

Kate Frigo Drury states that they have a hired a new part-time staff attorney, Laura Tritt. Jessica Phelps will be moving to Portage County. Ryan Drengler will be new staff attorney serving Wood County.

Ted Ashbeck states that it has been a record year for inmates in Wood County. The average is 226 inmates per day. They have recently signed a contract with Adams County for 25 inmates. He is asking for advanced notice for transport. Video-conferencing may be set up between Adams and Wood County. Donna addresses need for new jail and how she would like to start conversations within the County Board. Judge Potter states that the jail number will just continue to go up with drug problem and Wood County will continue to pay other counties for housing inmates unless new jail is built. Kate questions which county has priority on receiving Wood County inmates. Waupaca would be first choice. Ted states that they have received a grant from Legacy to help with mental health issues in the jail. James Wunrow states that he appreciates that the Court allows the jail inmates to go first in court. He does indicate that he is still frustrated with defense attorneys who do not talk to their clients before they are brought up and complete plea questionnaires with them. He thinks that there is a security issue in the reserve courtroom on Thursday traffic days when there are a lot of people in that courtroom. Judge Potter suggests that there be a court rule that plea questionnaires for inmates cannot be completed in the courtroom. They will need to go back down to the jail to have those completed.

Judge Wolf stays that Judge Brazeau asked that he bring up if Narcan be available in the courtroom or on the third floor. Donna says that Human Services has a training set up on 1/16/19 at 12:00 in the Riverblock building. Narcan will be given to everyone attending. It was suggested that we may be able to have some training in the Courthouse in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 12:58

Submitted 12/20/18

Jackie Arnold  
Deputy Clerk of Courts