

Wood County Criminal Justice Task Force Minutes December 16, 2020

Present: Greg Potter, Branch 1; Kate Frigo Drury, State Public Defender; Cindy Joosten, Clerk of Courts; Bill Clendenning, Wood County Board; Joseph Zurfluh, Wood County Board; Bill Leichtnam, Wood County Board; Janelle Krueger, Criminal Justice Coordinator; Theodore Ashbeck, Wood County Sheriff's Dept.; Craig Lambert, District Attorney; Michelle Newman, Victim Witness; Jackie Arnold, Clerk of Courts; Adam Stublaski, Dept of Corrections;

Meeting called to order by Judge Potter at 12:05 p.m.

Introductions: Since the committee has not met for some time due to Covid-19, everyone introduces themselves.

Minute Approvals: No additions or corrections to 12/18/19 Task Force minutes. Minutes are approved.

Public Comment: None.

Additions to Agenda: No additions.

Jail Study: Ted Ashbeck states that an ad hoc committee is being appointed for a jail study. Bill Clendenning adds that there was a question as to which board committee was responsible for the study.

Restorative Justice: Janelle Krueger is introduced as the new Criminal Justice Coordinator. No action regarding Victim Impact Panel is being taken at this time. Judge Potter will be talking to Janelle about the past panel and possible future panel.

Drug Court: Currently there are 25 participants in Drug Court. There is not a waiting list. Janelle will be supervising drug court. The contract that Drug Court had with ATTIC was terminated. Three personnel with drug court will now be Wood County employees.

Round Table:

Bill Leichtnam states he has been on some tours of jails in the state and has found it very interesting. He is impressed with some of the newer facilities.

Janelle Krueger states that she is connecting with people and looking forward to talking to more people about the court system.

Ted Ashbeck states that the jail has a discharge planner position now and is going well. There was recently an electrical failure that took out a cellblock for about a week. Undersheriff Randy Dorshorst has retired and Quenton Ellis will be taking his position.

Kate Frigo Drury states that Attorney Laura Tritt is currently on FMLA. They have a new staff attorney, Joseph Long. She acknowledges letter from Wood County judges regarding a PD appointed attorney issue regarding adjournments of trial due to Covid-19. The attorney was not aware that a committee was developed and there was a plan put in place for jury trials and approved by the Chief Judge. Judge Potter states that he does not think attorneys should be taking cases if they are not going to see the cases through to the end. Kate states that the matter has been referred to the complaint department and is being investigated.

Adam Stublaski states that Probation & Parole have allocated a new position and will be starting in February. There is minimal staff in the office. Most staff are working remotely.

Craig states that the District Attorney's Office has a new ADA, Jennifer Zima, who previously worked to Public Defender's Office. They also have a new support staff person, Traci Hanish Medina.

Cindy Joosten states that two people have left the Clerk of Court's office, one by new position and one by retirement. They are in the process of filling those positions.

Joe Zurfluh states this is his first Justice Task force meeting since he was Chief of Police of Port Edwards Police Department in 2014. He is looking forward to attending as a county board member.

Bill Clendenning states the steps that were taken to get a Criminal Justice Coordinator position and getting three staff members of Drug Court as Wood County employees.

Judge Potter states that in June of 2021 the Judges' rotation will be changing from two weeks on, four weeks off to one week on, two weeks off because of the workload on staff.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm. Next meeting set for 3/17/21 at 12:00 Noon.

Submitted 12/21/20

Jackie Arnold
Deputy Clerk of Courts