

MINUTES
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

DATE: Wednesday, March 17, 2021
TIME: 12:00 PM
LOCATION: Courthouse – Circuit Court Branch II

PRESENT: Greg Potter, Circuit Court Branch I; Kat Lunke, State Public Defender; Cindy Joosten, Clerk of Courts; Bill Clendenning, Wood County Board; Bill Leichtnam, Wood County Board; Dennis Polach, Wood County Board; Lance Pliml, Wood County Board; Craig Lambert, Wood County District Attorney; Janelle Krueger, Criminal Justice Coordinator.

1. Meeting called to order by Judge Potter at 12:02 p.m.
2. There was no public comment.
3. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
4. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.
5. Agency Updates:
 - District Attorney Office – Craig presented information to the task force about the diversion and deferral process that he and Janelle Krueger are working on implementing for the Veteran population. This will allow us to begin tracking data and evaluate if need exists for a formal program. Additional conversation regarding the historic attempts to create a Veterans Court including some of the stumbling blocks that were had along the way as well as factors that contributed to the lack of movement beyond.
 - State Public Defender – Kat reports that there was a change in staff attorney within the office. Kat reports that they are hopeful that the new attorney will be starting with the agency in June, following their graduation from law school.
 - Clerk of Courts – Cindy provides an update to the group on the changes that are being made on the third floor to accommodate the need for additional jury room space given the challenges since COVID along with the bathroom allocation during jury trials. Judge Potter provides additional context to the group regarding the process of jury selection and rules. The new CDC guidelines on social distancing are also discussed as well as the courts requirement to follow the Supreme Court guidelines not the state guidelines which often take more time to see change.
 - Criminal Justice Coordinator – Janelle provides some information on the Wood County Drug Court including the ongoing collection of both current and past data. In addition,

Janelle provides additional information on the benefits of creating an informal partnership to focus on Veterans addressing some of the benefits that we have here in Wood County, specifically the VA Clinic. This partnership with the District Attorney will allow us to work through what will and what will not work allowing us to also collect data to inform decisions later regarding the need for formal Veterans Diversion programming.

6. Roundtable Discussion:

- There is discussion regarding the Jail Study Adhoc committee and the work that is being done along with the intersection it has with this committee. Judge Potter provides some information about how the State identifies the allocation of judgeships and Wood County's place in line for the option to have another Judge. There is ongoing discussion about the history and the information that will need to be identified prior to moving forward with any decisions. In addition there is information on the ongoing search to find previously created by-laws for this committee and how those could be helpful in moving forward.

7. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items:

- Updates on Veteran Initiative
- Updates on Judgeship
- Next Meeting – Wednesday June 16, 2021 @ 12:00 P.M.
 - i. Wood County Courthouse – Branch II Courtroom

Minutes taken by Janelle Krueger, Criminal Justice Coordinator, and are in draft form pending approval of the committee.