

## **Wood County Criminal Justice Task Force Minutes September 18, 2019**

**Present:** Caitlin Saylor, Dept of Corrections; Jackie Arnold, Clerk of Courts; Craig Lambert, District Attorney; Bill Clendenning, Wood County Board; Dennis Polach, Wood County Board; Todd Wolf, Branch 3; Michelle Newman, Victim Witness; Kate Drury, Public Defender's Office; Melvin Pedersen, Grand Rapids PD.

**Minute Approvals:** Judge Wolf called meeting to order at 12:00 PM. No additions or corrections to 6/19/19 Task Force Minutes. Minutes are approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Additions to Agenda:** None.

**New Procedure for Unrepresented Defendants/Contempt:** Judge Wolf states a meeting was held with the Public Defender. The procedure is that when defendants do not have a public defender appointed, the preliminary hearings are held and the arraignment is adjourned for a few weeks and set for Mondays at 10:00 a.m. The arraignments keep getting adjourned if no attorney has been appointed. The procedure now is if this continues for a couple of months, a hearing is set for Mondays at 2:30 p.m. so Public Defender can explain their efforts to the Court to obtain counsel for defendants. If the Judge feels that not enough effort has been made to appoint counsel, it will be set for a contempt hearing. A question arose as to what the remedy for contempt would be. Judge Wolf feels that the remedy would be that Court would appoint counsel and the Public Defender would be billed \$50/hour and county would pay the rest until the Public Defender appoints counsel. He states that there have been no contempt hearings. Kate states that lack of public defenders is a statewide problem, but seems to have affected Wood County more than other counties.

**Restorative Justice:** Bill Clendenning states that county board has approved the Criminal Justice Coordinator position for Wood County. He does not know if funding will be approved. He states his dissatisfaction with support from this committee. Craig questions what he is dissatisfied with. Bill states he asked for committee members to speak to the county board, but they declined. He wants to take three members of the Judicial & Legislative committee to Dunn County to find out the costs of their Criminal Justice Coordinator position. He does not think it is feasible for the position to start in January of 2020. Committee suggests that we should ask surrounding counties or similar populated counties what the costs are for them. Most programs are funded by grants, but the cost needs to be determined first. Craig suggests that the sub-committee meet again to look into this. Judge Wolf indicates that he spoke to Rick Grams of MPD and he wants to be a part of that committee. Adam Fischer from the county board also wants to be a part of the committee. Judge Wolf will talk to Judge Potter about the sub-committee. Bill presents committee with county board vote count for approval of Criminal Justice Coordinator and is attached.

**Drug Court:** Judge Wolf states he provided a written update of drug court with today's agenda. Drug Court was evaluated by the state and were in compliance. It will be evaluated again in 3 years. He states that there were issues with the case manager in Marshfield and she was terminated. So there is a job opening for a case manager in Marshfield. There are 25 participants in the program now and 12 on the pending list to get in.

**Round Table:** Kate Drury states they have hired a limited term employee, Angela Boelter, to help with the caseload. She will be working until January.

Craig says that two new prosecutors have been approved for the District Attorney's office. He can start hiring immediately. The space in the old Human Services office will not be available for about a year since they cannot start working on renovations until 2020. They may be able to utilize a temporary space recently vacated by EG however. Bill states that it has been proposed that Victim Witness switch offices with County Board Chairman, which will work better for both departments. Craig thinks that maybe Victim Witness should wait until District Attorney's office moves so the department will be on third floor and will only have to move once. Judge Wolf states that he is hopeful that there is an area in the Victim Witness office for victims and witnesses to stay during trials. Michelle says she is ready to make the move to a new space now.

Michelle states that she has discussed with the judges a new procedure for when alleged victims wish to have a contact provision on a bond lifted on domestic abuse cases. It is being proposed that alleged victims create a safety plan with the Family Center or PDC before they can ask the Court to have the no contact provision be lifted. Other counties have this procedure and are finding it helpful. At this time, the Family Center is not in favor of it. She has meeting set up with PDC and the Family center on Friday. Alleged victims will be notified when the no contact condition is put into place so they know what they need to do to have the no contact lifted.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.**

Submitted 9/19/19

Jackie Arnold  
Deputy Clerk of Courts