

**Wood County Criminal Justice Task Force Minutes**  
**March 20, 2019**

**Present:** Melvin Pedersen, Grand Rapids PD; Greg Potter, Branch 1; Rick Gramza, Marshfield PD; Lori Heideman, Wood County Dispatch; Kate Frigo Drury, State Public Defender; Susan Byrnes, District 9 Court Administrator; 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 Newman, Victim Witness; Jackie Arnold, Clerk of Courts; Caitlin Saylor, Dept. of Corrections; Adam Stublaski, Dept of Corrections; Donna Hibbard, Dept. of Corrections; Shawn Woods, Nekoosa PD; Shawn Becker, Wood County Sheriff; Mary Solheim, Human Services, Nick Brazeau, Branch 2.

**Minute Approvals:** Judge Potter called meeting to order at 12:10. No additions or corrections to 12/19/18 Task Force minutes. Minutes are approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Additions to Agenda:** No additions.

**Drug Court:** Judge Wolf is not present today. He has submitted report, which was attached to agenda.

**Restorative Justice:** Judge Brazeau addresses letter regarding Criminal Justice Coordinator. Leigh Neville-Neil was working on getting Veteran's Court started, but has been deployed and it is now at a standstill. Judge Brazeau feels there is a strong need for a Veteran's Court and a mental health court and a coordinator would be valuable to Wood County. They are seeking a 2-year commitment from the County Board which would start with the 2020 budget. This position would also write grants that may pay for the position. Bill Clendenning is asking for a motion from this committee to start the process so he can bring the request for a Criminal Justice Coordinator to the Judicial and Legislative Committee. Judge Potter states that he would also like to see an OWI court for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> offenses. Bill Clendenning makes motion for committee to draft resolution for a Criminal Justice Coordinator and seconded by Judge Brazeau. Motion passes.

**Public Defender:** Judge Potter says he has been told by defendants without counsel at preliminary hearings that the Public Defender has told them that they should ask for an adjournment of the preliminary hearing. He says this should not be done as there are time limits to have the preliminary hearing held. His practice is to hold the preliminary hearing and when the defendant obtains counsel, the preliminary hearing may be reheard. He does not proceed to arraignment at that time. Another date is set so they have counsel at the arraignment. Kate Frigo from PD states that she is unaware of Public Defenders giving that advice to defendants. She states that there is currently legislature for Public Defender rates to be raised to \$70.00/hour, which will help in getting attorneys appointed for defendants who are eligible. Corporation Counsel

Kastenholz has talked to her about Judge Brazeau appointing counsel for someone who was eligible for Public Defender and is requesting reimbursement from Public Defender. Per the Public Defender's legal counsel, they will not be reimbursing Wood County for this. Kate discusses her frustrations with finding counsel to appoint to cases. She indicates that she has 18 defendants that they are actively seeking counsel for. She has contacted Scott Krug regarding the issue. Kate will provide copy of letter from PD's legal counsel regarding not reimbursing county if requested.

**Round Table:** Cindy addresses issue of the jail not knowing of court dates. It has been discovered that the dates that they are not informed of are motions that dates are entered in the actual motion and notices are not done. Cindy reminds attorneys that they should be notifying the jail if their client is in jail and has a motion hearing.

Judge Brazeau addresses courthouse security. It was proposed that the Sheriff's Dept. would be hiring a lieutenant and 3 deputies to oversee security and everyone would be using the front door and side doors blocked. At this time, it does not appear that the plan has County Board support. One of the proposals is to hire a security company. This solution would not be ideal as the people hired would not be sworn deputies. He is asking for everyone's support on the committee. Bill Clendenning states that he had a resolution drawn up, but was talked out of it. He feels it would be beneficial if everyone would talk to their County Board representative about the need for security. Shawn Becker states that a resolution has been put together and has passed through the Safety Committee and will be going to the Legislative Committee and, if passed, to the County Board. He does not want to pull deputies off the road to cover courthouse security. Judge Potter describes a recent incident where courthouse security would have been helpful. Jim Wunrow provides committee with another instance where security would have been helpful. Michelle Newman requests that when there is a security threat in the courthouse, that there should be an announcement so that everyone is aware of the threat. Judge Potter thanks the Sheriff's Department for their response whenever they are called about a security issue in the court system.

Bill Clendenning talks about third floor remodeling of the courthouse. He would like to see this done as soon as possible, specifically that Victim Witness Office should be moved to the third floor and DA's office remodeling.

Dana Hibbard is introduced as new person in the non-sex offender unit for the Dept. of Corrections in the Marshfield office. She supervises Portage County. Mary Solheim is introduced as Deputy Director of Human Services. Everyone introduces themselves to the new members.

Kate states that Ryan Drenkler was to be working in Wood County as a Public Defender, but has left for Colorado. Michael Scarantino left for Baltimore. Jessica will be in Portage County when she returns from maternity leave. So there are 2 vacancies in her office for attorneys.

Ted Ashbeck states that he is working with the Clerk of Court's Office on court appearances. The jail is almost at full capacity. He asks attorneys to let the jail know if they need a client moved from another county to communicate with them.

Jim Wunrow thanks the judges for allowing arraignments to appear by video on Mondays. Because of attorney shortages, there are a number of inmates on Mondays that need to appear for an arraignment and because of safety and security, the video system works well.

Judge Potter says that when Marshfield PD officers appear by video for preliminary hearings, it does not need to be the arresting officer and he extends this courtesy to other agencies. But he asks that they call the JA first as court hearings may be running over and the phone call for the video is distracting in the courtroom. He emphasizes that if the officer testifying is not the investigating officer, they should read the report before the hearing. Craig Lambert asks that if it is not the investigating officer testifying, that they call the DA's office first to discuss the testimony, as identification may be a problem. Kate says that the law does not allow video for identification purposes and should not be allowed. She says the attorneys in the Public Defender's office should be objecting to officer testifying by video. There is discussion on this matter. Cindy says that the AV equipment in all the courtrooms are experiencing problems and new equipment needs to be put in budget for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00

Submitted 3/27/19

Jackie Arnold  
Deputy Clerk of Courts