

MINUTES  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

DATE: Wednesday June 16, 2021  
TIME: 12:00 PM  
LOCATION: Courthouse – Circuit Court Branch II

PRESENT: Greg Potter, Circuit Court Branch I; Caitlin Saylor, Department of Corrections; Bill Clendenning, Wood County Board; Bill Leichtnam, Wood County Board; Dennis Polach, Wood County Board; Lambert, Wood County District Attorney; Joseph Zurfluh, Wood County Board; Michele Newman, Victim Witness Coordinator; Melvin Pedersen, Grand Rapids Chief of Police, Brandon Vruwink; Director Human Services, Jessica Fehrenbach, State Public Defender; Lori Heideman; Wood County Dispatch, Adam Stublaski; Department of Corrections, Shawn Becker; Wood County Sheriff, Quentin Ellis, Wood County Sheriff's Department; Shawn Woods, Nekoosa Chief of Police, and Janelle Hafermann, Criminal Justice Coordinator.

1. Meeting called to order by Judge Potter at 12:05 p.m.
2. There was no public comment.
3. Motion by Becker seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as written. Motion carries.
4. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.
5. Agency Updates:
  - Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Becker provided an update on the work that was done by the Jail Study Adhoc Committee in the review of need for a new jail. Sheriff Becker thanks the members of the Adhoc committee and the board. Bill Clendenning comments on the work that Laura Valenstein did and recommended that she be involved in work taken on by the task force.
  - Circuit Courts – Judge Potter provides an update on the progress being made as it relates to Wood County getting a fourth Judge. Judge Potter discusses the renewal of the previously passed resolution as well as the spacing needs of the fourth Judge along with plans that are already in the works. Judge Potter reports that official news from the state is still pending.

- Criminal Justice Department – Janelle provides an update on the Wood County Adult Drug Court program highlighting the development of several workgroups tasked with the review of different areas of the program. Janelle provides an update on the team’s participation in the Operational Tune Up training hosted by the National Drug Court Institute in July along with updates on the TAD grant that is expected to be released in July. In addition, Janelle provides an update on the Veteran Treatment Initiative and the collaboration with the District Attorney and his office.
6. District Attorney – Craig provides information on the changes to practices associated with first offense OWI charges and the need to issue warrants for blood draws. This is a result of legislative changes and the inability to charge refusals as had previously been the law. There is conversation about the ability for the DNR to use this same practice and Judge Potter agrees that the legal context is the same and agrees that they too can follow this practice. There is additional discussion on how this impacts municipal court areas as well.
  7. Criminal Justice Coordinator – Janell proposes the creation of a new workgroup that is focused on evaluating the low risk offender population in Wood County. Department of Corrections data obtained earlier in the year identified that in Wood County alone 46.6% of those on community supervision are low risk. This group would evaluate the data, driving factors, decision points and alternative options for consideration. District Attorney Lambert responds that this is a “great idea” and that he would be happy to participate in this workgroup. Department of Corrections supervisor Adam Stublaski also comments that he would be in support of this workgroup. The group agrees that this is a decision that makes sense and Janelle will move forward with sending more information and establishing meetings.
  8. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items:
    - Next Meeting – Wednesday September 15, 2021 @ 12:00 P.M.
      - i. Wood County Courthouse – Branch II Courtroom

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