

Wood County Criminal Justice Task Force Minutes June 20, 2018

Present: Adam Stublaski, Dept. of Corrections; Caitlin Saylor, Dept of Corrections; Cindy Joosten, Clerk of Courts; Jackie Arnold, Clerk of Courts; Kate Frigo-Drury, Public Defender; Lori Heideman, Wood County Dispatch; Shawn Woods, Nekoosa PD; Craig Lambert, District Attorney; Melvin Pedersen, Grand Rapids PD; Bill Clendenning, Wood County Board; Greg Potter, Branch 1; Suzanne O'Neill, Public Defender; Todd Wolf, Branch 3; Michele Newman, Victim Witness; James Wunrow, Wood County Jail; Ted Ashbeck, Wood County Jail; Dan Schroeder, Dept of Corrections; Steve Kreuser, Emergency Management.

Minute Approvals: Judge Potter called meeting to order. No additions or corrections to 3/21/18 Task Force Minutes. Michele Newman states she doesn't think she received the minutes. Judge Potter will check into this.

Public Comment: None.

Additions to Agenda: Judge Wolf would like to address defendants working off fines through EG while they are sitting a sentence for unpaid fines.

New Pre-Trial/Jury Process: Kate Frigo Drury says that FPT problems have been resolved. Judge Potter states from the Court's standpoint, it is working very well. Kate indicates that the defense attorneys are dealing with it. Judge Potter states he has talked to other defense attorneys and they are happy with the process and cases are getting resolved. Kate says what she has heard from the private bar is not all positive. She would still prefer to have a status conference before FPT. She addresses private bar shortage. It is difficult to find counsel for defendants and court dates are coming before counsel is appointed, especially in Wood County. She states Portage County is delaying preliminary hearings. Judge Potter indicates that the State is allowing raising Public Defender rates from \$40 to \$100 per hour. Suzanne O'Neill states that they would appreciate flexibility with scheduling in Wood County. Judge Potter and Judge Wolf state they would be flexible in FPT dates. The defense attorney can contact DA ahead of time and conduct the FPT. Judge Wolf states that problems arise when defendants come to FPT and have only contacted Public Defender a day or two before and one has not been appointed. He usually sets a PTC the following Friday and wants to know that defendant has counsel. He agrees that counsel may appear by phone or in person. He just wants to know that defendant has counsel. A FPT will then be set for next PTC cycle. Both Judge Wolf and Judge Potter agree that Court will be flexible with scheduling FPT's. Counsel needs to communicate scheduling problems to the Judicial Assistants.

Civil Judgment Paperwork from Probation: Dan Schroeder talked to Judge Brazeau about civil judgments after last task force meeting in June. Judge Brazeau is not here today. Judge Potter addresses case he had yesterday where restitution was owed on a child support case. The agent was making him pay minimal, although he noticed that

defendant had many tattoos. Defendant stated that he was getting the tattoos for free. After questioning the agent, he could not confirm this. Judge Potter would like to see more agent involvement. Craig Lambert clarifies case that was in court yesterday. Judge Brazeau is doing restitution reviews and Judge Potter states that he may start doing them. It has been discussed that court commissioner may hear them.

Huber law revocations as it relates to EMP: Has been resolved and may be taken off agenda for future meetings.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Restorative Justice: Kate Frigo has done research on Victim Impact Panels in the area. Waupaca County does VIP's three times a week at a cost of \$5.00. Judge Huber and his judicial assistant run it. Some of the victims' speeches are videotaped. Staff from District Attorney's office check people in at the panel. Reminder letters are sent. Outagamie County has a Criminal Justice Department that runs the Victim Impact Panel and they have staff to handle it. They get their speakers from MADD. Portage County has one person that does everything. Judge Potter questions if the panel is beneficial. Kate feels that for low-level offenders it is very beneficial. There is an online program and the website states that it is Wood County acceptable, but there is no way to monitor if defendants are actually watching it.

Drug Court: Judge Wolf prepared a report and is attached to agenda. Judge Potter questions how many people that are in termination phase actually get terminated. Judge Wolf estimates that it is about 50%. There will continue to be a coordinator in Marshfield for drug testing. Veteran's court is continuing to be looked into and Judge Brazeau has agreed to work on getting that running and be the judge that presides over it.

Round Table: James Wunrow from the jail requests that defense attorneys meet with inmates in the jail before their hearings, as it presents security issues. Craig agrees that it would be beneficial for their office as well because many times they are waiting around while defense attorneys are talking to their clients and preparing plea questionnaires after the time pleas are scheduled. Judge Wolf also adds to save court time that during FPT's both attorneys know what the offer is and what is going to be accepted before calling the case.

Melvin Pedersen states he sat in on Veteran's Court staffing in LaCrosse. He feels there are benefits and has a great impact on the veterans. He has talked to Leigh Neville-Neil, ADA who is involved in getting a Veteran's Court in Wood County.

Kate advises everyone that the air conditioning is broken in the Public Defender's Office. Their office will be shut down for two weeks, probably the first two weeks of July, for a new HVAC system. Phone calls will be forwarded to another location. Local attorneys will be working here in Wood County. FAX's will be checked once a day.

Cindy Joosten states that she received numerous calls on a case where the victim was from a small community and her initials were on CCAP and they wanted them removed. She complied with the request, but questions whether we want to do it on all cases. Craig says that Michele Newman has talked to him about this also, but he is not in total agreement with it. It was discussed at the DA conference. A solution may be to have a supplemental sheet and names victims by numbers or letters and identify them by name on a supplemental sheet that will be sealed in court record. Kate feels that this will work for defense attorneys. Craig states that it may violate open records law if it is sealed. Michele states she is very concerned about victim's being identified by initials. This issue will be explored more.

Cindy states that CCAP now has a 2-year retention time for not guilty and dismissed cases.

Cindy gives everyone a sample page of how efiled documents will now be signed starting 9/1/18. A 3-inch space needs to be allowed at top of documents and signature will be there.

Other Business: Judge Wolf addresses new policy for defendants sentenced for contempt for not paying fines. The jail is requesting that they be able to work off their fine through EG while they are sitting out their fines. He is proposing that defendants be given one day credit off the back of their sentence for every day they work EG. Everyone agrees with policy.

Next meeting scheduled for September 19, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted 6/20/18

Jackie Arnold
Deputy Clerk of Courts