



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

CJC-Community Court Advisory Subcommittee

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

12:15 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the City County
Building in Room 351; attend virtually via Zoom

A. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by KETCHAM at 12:19.

CRAWFORD representing WHITE.

GALLEGOS VALLE representing CRUZ.

Present 13 - CATHERINE DORL, DANA PELLEBON, JOHN BAUMAN, MARIO WHITE, RON CHANCE, ANTHONY COOPER, LINDA KETCHAM, EVELYN CRUZ, AMY BROWN, KIRBIE MACK, SHANNON BLACKAMORE, CARMELLA GLENN, and AARON HICKS

Excused 3 - LISA BURRELL, ISMAEL OZANNE, and TODD MEUER

Absent 3 - JONATHAN TRIGGS, WESLEY SPARKMAN, and CHARNICE ANDERSON

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)
[MIN-220](#)

July 25, 2023 minutes of the CJC-Community Court Advisory subcommittee meeting

Attachments: [2023 MIN-220](#)

BAUMAN moved, seconded by MACK, to approve the minutes. Minutes approved by voice vote. BROWN abstained.

C. Action Items

none.

D. Presentations

1. HMONG INSTITUTE

Presentation by Peng Her on Hmong community's vision for Center, Community, and Justice.

Location is very important to ensure success of justice center. Community must be able to access it and it should not be downtown, but rather in a community setting. Representation matters including staff who work at the center are reflective of the community it serves. Staff must be culturally competent and speak the language. The Hmong community envisions that the justice center is more than a legal system, but also a community space where services are provided. Services should include employment training and mental health services. The center should be designed to build community, rather than just a place where people go to deal with legal issues.

Peng Her shares story about a Hmong community group visiting the County Jail. Hmong elders and community leaders should be part of the justice center to assist with the services the center provides. Recommends careful use of terminology in the development of the Center. For example, the use of the word "court" can conjure negative connotations within the community. In the 2020 census, the Hmong community is categorized as South Asian where in prior census they were categorized as South East Asian. This is an example of when a committee or a group in authority gets to decide how to categorize a group rather than engaging with the community.

Question on the representation of Hmong individuals in the court system. Comment on translation of language and the Hmong community as a strong example of keeping collective culture intact in Dane County.

2. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMUNITY COURT-AVONDALE SITE VISIT

Presentation by Isabel Anadon on the Restorative Justice Community Center - Avondale (RJCC-Avondale) site visit to Chicago, IL by a Dane County delegation. Overview of the RJCC-Avondale community court and recent successes. Images and discussion on August 4, 2023 site visit to RJCC-Avondale.

Kirbie Mack provides reflections on site visit. The importance of choosing the right people in the program including the administrator and judge of the program. The judge was extremely engaged and cared about the participants. The set-up was affirming and encouraging for participants. Participants had to create vision boards and they would talk about the vision boards in the group circle and during the court process. Many youth arrested had gun violation charges which reflects the safety concerns youth navigate in Chicago. The wrap-around services provided will be critical to the participants. Leadership will be fundamental to make this program a success.

Carlo Esqueda provides reflections on site visit. Biggest impression was the peace circle process and how participants were communicative during the process. No armed law enforcement in the room. The judge came out from behind the bench to interact with participants. Everyone in the room knew the participants well and reviewed each case file prior to court to identify needs and case management for each file. The space was critical. Staffing will be an issue. In Chicago, if participants get through the process then they get the dismissed crimes and cases expunged if they are successful. In Wisconsin, the expungement of dismissal will not be possible.

Sarah Jensen provides reflections. There is an IL statute that articulates the confidentiality of the peace circle process. Judge took the time with participants and spent time with each of the them to review their cases and process.

Linda Ketcham provides reflections. The siting of the court in Cook County had a 21 item checklist that they will share with Dane County. There is food there for participants and staff. Circle keepers are paid staff. The process is very individualized and as long as participants are making progress it is fine. This allows for a trauma-informed process. The leader of this initiative will be key and they will need to be sensitive to all of these elements to make them successful.

Dana Pellebon provides reflections. The process includes the victim and perpetrator, but also a cohort of participants that are able to work together and provide peer support to each other. The wrap around services provided to these participants was extensive and intensive. There are a lot services provided in Chicago that is not translated in the same way in Dane County. Questions around budget, treatment beds, housing services are important to consider in the development of the Center. Food and snacks and transportation will need to be provided. Weapon screenings will need to happen in Dane County. Identification of the space will be important.

[2023
PRES-112](#)

Restorative Justice Community Court, Avondale Site Visit

Attachments: [2023 PRES-112](#)

[2023
PRES-113](#)

RJCC-Avondale Site Visit Materials

Attachments: [RJCC brochure](#)
[RJCC factsheet](#)
[2023 PRES-113](#)

3. GROUP EXERCISE: REFINING THE MISSION AND VISION OF A COMMUNITY COURT

Yolanda Shelton-Morris facilitates group exercise to develop mission and vision statements. Participants break up into small groups for 20 minutes to reflect on work done to date and to develop a mission and vision statement. Mission statement will help us answer what do we do, who do we serve, and how do we serve them. The vision statement is about what we want to become. Name and language is important.

Question on what project is being discussed, a larger community justice center and a community court.

Groups report back to the full group. Notes will reflect values discussed and incorporate a mission/vision for the community court in Dane County.

Values selected include:

Group 1: anti-racism, healing, community, responsibility, emotional safety

Group 2: values shared were all ones that the group felt were important. Multi-cultural and multi-lingual, dignity and how to rebuild it, sanctuary and safe spaces. A lot of impressions were duplicative. Intentionality and being intentional about being a part of and about who we are targeting. There are many words on the list that are synonyms and it might be helpful moving forward to group the words into categories to reflect in a larger mission and vision.

Group 3: Need to start and end with anti-racism. This is done through diversity to get justice and an anti-racist community.

Group 4: Overarching value is anti-racism. We need support from funders, community and services. The process has to have integrity. There has to be a commitment to move forward and not just a grant for four years. It must be a long-term commitment with services and partners. Adaptability is key, there is no one way to successful completion. The point of restorative courts is to bring healing to both parties.

Members reflect on the process and what needs to be addressed. Guiding principles have been articulated in this process. Members want to see where we are now to know what we can reach for. Members will need to know how much of what has been discussed in the committee process will be used. Members want to ensure that we are not duplicating what already exists and what is different from this process than what is already in place. Members have been pushing for a targeted population of high level offenders and we need to have a targeted discussion about this. A relationship focused effort needs more time. What is the handoff and what is the team that will work on implementation? Member would like to discuss how the implementation process will unfold. Member strongly believes that language is powerful and when we address individuals as offenders from this lens we may not see them people.

[2023](#)
[PRES-115](#) Virtual Participants Handout

Attachments: [CJC Activity Overview](#) [Virtual Participants](#)

4. VISION VS. REALITY (TIMELINE AND TO-DO LISTS)

VISION VS. REALITY Presentation not discussed.

[2023](#)
[PRES-114](#) Mission and Vision Statements

Attachments: [2023 PRES-114](#)

E. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
2. NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 29, 2023 AT 12:15 PM

F. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

G. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

PELLEBON discusses memo sent from Executive Office. There is no head of the Office of Justice Reform and Equity. A search for the director was suspended. The process is being redesigned and an outside firm is in place to assist with a national search for this position. Ex-Sheriff Mahoney was nominated by Executive Office to be interim director for the office. County Board members did not support nomination and the process was delayed indefinitely in the committee process. Options include wait after 45 days when county board member can pull it out of committee for a vote or for the County Executive to nominate another individual. The hiring of the director will be delayed likely until 2024. The community court work will be delayed until after an individual is hired into the new Office. The present committee must deliberate on the best way to move forward as it relates to the nomination of an interim director for the new Office.

Members agree to discuss the memo.

KETCHAM discusses issues with nomination of an interim director that needs to not be part of the system itself. This will delay the community court and perhaps we can have a conversation on what is needed to extend the work of the present committee to account for this delay.

GLENN discusses how strategic planning process can suffer without leadership in place. Trust is crucial in this process.

MACK supports members opinions but is concerned about the process and its integrity.

[2023](#)
[DISC-008](#) Memo on Office of Criminal Justice Reform Leadership

Attachments: [2023 DISC-008](#)

H. Adjourn

Meeting ends when committee loses quorum at 2:05 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Isabel Anadon.