



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

CJC-Community Court Advisory Subcommittee

Tuesday, September 26, 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

Others present: Colleen Clark Bernhardt, Josh Schroeder, Karin Peterson Thurlow.

Chair Pellebon called the meeting to order at 12:17.

Karen Reese attending on behalf of Anthony Cooper.

Present 15 - CATHERINE DORL, DANA PELLEBON, JOHN BAUMAN, JONATHAN TRIGGS,
RON CHANCE, WESLEY SPARKMAN, LINDA KETCHAM, EVELYN CRUZ, AMY
BROWN, KIRBIE MACK, ISMAEL OZANNE, SHANNON BLACKAMORE,
CARMELLA GLENN, AARON HICKS, and TODD MEUER

Excused 3 - MARIO WHITE, LISA BURRELL, and CHARNICE ANDERSON

B. Consideration of Minutes

1. [2023
MIN-296](#) MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 COMMUNITY JUSTICE
COUNCIL - COMMUNITY COURT ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Attachments: [2023 MIN-296.pdf](#)

A motion was made by REESE, seconded by CRUZ, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.

C. Action Items

There were no action items.

D. Presentations

There were no presentations.

E. Reports to Committee

1. INITIAL COMMUNITY COURT RECOMMENDATIONS

Professor/Attorney Jonathan Scharrer provided a report to the committee, summarizing the 6 months of work of the community court advisory committee. He thanked the members for their work and their willingness to talk with him. The summary presentation is attached.

He provided a comprehensive review, including:

*The history of the work;
An exploration of the requirements of Supreme Court Rules for a courtroom;
The attributes of restorative architecture ("designing space and designing justice");
Possible offenses for the pilot project, stressing that the community court not serve those already in diversion programs and that efforts not be duplicated;
Process design, including philosophy and referral points;
Initial implementation as a specialty court with links to the Community Restorative Court and peacemaking circles;
Service array;
A list of tasks of the community court coordinator; and
Data collection and evaluation.*

Scharrer suggested that the time it will take to potentially get a variance for Supreme Court Rules could be used to pilot the community court, think through a community service hub, and strive for a non-hierarchical and non-adversarial process and space.

Discussion ensued. Ideas included:

*Allow community organizations to make referrals;
Use the theory of change rather than a logic model;
Explore blended funding;
The importance of a community advisory board with direct connections to decision makers early in the process; and
Distinguishing the community court from the community restorative court.*

There was discussion of using the community restorative court peacemaking circles as a process required by a judge, and who might be in the circles, particularly if a victim did not want to participate. Committee members who visited the Avondale Court indicated they use a circle of peers and that has been successful. Others spoke of a representative of a victim being included, and the community at large as a victim. Scharrer spoke of a blended process with two different restorative pieces. He said that the Office of Justice Reform and the Community Court Coordinator could develop a process.

There was discussion of the potential referral process and concern that there could be a program with no participants. Models and guidelines for referral would need to be developed.

Chair Pellebon indicated that Scharrer would present this report to the Community Justice Council on September 28th. He will then complete a full written report by the end of the year. Clark Bernhardt said the slide deck and report would be sent to the Bureau of Justice Assistance as part of grant reporting, and provided to leadership of the Office of Justice Reform as a guide for the work going forward.

Chair Pellebon thanked committee members, Jonathan Scharrer, and county staff for their efforts.

[2023](#)
[RPT-324](#)

INITIAL COMMUNITY COURT RECOMMENDATIONS

Attachments: [2023 RPT-324.pdf](#)

2. CLOSING ACTIVITY

Chair Pellebon indicated that this is the final meeting and there is insufficient staff to move forward at this time. She asked members to respond to two questions:

1) *What is it that you want the director of the Office of Justice Reform and the Community Court Coordinator to know that was not in the presentation? Ideas included:*

Their jobs are not to use the status quo model; the work needs to be restorative; change means doing things differently.

Future staff should reconvene the members of this committee once, so that this work is not lost.

The director should be familiar with change models, and diffusion of innovation models.

The director should be someone with a demonstrated and long track record.

There should be someone from this committee on the hiring panel for the director.

2) *Do you have any suggestions on committee process?*

The advisory committee should have access to all decisions.

3. NEXT STEPS

Chair Pellebon indicated that there will be no future meetings of this subcommittee. She welcomed the opportunity to meet individually to discuss approaches to work within the system and to disrupt the system in order to address disparities.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

There will be no future meetings on this group.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

Clark Bernhardt pointed out that Scharrer will address the CJC on September 28th and all are welcome. She also thanked the City of Madison and Yolanda Shelton Morris for supporting this work.

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by CRUZ, seconded by OZANNE, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote.

