



Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Evidence-Based Decision Making
Alternative Interventions Workgroup Minutes
Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Members Present

Sam Benedict – Co-Chair
Sue Opper
Duane Paulson

Joan Sternweis
Marla Bell
Mary Wittwer

Members Absent

Hon. Lloyd Carter – Co-Chair

Hon. Michael Aprahamian

Others Present

Rebecca Luczaj
Mimi Carter

Janelle McClain
Tom LeBel

Benedict called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Approve Minutes from April 10, 2017 Meeting

Motion: Paulson moved, second by Bell, to approve the minutes of April 10, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on Progress of BJA Grant Application

The BJA grant application is due April 25.

Sternweis arrived at 1:35 p.m.

Luczaj stated that after reviewing the grant budget components with the HHS Fiscal division, we determined that we are about \$35,000 over the \$400,000 maximum grant budget. Ways to offset the overage include reducing the full-time case manager to a part-time case manager, and then having the Diversion Coordinator handle a small caseload; or implementing program fees at program inception. Program fees have been discussed by the workgroup previously as part of the sustainability plan for the program after federal grant funds expire. Based on serving 200 people over 3 years, we would charge \$180/person in order to offset the budget overage, which is still much less than a person would owe for fines and court costs through traditional case processing. In the grant application, Luczaj will be stating that the program fees are our first option, knowing that the discussion will need to be finalized and could change during the 6-month planning phase. Eau Claire County currently charges \$250/person, and the fee revenue pays for their Diversion Coordinator.

Luczaj stated that we currently collect fees for Alcohol Treatment Court and the Day Report Center, but not Drug Treatment Court. For ATC, HHS conducts a financial assessment, assessing the family income, and the participant is placed on a \$25-\$200/month payment plan. If the person's financial situation changes, they can be reassessed at any time. For the Day Report Center, the fee assessed is based upon the participant's length of stay in the program.

Wittwer expressed a concern that part-time positions are more difficult to hire and maintain.

Luczaj does not expect awards to be announced until late September. If we get the grant, the process would start with a required 6-month planning phase from October 1 through March 30. During the planning phase, the workgroup will need to determine contract length and requirements for low-risk defendants eligible for pre-charge diversion and moderate-risk defendants eligible for deferred prosecution.

Currently, we are looking at having the Diversion Coordinator position start on April 1, but Opper would like to have the coordinator hired be part of at least some of the planning process. We are limited to \$100,000 to be drawn down during the planning phase, so we may not be able to hire the Diversion Coordinator much earlier, as LeBel's consulting fees would also be part of the \$100,000.

The case manager is not scheduled to start until October 1, 2018. We are proposing to use existing Day Report Center staff to monitor diversion and DPA contracts from April 1 – September 30, 2018 (6 months), as the DRC has been consistently under-utilized. After the planning phase, BJA will approve our action plan and then we will be ready to implement the program.

Continue Working on Workgroup Change Strategy

Luczaj distributed a document titled "Waukesha County EBDM Alternative Interventions Workgroup Recommended Change Strategy," which has been revised since the group last reviewed it.

In response to a question from Paulson about current funding for Drug Court, Luczaj explained that due to greater-than-anticipated drug testing expenses, we will not be underspent, so there will not be an option for a no-cost extension of the federal BJA funding for Drug Treatment Court as originally thought. This means that as of September 30, federal funding will expire and we may be forced to reduce capacity in half to 25 slots from 50. The State TAD grant has been renewed for 5 years, through 2021, which funds 25 program participants. We definitely have a need for the program, evidenced by the continuous waiting list.

In response to a question about how much is needed to replace the federal funding, Luczaj responded that the BJA grant is about \$100,000/year, which primarily includes case management, recovery coaching, drug testing, and evaluation.

Carter suggested that a way to reduce costs may be to reduce the volume of drug testing, especially if participants are on probation and are also being tested by DOC.

Sternweis expressed a concern that we do not want to abruptly stop offering services if we don't get the SAMHSA grant we applied for in December to sustain the Drug Court program at its current capacity. We want to continue to work with those currently in the program to complete it.

Carter asked if we currently track recidivism of drug court graduates, which we do not. She suggested tracking recidivism 18 months post-graduation in order to make a case for the benefits of sustaining the program.

Carter gave the group some feedback on the change strategy draft and will forward some documents and studies with examples of evidence-based alternatives for those with mental health issues.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.