



Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Evidence-Based Decision Making
Alternative Interventions Workgroup Minutes
Monday, May 22, 2017

Members Present

Sam Benedict – Co-Chair
Hon. Michael Aprahamian
Duane Paulson

Joan Sternweis
Marla Bell
Mary Wittwer

Members Absent

Hon. Lloyd Carter – Co-Chair

Sue Oppen

Others Present

Rebecca Luczaj
Kelsey Loshaw
Andrea Will (for Oppen)

Janelle McClain
Daniela Imig

Benedict called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Approve Minutes from April 19, 2017 Meeting

Motion: Paulson moved, second by Bell, to approve the minutes of April 19, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on Progress of BJA Diversion Grant Application

Luczaj distributed and reviewed a document titled “BJA Diversion Grant Application Overview, May 2017.”

Sternweis arrived at 12:04 p.m.

Luczaj stated that during the planning phase of the grant, we would need to determine the pre-charge diversion and deferred prosecution agreement (DPA) contract length and requirements.

The Diversion Coordinator, who would be housed at the District Attorney’s (DA) Office, will be screening individuals who are referred to the DA’s Office for eligibility based upon case type, and will then administer the risk tool (RANT). The Coordinator will be required to have a paralegal certificate, so they can begin to prepare the diversion and DPA contracts for the Assistant DA’s. The case manager will be monitoring the diversion contracts and DPA’s once they have been enrolled in the program.

The workgroup can do some groundwork before grant awards are announced in September. Since we have to send our final implementation plan to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for approval during the 6-month planning period before enrolling participants, it will be beneficial to do some of the ground work, even if just to determine what decisions will need to be made.

In response to a question from Benedict, Luczaj does not anticipate that this particular grant funding will be rescinded by the federal government (by the new Administration), as the opiate problem is a nationwide epidemic.

Discuss Timing of RANT Screening Tool Being Administered for Drug Treatment Court (DTC)

Luczaj stated that Will called her regarding a situation where Aprahamian had ordered a risk assessment to be done for a defendant interested in applying for Drug Court, in an effort to prevent any unnecessary delay in case processing if the individual turns out to be ineligible for the program. However, the DA’s Office is currently not accepting applications for the program and defendants are therefore not being screened.

Loshaw commented that the application has to be submitted prior to the risk assessment being administered. The DA's Office completes their initial review of the application before referring the individual to WCS for the risk assessment to be completed. This process is in place because the DA's Office reviews the applicant's current charges and prior criminal history to determine eligibility. If the applicant is determined to be ineligible, the application is denied and there is no risk assessment completed.

Will arrived at 12:22 p.m.

Will commented that if we take applications on an ongoing basis, it will put a large burden on the DA's Office and WCS staff, one that she does not think they can handle with current staffing.

The workgroup discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the current process. Benedict commented that there is a greater need for obtaining assessment services sooner, as well as having additional alternatives for moderate risk defendants.

Luczaj stated that if we are awarded the grant, the Diversion Coordinator could handle portions of the DTC application process. The workgroup agreed that hiring a Diversion Coordinator should be a workgroup goal – whether we get the BJA grant or not.

Continue Working on Workgroup Change Strategy

Benedict reviewed the previously discussed ideas for sustaining DTC, which include: implementing program fees; additional county tax levy to replace federal funding; reducing the frequency of drug testing; and reallocating existing CJCC resources from another CJCC program.

In order to sustain DTC at its current capacity, we would need approximately \$100,000 per year. It is unrealistic to plan for this amount in program fee revenue alone, so a combination of strategies would be ideal. Luczaj will draft sustainability options for DTC and will email it to the group prior to the next meeting, and then Benedict will present it to the Policy Team for discussion at their next meeting on June 6.

Luczaj received two emails from SAMHSA requesting additional information for the grant she applied for in December 2016 to sustain drug court. This is typically an encouraging sign that the application is being considered for funding.

Imig distributed and reviewed the start of a spreadsheet detailing recidivism of DTC graduates, up to 18 months post-graduation. The workgroup then discussed information they would like to have added to the spreadsheet, including a separate spreadsheet tracking recidivism for those who were discharged from the program as unsuccessful. Imig will send updated charts to Luczaj for distribution at the next meeting.

Will left at 12:55 p.m.

Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting with NIC Consultant

The next meeting will consist of a review of drug court recidivism data, as well as a review of drug court sustainability options to be presented to the Policy Team at their meeting on June 6.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.