

**Minutes of the Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Juvenile Justice Committee
Thursday, May 7, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 2:37 p.m.

Present: Sam Benedict (Chair), Mary Wittwer (for Sara Carpenter), Kelly Haag, Judge Pat Haughney, Pete Slesar, Tim Westphal, Jim Haessly, Rob Mueller, Dave Wanner, Dick Farvour . **Also Present:** Rebecca Luczaj, Tracie Thacker, Stephanie Sutton.

Absent: Sara Carpenter

Approval of Minutes from 1/30/09

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Update on Juvenile Restitution & Community Service

Slesar reviewed the handout titled "Waukesha County Juvenile Court Monetary Restitution History" which details monetary restitution orders for juvenile court and payments made on restitution orders between the years 2002 – 2008.

Slesar said HHS took over the juvenile community service program in January 2009 – their restitution clerk has taken over this function, but does not have the capacity to maintain the community service sites as WCS did when they had the contract.

Benedict arrived at 2:43 p.m.

Benedict asked how many juveniles completed their orders in a year and what percentage completes their full restitution. This would be beneficial to know.

Mueller asked how many juveniles get ordered restitution each year. This should be compared to the number who completes their restitution.

Slesar said these numbers can be produced and it would make sense to incorporate them into the recidivism study HHS prepares each year.

Benedict said restitution orders should reflect juveniles' ability to pay. This would result in a higher percentage of completed orders.

Haughney arrived at 2:50 p.m.

Big Brothers Big Sisters *Children of Promise* Program Overview

Tracie Thacker, Recruitment Specialist for Big Brothers Big Sisters, reviewed the *Children of Promise* program as documented on the handout titled "Help Break the Cycle of Incarceration" and expressed the need for both volunteers and referrals to the program.

Haag asked if the interviewing for volunteers only takes place in Milwaukee. Thacker said they conduct interviews at the Waukesha Public Library.

Benedict asked if an incarcerated stepparent qualifies the youth for the program. Thacker said yes – he/she just would have had to live with the youth at some time.

Benedict said he could see referrals coming from CHIPS (Children in Need of Protective Services) cases.

Slesar said he doesn't think there is a formal referral process established at this time to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

180° Juvenile Diversion Program Overview

Stephanie Sutton, 180° Juvenile Diversion Case Manager, reviewed a Power Point presentation and handout describing the program, including eligibility, curriculum, and evaluation. Sutton said they started the pilot class of 11 people in April 2009.

Benedict asked what is the make-up of the 11 participants. Sutton said the youngest is 17 years old.

Slesar said he has a concern about mixing participants of different ages in the program and that the \$1,000 fee would be difficult for some families. He could see this program work as a condition of deferred prosecution agreements.

Haughney asked what is the supervision fee. Slesar said there is a \$75 one-time fee for a deferred prosecution agreement, but a consent decree is \$75/month for supervision.

Westphal asked if HHS used the Enlight program more when it was in existence. Slesar said yes, over time.

Westphal said the DA's Office would like to divert 17 and 18-year olds – there are just too many cases.

Haessly said the school district is seeing an increase in prescription drug possession. They could look at making this program a condition of re-entry into the school system.

Mueller asked what about those youth who have jobs. Can some of their earnings go to pay for the program.

Westphal asked if the program has had to turn people away. Sutton said yes, but only for non-compliance.

Westphal said the DA's Office wants to divert youth who are eligible and appropriate, but hopes that no one is turned away for not being able to pay.

Slesar asked if any current program clients are also in any other system services (adult probation or juvenile court worker). Coordination is important with the HHS on-going case manager.

Mueller asked what about referring to the program as an alternative to an uncontrollable petition. Benedict said that is not typical of diversion cases because the youth are not deemed delinquent.

Benedict said the greatest bang for the buck would be high-risk youth. A 16 ½ year old with a waiver petition would be a good referral to the program.

Update on Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Committee Membership Requirements

Slesar introduced this agenda item by indicating that the grant has an expectation that there are members from the faith and business community on the oversight committee, and those are two members the Juvenile Justice Committee does not have. It is not required at this point, but may become an issue at some point. Slesar asked what about adding a community member to the committee.

Benedict asked if any members know anyone who would be willing to fill these roles.

Mueller asked what about Kiwanis. Haughney said their membership is down.

Benedict said he is reluctant to expand the size of the committee too much and that he prefers to keep it somewhat small.

Slesar suggested that we could just ask these representatives to attend and participate in meetings when the Youth Accountability Block Grant is on the meeting agenda, without being formal members.

Update on OJA Truancy Abatement Concept Paper

Slesar gave an update on a concept paper HHS has submitted to the Office of Justice Assistance to serve approximately 6 to 8 youth from the City of Waukesha high schools who are referred for truancy (focusing on younger high

school kids). They will incorporate the intensive tracking model used by WCS and focus on reasserting parental authority with the youth. Referrals would be made to La Casa's after school program as a component of the grant. Based on the program's success, they would be looking at this as a model for the future.

Slesar said this would be a contract position with WCS if they get the grant.

Haessly asked if the grant would allow working with 7th & 8th graders. Slesar said yes, the grant would be flexible with the age of participants.

Haessly asked if we have a "Contributing to Truancy" municipal citation. Wanner responded no. Mueller added that Milwaukee does not prosecute truant youth, they give citations to the parents.

Mueller asked if this can be used as part of a consent decree. Slesar said yes.

Slesar said the next steps will be for OJA to review the concept paper and wait to find out if HHS is eligible to submit a full grant application based on the concept. Awards will be announced by the end of 2009, for funding to begin January 1, 2010.

Set Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, August 26th
3 – 4:30 pm
Juvenile Center, Room 112

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.