

**Minutes of the Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Executive Committee
Wednesday, May 21, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 11:32 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Judge Mac Davis, Chair, Dan Vrakas, Carolyn Evenson, Peter Schuler, Brad Schimel, Jim Dwyer.

Also present: Sara Carpenter, Clara Daniels, Dick Manke, Ralph Schultz, Judge Kathy Foster, Bob Gibson, Windy Jicha.

Approve Minutes of the May 12, 2008 Meeting

The minutes of May 12, 2008 were approved without objection.

Initial Discussion of Proposed 2009 Budget Requests

Schuler distributed and reviewed a memo dated May 20, 2008 regarding CJCC 2009 fiscal and programming recommendations. Schuler said he asked Carpenter to prioritize all of the programs provided by WCS.

Intoxicated Driver Program

Schuler said it is recommended to continue the Intoxicated Driver Program with a 2% cost to continue increase. The most notable change in the 2009 budget is the prediction that client fees will increase \$20,351. We don't know how much WI DOT allocation will be. Historically the amounts have been declining. Carpenter said she's confident there will be an increase from the state but to play it safe, the budget amount remains at 2008 levels.

Dwyer asked is the projected increase in client fees realistic? Carpenter said it is an estimate based on past collections. Last year WCS worked with the county's collections department and found success. Collections helped WCS develop a strongly worded letter alerting participants they would be referred to collections and a payment plan set up so fees could be collected. WCS recuperates more money when payment plans are set up. Waukesha County has one of the highest collection rates in the state for OWI programs.

Vrakas asked is the extra money given to the Pretrial Program last year working well? Carpenter said the program is going great. They have three teams of two case managers supervising individuals. The extra funding allows WCS to spend extra time providing individualized supervision for those in need.

Schimel said the Intoxicated Intervention Program helps in sentencing. Davis said this program helps. They have no other way to know what people are doing between the time they are ticketed and sentenced. Carpenter said there has been an increase in repeat offenders under the age of 25. The most effective way to supervise repeat offenders and keep the community safe is with SCRAM, an alcohol monitoring device. Carpenter met with the County Executive and Schuler about WCS's desire to increase the use of SCRAM in Waukesha County. They would like to use SCRAM with other programs to be more effective. WCS would like to do a presentation and proposal on starting a pilot program in Waukesha County. WCS has exclusivity rights for SCRAM and could buy the units in volume. SCRAM costs \$12.50 per day.

Davis asked what is the cost per client per day for the Intoxicated Driver Program? Carpenter said the typical length of stay is six to nine months and a client's cost for a six month program is \$250. Client fees cover a significant portion of the program costs.

Vrakas said he doesn't know why someone sentenced to SCRAM couldn't pay for it. These people were paying for alcohol before they entered the program. Now that they're sober, why can't they use that money to pay for the program? SCRAM will actually save them money. Maybe we could be a pilot county and sentence second offenders to SCRAM. Davis said it could be months between the time people are ticketed and sentenced. It is good to keep them dry while they're waiting. We could require them to use SCRAM during sentencing.

Carpenter said she has administrative oversight of the Intoxicated Driver Program in Milwaukee County. They use SCRAM on all third, fourth offenders and beyond. It is an effective screening and monitoring tool. A lot of people come in directly after court and have positive PBTs. This tool helps to discover offenders' needs to provide the appropriate intervention. Davis said the problem with putting people on SCRAM from day one until the end is cost.

Vrakas asked why are we worried about cost? Why can't offenders pay the fees? They aren't buying alcohol so they have extra money. Dwyer said this is money they're taking away from other financial responsibilities like family, food, day care, etc. They may not have much left. We can't depend on the money coming from them. Davis said they also have costs associated with their OWI offense.

Vrakas asked have you looked at participants' ability to pay? Carpenter said most OWIs in Waukesha County can pay the fees. We looked at putting them on SCRAM for a limited time period to get them where they need to be cognitively. The best practice used to be 90 days to change their thinking but that timeline is being revisited. Monitoring helps determine participants' needs so a holistic treatment approach can be taken.

Carpenter said she made projections looking at all programs that might use SCRAM. In WCSs Milwaukee County programs, they use SCRAM more frequently which would help to increase the number of units purchased in bulk and thusly reduce the costs per unit. Costs could be reduced one to two dollars depending on what happens with both counties.

Schimmel said adding SCRAM to other programs could make them more effective. Schuler said he asked Carpenter to estimate the cost of adding more programs. The cost of testing is already an issue but it is worth it. Probation and Parole barely has enough money to test people. You don't know what's going on if you can't test participants. Strong and regular testing lets providers adjust treatment accordingly.

Davis said there is an incentive to paying for SCRAM; you don't have to show up twice a week. This would also reduce the number of preliminary breath tests and travel time for participants. Carpenter said they're looking at that angle and will present it in their findings.

Pretrial Supervision Program

Carpenter said they are ok with the current caseload. Schuler said this program is recommended for continuation in 2009 with a 2% budget increase to address staff and operating costs.

Schimmel said it is a sensible program. It keeps people out of jail. Davis said it saves money from the crimes that are avoided.

Evenson asked if she could get estimates showing the increased costs of shipping prisoners versus putting them on SCRAM?

Vrakas said he has been talking to the Sheriff about future bed needs in the jail. A couple of municipalities are sending a lot of people to our jail. A few probation people could be at Sturtevant. We need to make sure the beds are here for the people who need to be there.

The Pretrial Screening Program

Schuler said the recommendation is to continue this program as established with a 2% cost to continue increase.

Schimel said to him this program is the least valuable. His office tries to provide the courts with the peoples' records. Gibson said the Pretrial Program should identify those people who should be there. You want to make sure the right people are in jail. Schimel said his office works hard to provide that information.

Vrakas asked would this money be better spent elsewhere? Schimel said his office checks CCAP, CIBR, NCIC records, failure to appears, warrants, priors, etc. He would not be able to provide information on residence, employment, etc. Carpenter said WCS gets information from the people. It's helpful to have duplication in case people forget or give wrong answers. WCS provides an explanation. Schimel said his office will do their own checking even though the WCS reports come to them. WCS doesn't do the same investigation his office does. It is important for his staff to do their investigations.

Evenson asked do you have any metrics regarding how many people have been required to stay in jail rather than be bailed out? Carpenter distributed copies of activity reports which include program data.

Schimel said getting people reinstated saves a lot of hassle later. When they are reinstated after three years, they need proof of insurance. Some have never had insurance so this is tremendous. Carpenter said it is helpful to have someone give them the answers they need to get their licenses.

Alcohol Treatment Court

Schuler said the federal grant funding for this program was to expire in June, 2008. Before leaving Cyrulik submitted and was granted a grant extension to carryover funds to 2009. WCS will continue providing this program. The 2009 proposed budget is \$109,796.

Foster said carryover of the funds would add approximately 20 high maintenance clients. She sees a connection between this program and the Shirley Program.

Carpenter said she is waiting to receive a database from the county's IT department for this program. WCS will take over the database once they receive it. Evenson said this needs to be investigated. Part of our Treatment Grant funding is for keeping and maintaining the database.

Schuler said the Alcohol Treatment Grant requires us to evaluate the program. The more we can find out about a program the better equipped we are to evaluate it. We don't have any contract with Hiller to continue his services.

Carpenter said WCS has worked to improve their report formats. They would like to potentially include a section on recidivism as an additional piece of the report. Schimel said it is too early in the program to be able to measure recidivism. We should look at the statistics on sobriety for people in this program.

Schimel said continuing the Alcohol Treatment Court is the right thing to do. Carpenter said there are more people who want to get into the Alcohol Treatment Court Program than there are available spaces. The cost of the program is relatively low compared to the costs related to one major accident involving alcohol.

Foster said people are in this program for six to nine months. It is an effect tool for life long sobriety. It takes 18 months to change a behavior. The chance of relapse decreases after one year of sobriety.

Evenson asked what is the long-term plan for this program? Is there longevity? People want to know before they apply for this program. WCS will be in the same boat a year from now if no long term decisions are made.

Foster said people need to be involved in this program for a minimum of a year. She asked Dwyer if the county board could commit to keep the program in the 2010 budget and beyond? Dwyer recommended a resolution be drafted regarding the continuation of the program and sending it to the board.

Schimel left the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Dwyer said if the County Executive gives his support for the program, he thinks the board will also support it. Foster said if a resolution is brought to the board, she recommends having graduates speak to the board about their experiences and allowing supervisors ask questions.

Vrakas said he would be cautious saying what we are doing next year with the budget. He will do everything humanly possible to see that funding is available for this program in 2009. He would like a gentleman's agreement but not right now. If the program is working well, we will do everything possible to continue it. The statistics from WCS are promising.

Schuler asked the group what they would like to do with Matt Hiller's report on the Drug Treatment Court. The group agreed to ask Hiller for the final draft.

Update on Coordinator Position

Vrakas said an ordinance is being developed for the coordinator's position. Schuler said Sue Zastrow is in charge of the project and is finalizing the position description. The position has to go through the HAY study process in order to change levels. Davis said Zastrow hopes the ordinance will be ready for the June 24th county board meeting. Dwyer said the ordinance needs to be routed and received in the county board office by June 4th in order to be presented at the June 24th county board meeting.

Evenson asked could we see the position description before it is released? Schuler said it would be circulated upon completion. Evenson asked would the position be under filled? Vrakas said he didn't know.

Schuler said this could be discussed at the CJCC meeting on May 28th or information could be emailed to members. Davis said he was satisfied with email.

Report of Data Warehouse Project

Gibson said the first meeting to discuss the data warehouse project was extremely useful. IT is working on a few things to get the most out of completed reports. We are developing requests for good information to identify the programs and a plan for the second phase of the project. Currently we are missing fundamental data that needs to be developed. The next meeting is May 22 at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Evenson asked did Norm Cummings commit to putting numbers together for consulting so we can take this to the next stage in 2009? Gibson said it wasn't brought up at the meeting.

Evenson said it would be helpful to the full council to receive and then discuss by the end of the month a full written report outlining where we are going. Gibson said he would do that. He said everyone has a role to play in requesting data. It is a good collaborative effort. He will put a report together after the meeting tomorrow. All of the attendees thought it was a good process and needed for decision making.

Evenson asked how many additional meetings do you anticipate? Gibson said he will know after the meeting tomorrow.

Update on County Board Review of Courthouse Planning and Initiative

This agenda item was not discussed. It will be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Windy Jicha
County Board Office