



**Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Victims' Rights Committee Minutes
Monday, November 15, 2021**

Team Members Present:

Jen Dunn (Co-Chair)
Elizabeth Lucas

Marla Bell (Co-Chair)
Hon. Brad Schimel

Eryn Menden
Monica Paz

Team Members Excused:

Kendall Schultz

Also Present:

Rebecca Luczaj

Hon. J. Arthur Melvin, III

Pepper the Comfort Dog

Dunn called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

Approve Minutes from July 26, 2021 Meeting

Motion: Bell moved, second by Lucas, to approve the CJCC Victims' Rights Committee minutes from July 26, 2021. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Schimel arrived at 12:21 p.m.

Update on October Criminal/Traffic Judges' Meeting Discussion on Restitution Affidavit and Sealing Restitution

Paz stated that Clerks do not have the authority to seal restitution; however, if a local rule was created, they would have that ability.

Dunn expressed a concern that the local rule regarding the affidavit may be victimizing victims. The affidavit is no longer necessary, as the Restitution Specialist handles this task now.

Dunn will send Schimel some examples of cases where the affidavit is not working. Schimel will then present the issue to the Criminal/Traffic Division Judges to vote on at their next meeting on December 14.

Continue to Discuss Revising Information for Victims on How to Receive Restitution Once Ordered

Paz stated that, beginning in 2023, the courts may utilize the Department of Revenue for restitution collection.

This topic will be discussed again at a future meeting.

Discuss Need for More Consistency with Use of Zoom for Court Appearances

Paz stated that this practice will continue to vary with judges.

Schimel suggested that this topic be added to the Criminal/Traffic Judges' meeting agenda. He believes that the judges will all agree not to use Zoom unless it has been specifically requested and the judge approves its use.

This topic will be discussed again at a future meeting.

Discuss Use of Protective vs. Non-Contact Orders

This agenda item was tabled until a future meeting.

Discuss 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule

Attendees agreed to move the committee meetings to quarterly on the first Tuesday of the month at 12:15 p.m. The first meeting will be held in February.

Announcements

Dunn stated that the Victims' Assistance Unit now has a coloring/activity book featuring Pepper to be distributed to children. The hope is that the book will assist children with understanding the court process to help alleviate any fears or uncertainty.

Paz announced that the new courthouse tower will open on January 4. Judge Dorow will hold a test trial in the tower on December 14, and there will be a test for lockups and preliminary hearings on December 17.

Dunn and Paz are both needing to fill staff openings in their respective divisions.

Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting

There were no additional agenda items discussed for the next meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Motion: Bell moved, second by Paz, to adjourn the meeting at 1:18 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.