



## Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Case Processing Committee Minutes

Thursday, September 8, 2022

### Team Members Present:

Hon. Paul Bugenhagen

Monica Paz

Steven Hughes

Michael Neimon (Co-Chair)

Neil Dussault

Sue Opper (Co-Chair)

David Herring

### Team Members Absent:

Jessica Klein

### Others Present:

Rebecca Luczaj

Melissa Zilavy

Janelle McClain

Laura Flood

Co-Chair Neimon called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

### Approve Minutes from June 23, 2022 Meeting

Motion: Paz moved, Opper second, to approve the Case Processing Committee minutes of June 23, 2022.

Motion carried without a negative vote.

### Update on Criminal Case Backlog

Paz reported that misdemeanor and criminal/traffic cases have reached pre-pandemic levels. Paz attributes this to pretrial conferencing. Felony cases have not returned to pre-pandemic levels – likely due to increased felony filings, lengthy jury trials, state lab delays, etc.

Through August of this year, 876 misdemeanor and criminal/traffic cases were resolved – 593 of which, were criminal in nature.

Bugenhagen arrived at 7:35 a.m.

Paz provided the following statistics:

- Number of felonies:
  - Start of pandemic: 1293
  - January 2021: 2017 (peak of number of felonies)
  - End of July 2022: 1589
- Felony filings:
  - 2017 to 2019: approximately 1736-1782
  - 2020: not factored
  - 2021: ended with 1958
  - June 2022: at 1000
- Pending felonies:
  - January 2022: 1758
  - Currently: 1589
- Jury trials
  - So far for 2022: 74
    - 56 of the 154 days spent on the 74 jury trials have been for criminal cases

A case remains in “filing” status until the defendant has had an initial appearance. At that time, the case will be changed to “open.”

### **Discuss Pretrial Conferencing**

Paz distributed and reviewed a document titled, “Pretrial Program Summary.”

Attendees agreed that the pretrial conferences have been going well – due in part to Judge Maroney and in part to having the Assistant District Attorney (ADA) start the calendar early in the check-in room.

Opper would like to have the 2023 schedule set through July. Due to a shortage of ADAs at that time, she would also like to revisit the frequency of pretrial conferences.

### **Courthouse Construction Update**

Neimon reported that stakeholders met yesterday to hear the phasing schedule for the courthouse renovation. The renovation will start with the north/south wing and begin at the top level, working down to lower levels. Staff will be moved to the east/west wing during the north/south renovations. The staff relocations would take place August 2023.

The front entrance of the building will eventually be closed and moved to the Department of Administration side of the building, but that may not occur for at least two years.

### **Discuss 2023 Committee Meeting Schedule**

The committee agreed to continue meeting on the fourth Thursday of every other month, odd months, at 7:30 a.m.

### **Announcements**

McClain will send a FindTime meeting request to determine one more meeting date for the committee this year.

State Public Defender interviews continue to be held via video.

Opper mentioned that the state hygiene lab is very backlogged, which is creating case processing delays.

### **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: Opper moved, Paz second, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.