



Waukesha County
Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Evidence-Based Decision Making Case Processing Workgroup Minutes
Thursday, August 24, 2017

Team Members Present:

Sue Opper

Hon. Ralph Ramirez

Frank McElderry

Kathy Madden

Sara Scullen

Michael Neimon

Katie Kegel

Monica Paz

Team Members Absent:

Chris Ehrfurth

Others Present:

Rebecca Luczaj

Kristina Gordon

Janelle McClain

Opper called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Approve Minutes from August 7, 2017

Motion: Ramirez moved, Madden second, to approve the minutes of August 7, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Review & Discuss Outcomes from 8/22 Pretrial Conferencing

Paz distributed and reviewed documents titled "Summary Data of Branch 3 Pretrial Pilot" and "State Public Defender Screening Pilot."

Maxwell presided over the 8/22 pretrial conferencing. The morning session finished before noon, and the afternoon session was done by 4:30 p.m. The clerk in the hall continues to be extremely valuable and helpful to the process. Ramirez stated that Maxwell seemed to enjoy the process. Kegel added that, while the process was smooth, attorneys were commenting that the plea colloquy was not as truncated as they had hoped.

McElderry commented that it appears the deputy is still running paperwork back and forth. This is disrupting, and he does not want the deputy to lose the primary focus of their job – security. Madden suggested having the clerks, deputies, State Public Defender's Office representative, and District Attorney's Office representative meet separately to discuss how to make the process smoother, and develop a uniform process across the branches.

There was not an interpreter in the afternoon, which caused an issue for about four people. The interpreter is contracted only to be available in the mornings. The four defendants were able to go through the process, but it was difficult.

Kegel suggested having the payment plan and plea forms available in the courtroom to be completed ahead of time and handed in together, saving time.

There continues to be confusion amongst defendants about whether OWLs and OARs are crimes. Kegel stated that recently, there have been numerous people who have posted bail for the same case on multiple

occasions. They then assume their obligations are met, only to have a warrant issued because they fail to report to court. The workgroup agrees that this is a good project for the workgroup to focus on next.

Neimon arrived at 7:54 a.m.

The November 28 pretrial conferencing overflow date that was added is already almost full. Ramirez stated he could add December 19 as well. Ramirez will ask Maxwell to add either December 5 or 12. Currently, the schedule is:

- September 5 – Dreyfus
- October 24 – Ramirez
- November 14 – Lazar
- November 28 – Ramirez

Maxwell had commented to Ramirez that he feels it is best to have one judge handling everyone's cases for a full day. We appear to have enough volume of eligible cases that the workgroup will need to make a decision by December, if not sooner, on how to expand the pretrial conferencing pilot.

Madden informed the workgroup that cases are assigned automatically via CCAP, factoring in a 10% caseload reduction for the two judges who handle the treatment courts.

Scullen reported that the text reminders for court seem to be very effective. Defendants are showing up, when they did not realize they had a pending case.

Scullen left at 8:11 a.m.

Review Revised Data Dashboard & Additional Data Collected by Clerk of Courts Office

Madden distributed and reviewed the data collected by the Clerk of Courts Office.

Ramirez would like the state standards to be noted on the graphs; however, Madden commented that Waukesha County has not adopted the state standards.

Kegel would like to know if the number of felony cases set for trial is decreasing, as she thinks our efforts are having a positive impact on this statistic. Kegel suggested that any pretrial-eligible case not be set for trial until it has gone through pretrial conferencing. Madden stated that she loves this idea. Ramirez recommended that the group revisit which cases are eligible for pretrial conferencing, as there may be some changes since the list was originally developed. Opper will email the original court order to the workgroup to review, and any recommended changes should be sent to Ramirez directly.

Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The group will compare data collected by the Clerk of Courts Office to the data McClain compiled in order to determine which to include on the workgroup's dashboard moving forward.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.