



Waukesha County
Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Evidence-Based Decision Making Case Processing Workgroup Minutes
Thursday, February 9, 2017

Team Members Present:

Sue Opper

Michael Neimon

Katie Kegel

Kathy Madden

Amy Rendall

Hon. Ralph Ramirez

Robert Dehring

Team Members Absent:

Chris Ehrfurth

Others Present:

Rebecca Luczaj

Janelle McClain

Opper called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

Approve Minutes from January 26, 2017

Motion: Ramirez moved, Dehring second, to approve the minutes of January 26, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Review Number of Cases Scheduled for 2/21 Pretrial Conferencing

Rendall distributed and reviewed the updated spreadsheet containing data on the pretrial conferencing pilot.

There are currently 44 cases scheduled for the 21st, but we can take up to 80. Other judges may still add some of their cases for resolution.

Ramirez commented that some defendants are ready to plead when they see the commissioner, but they have to wait until they are in front of a judge, possibly up to 30 days later, and the judge has to discourage the defendant from making a plea if they do not have counsel. Dehring added that some defendants acknowledge they made a mistake and just want to plead guilty, but get frustrated when they are unable to do so quickly.

Kegel arrived at 7:47 a.m.

Ramirez offered that if a defendant were ready to plead when they are in front of the commissioner, as long as there is no victim, he would be willing to have the defendant come up to his courtroom and accept the plea. Even with due diligence of offering the defendant time to secure counsel, case processing is reduced by at least 30 days. The group agreed to start this referral process from Intake Court on February 21, in conjunction with the pretrial conferences.

Rendall left at 7:50 a.m.

Review and Revise OAR Citation Form

Opper distributed a handout titled "Information Sheet: Forfeiture Violations," and Madden reviewed it with the group. The Sheriff's deputies keep these handouts in their squads, but the information contained on the document is busy and could be confusing to a layperson. The group also agreed that the information sheet did

not properly indicate that OARs are crimes, and that the defendant must go to court and not simply just pay a fine to resolve it.

Ramirez stated that it could be confusing to people, especially when they receive multiple fines for one incident, such as a speeding ticket, which is a municipal violation, and an OAR, which is a misdemeanor and would therefore be referred to the DA's Office.

Madden will send Oppen a Word version of the "Forfeiture Violations" form to be updated for our needs related to OARs. We can also add a QR code directing the offender to the DOT website with information on driver's license reinstatement.

Dehring left at 8:12 a.m.

Members discussed how to identify risk level early on for OAR offenders, as a follow-up to the discussion with NIC Consultant, Mimi Carter, after her last visit.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 a.m.