



Waukesha County
Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Evidence-Based Decision Making Case Processing Workgroup
Thursday, June 9, 2016

Team Members Present:

District Attorney Sue Opper
Attorney Katie Bricco
Judge Ralph Ramirez

District Court Administrator Michael Neimon

Team Members Absent:

Commissioner Robert Dehring
Clerk of Circuit Court Kathy Madden

Attorney Dan Fay

Others Present:

CJCC Coordinator Rebecca Luczaj
Courts Division Coordinator Amy Rendell

Janelle McClain

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

Discuss Progress of Public Defender Screening Pilot

Neimon spoke to Commissioner Pieper regarding the pilot program. Pieper is on board with the program and will talk to Judges Ramirez and Dorow. Pieper mentioned to Neimon that there are not a lot of people that even want a public defender. One situation is that for OARs, defendants are okay with the plea, but then when they show up at the hearing, the judge sends them to the Public Defender's Office. Ramirez added that there is confusion with defendants because they may think that once they pay the fine, everything is ok. Also for those needing an interpreter, without an attorney, a lot is lost in the interpretation. OARs are a minor offense, but they are still a crime, so the commissioner cannot handle the case.

Bricco commented that the pilot program is going well for the Public Defender's Office. About 75% of those being sent over are found to be eligible. Bricco is also noticing people coming in the afternoon as well, so that helps even out the load.

Rendell had previously e-mailed the attorney information letter to the workgroup. The workgroup agreed that the letter was good, so Opper's staff will start sending it out with the summons. The Circuit Court and Public Defender's Office staff will keep track to see if the attorney information letter seems to have an impact.

Review Final Drafts of Work Plan and Logic Model

Neimon had previously e-mailed the logic model to the workgroup. It is not due until the end of the month, so there is still time to review and then finalize it at the next meeting.

Bricco commented that for the Public Defender's Office, while there is an interest in efficiency for everyone, they are not concerned about how cases impact the judges' case processing standards. Neimon responded that the idea is if a case is processed fast enough, everyone is benefiting.

The workgroup discussed the 180 diversion program. Ramirez commented that we should not specifically use the term "180 program" in the logic model because that sounds as though the workgroup endorses that

specific program and are recommending it be expanded. He would like the logic model to read more general, such as “use fiscal or personnel resources to evaluate current diversion program(s) in the county.” Luczaj commented that she believes many universities, including UW-Extension, may evaluate the program for free. Luczaj will get in touch with Jerry Braatz regarding an evaluation and will report back to the group at the next meeting.

Neimon will redistribute the Logic Model after the revisions have been made.

Continue Discussion on Pretrial Conferencing

When Neimon spoke to Milwaukee County and other counties up north regarding pretrial conferencing, he learned that they do not seem to perform well because everything tends to fall apart. Neimon also mentioned that most areas do not conduct pretrial conferencing in the manner in which this workgroup is discussing doing it.

Ramirez would be willing to pilot pretrial conferencing in his court, as long as he feels it can be successful.

The workgroup discussed the issue of not having discovery as another reason that court hearings are delayed. Rendell will gather additional data on this, based on the case sampling we have already been working with. The goal is to make sure that all sides in the hearing are as ready as possible.

Discuss Next Steps and Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be June 23.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 a.m.