



Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Case Processing Committee Minutes Thursday, February 25, 2021

Team Members Present:

Michael Neimon (Co-Chair)	Sue Opper (Co-Chair)	Paul Crawford
Neil Dussault	David Herring	Hon. Paul Bugenhagen
Chris Bailey	Monica Paz	

Team Members Absent:

Michelle Larsuel

Others Present:

Rebecca Luczaj	Janelle McClain	Brittany Marin
Kristi Gordon		

Opper called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Approve Minutes from January 28, 2021 Meeting

Motion: Bugenhagen moved, Paz second, to approve the Case Processing Committee minutes of January 28, 2021. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Update on 2/9 Judicial Roundtable Discussion and 2/16 Criminal/Traffic Judges' Meeting

Paz reported that 64 participants attended the February 9 discussion, which included an update regarding in-person appearances. Family and Civil courts will continue to operate remotely, while Criminal courts will bring back evidentiary and dispositive hearings in-person. An official order will be drafted; however, parties have been notified. There are currently 5,166 pending criminal cases.

Crawford arrived at 7:35 a.m.

Zoom decorum is being reviewed, as court officials are considering displaying the Zoom court "rules" at the beginning of court.

The traffic calendar has been cancelled through May. The judges will discuss the option for resuming traffic court in June, at the April judges' meeting.

There have been 19 jury trials since the beginning of the year: 14 in Criminal, 3 in Civil, and 2 in Juvenile court.

Chief Judge Dorow will be meeting with stakeholders, including the County Executive, County Board, and Public Health Officer Ben Jones to discuss jury trials moving forward and increasing in-person court appearances and how that intersects with the County's COVID guidelines.

Continue to Discuss Strategies to Dispose of Cases

Attendees discussed resuming pretrial conferencing. Paz suggested holding them 2-3 times per month on Fridays and utilizing the Jury Assembly Room (JAR), resuming in approximately June.

Paz provided the following data regarding pending misdemeanor/felony cases:

- 1,088 cases are pretrial conference eligible
 - 443 misdemeanor cases

- 396 OAR cases
- 249 OWL cases
- 933 additional misdemeanor cases may be eligible and would need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for eligibility

Neimon reported that Dorow is considering adding a sixth judge to the Criminal/Traffic Division to handle the backlog of cases. However, successful pretrial conferencing may negate the need for a sixth judge.

Opper stressed that pretrial conferencing must occur in-person. She can commit to this for June, July, and August, as she will have interns. Anything beyond that she cannot commit to at this time. Opper would like to focus on misdemeanor cases first, and not hear the OAR and OWL cases until August. Bugenhagen will discuss this with the other judges.

Paz stated that “in-person appearance required” will be added to court date text reminders, as well as with the notice of hearing.

Paz will review upcoming court calendars to help determine dates for the pretrial conferences. Once dates are finalized, she will start scheduling cases on 3 days/month. New cases coming through Intake Court can be scheduled for July.

Announcements

Neimon reported that occupancy of the new courthouse is scheduled to occur in June to allow for training/process reviews prior to opening to the public on July 7.

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: Neimon moved, Herring second, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.