



## **Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Case Processing Committee Minutes Thursday, May 23, 2019**

### **Team Members Present:**

Hon. Brad Schimel	Michael Neimon	Sue Oppen
Sara Scullen	Chris Ehrfurth	Michelle Larsuel
Katie Kegel	Monica Paz	

### **Others Present:**

Gina Colletti	Alison Ries	Rebecca Luczaj
Artis Landon	Jay Tucker	Kristi Gordon

Oppen called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m.

### **Approve Minutes from March 28, 2019**

Motion: Paz moved, Ehrfurth second, to approve the minutes from March 28, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Presentation: WCS Center for Driver's License Recovery and Employability**

Jay Tucker and Artis Landon from WCS in Milwaukee County presented on the Center for Driver's License Recovery & Employability (CDLRE) program in Milwaukee County. Founded in 2007, the program is a collaboration between WCS, Legal Action of Wisconsin and Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC). The mission of the program is to increase the number of valid, low-income drivers in Milwaukee County through driver's license recovery assistance, expand driver's education, implement public policy improvements to limit license suspensions and revocations to unsafe drivers, and increase education about driver's license suspensions and revocations. CDLRE also provides various types of career training including CDL training, food service training, and computer training through MATC. Many low-income individuals are unable to work or obtain better jobs because they do not have a driver's license and are unsure of the reinstatement process.

Kegel arrived at 7:48 am.

The CDLRE provides low-income individuals with suspended or revoked Wisconsin driver's licenses with legal representation (Legal Action of Wisconsin) and case management services. Case management services may include creating a driver's license recovery or retention plan, identifying alternatives to financial obligations (payment plans or community service), and ensuring clients complete necessary tasks for reinstatement and follow through. To be eligible, individuals must be a Milwaukee County resident, meet income requirements, have a suspended or revoked Class D driver's license, have no current OWI charges or OWI related suspensions/revocations, and have completed the DMV knowledge test within the past 12 months if they have not had a valid license within the past 8 years. Referral partners include the City of Milwaukee, court referrals, MATC, WCS, Milwaukee Urban League, Milwaukee Public Schools, Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood, and Legal Action of WI.

Landon will forward a referral form and the process for referral to the committee for discussion at the next meeting. For more information, contact the CDLRE at (414) 297-6407 or visit their website at [www.wiscs.org](http://www.wiscs.org).

Kegel asked how long it takes to get a driver's license reinstated, and Tucker responded that the shortest period is typically about two months. Oppen asked if the CDLRE keeps the courts informed about clients'

progress towards reinstatement, and Tucker responded that yes, the attorneys do. Tucker stated that if clients owe money to multiple jurisdictions and they negotiate a payment plan, they can drop off their money at the CDLRE and the attorneys will take care of making the payments for them.

### **Review and Discuss Pretrial Conferencing Outcomes since Previous Meeting**

Paz distributed and reviewed a packet of documents titled "Pretrial Program 2019." Discussion was held regarding the increasing number of cases that are adjourned and scheduled for another pretrial conferencing date. Gordon commented that if defendants are a no-show, the case is adjourned. Paz reminded the group that defendants are receiving text message reminders that indicate their appearance is mandatory. The no-shows are called on the record and then bench warrants are typically issued.

Kegel inquired about the efficiency of setting cases over and wondered how many defendants end up obtaining their driver's license and resolving their case versus the number of defendants who drag their cases out and never end up obtaining a valid license. Ehrfurth asked how many total defendants FTA. Paz responded that she could go back and track the total number of defendants who failed to appear in 2019. Kegel asked what the rate is of defendants actually obtaining their driver's license. Gordon responded that it may be easier to track this from the DA's Office. Opper will have interns track this for 3 months over the summer.

Kegel suggested implementing a separate track for cases that are contingent on driver's license reinstatement (Traffic Court). Discussion was held to determine if pretrial cases should be adjourned for another pretrial conferencing date or sent back to the assigned judge. The committee agreed there should be only one opportunity to resolve the case at pretrial conferencing, and then the case will be sent back to the judge. Schimel will notify the criminal/traffic judges of the decision.

Schimel commented that it would be beneficial if municipal courts in Waukesha County authorized them to do payment plans with defendants to satisfy their financial obligations.

### **Historical Review of Pretrial Conferencing Outcomes Data**

This agenda item was tabled for a future meeting.

### **Discuss Any Construction-Related Case Processing Issues/Concerns**

Paz reported they are moving into phase 2 of the construction process. All pretrials beginning in August will be held in the County Board Room (room 350). The old District Court Administrator's Office will be converted into conference rooms that the DA's Office can use for pretrial conferencing. There will also be some temporary changes made to the calendars. The Wednesday morning Traffic calendar will be heard in room 121. The 3pm preliminary hearings will be removed largely because lock-ups are going longer. Kegel expressed that this will be a major issue for the SPD's Office. Neimon responded that if there are issues with any of the process changes, there is still opportunity for discussion to make improvements.

### **Other Items for Discussion**

There were no other items for discussion.

### **Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Discuss Referral Process to the CDLRE

### **Adjourn**

Motion: Ehrfurth moved, Kegel second, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 a.m.