
WAUKESHA COUNTY CJCC

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

APRIL 2, 2015

MINUTES

Benedict called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Present: Sam Benedict (Chair), Judge William Domina, Pete Slesar, Andrea Will, Dick Farvour, Kelly Haag, Linda Saafir. **Absent:** Luke Hallmark, Sara Carpenter.

Also Present: Rebecca Luczaj, Greg Rewolinski, Windy Jicha, Mary Wittwer, Jason Fink.

Approval of Minutes from October 30, 2014

Motion: Farvour moved, Haag second to approve the minutes of October 30, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Review Recent Case Filing & Detention Statistics, Including Delinquency & Truancy Dispositions

Haag distributed a handout which outlines monthly detention hearings data from 2005 to March 2015. She remarked that 2015 first quarter statistics are consistent with trends.

Haag distributed a handout titled *Juvenile Court* and indicated that filings have decreased consistently. Haag mentioned the puzzling statistical reversal of JIPS and delinquency filings from 2013 to 2015 as indicated in the handout, but was unable to provide reasons for the change.

| <u>Year-to-Date</u> | <u>March 2015</u> | <u>March 2014</u> | <u>March 2013</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| JIPS | 38 | 31 | 20 |
| Delinquencies | 23 | 24 | 41 |

Domina said the increase in JIPS cases could be directly related to increased truancy. Saafir, Domina and Slesar agreed that the county's delinquency statistics are inline with nationwide trends. Domina said increased TPR filings over the last six months could be related to Corporation Counsel's office workload management changes, which outsourced cases to three private attorneys.

Haag distributed two handouts titled *2014 Charges by Age* and *2015 Charges by Age YTD 3/31/15* and noted the increase in sexual assault charges. In response to Luczaj's question, Haag said categories crossed off had no case filings during the reporting period. Benedict said the data indicates robberies carried out by youth have remained consistent. There has been a noticeable increase in robberies by adults.

Haag distributed a handout titled *Waukesha County Health and Human Services – Clinical Services Division – 2014 Chapter 51 Juvenile Report* and noted an increase in reported homicidal ideation by detained juveniles, as well as an increase in female suicide attempts.

Update on Work of Alternative Juvenile Sanctions Committee - Greg Rewolinski, DHHS Social Worker

Rewelinski distributed and reviewed a packet of materials titled *Address the Following in the Letter of Apology*.

- The Alternative Juvenile Sanctions Committee contacted the Mediation Center for apology letter guidelines to create a document which may be included in court orders in the future.

- The committee contacted United Way seeking youth community service opportunities based on interest and location. Linda Evenhoff, formerly with Project Sweep, was contacted to see if she was interested in helping with community service projects. Ms. Evenhoff was interested but may not be available until fall.
- UW-Extension has agreed to help the committee explore a community garden program. Information on the program and costs are included in the packet of materials. UW-Extension currently works with Huber inmates on a similar project with produce donated to local food pantries. Grant funding would need to be found for this project. Master gardeners seeking certification would be an excellent source of volunteer teachers. Domina remarked that a UW-Extension program seems reasonably priced and would cost markedly less than the former Saturday work program.
- Information has been requested from Genesis Farms and the Victory Gardens Farm.
- Work with Carroll University's Y2D mentoring program, which performs community service, is on hold until fall 2015 when the school year begins.

Rewolinski distributed and reviewed a handout titled *Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking* which explains the purpose of peacemaking circles, needed resources, implementation steps, variations, rationale, etc. The purpose of the circles is to create a safe, nonjudgmental place to engage and share authentic personal reactions and feelings with others. The circles are designed to help victims and offenders and provide restitution and reconciliation. The committee met with the Milwaukee Assistant District Attorney in Juvenile Court, Paul Dedinsky, to learn more about circle programs. Dedinsky offered to provide free training and is willing to participate in Waukesha County's circles. In response to Domina's question, Rewolinski said we can observe Milwaukee's circles. Domina said such a program would provide Waukesha County another "tool in their toolbox."

Will arrived at 3:35 p.m.

In response to Benedict's question, Rewolinski said the community is seeking solutions with community service elements and options.

Domina said the committee met with HHS director Antwayne Robertson to discuss the history and budget of the former Saturday youth work program. Domina said in light of the governor's proposed budget, the department is focusing on providing quality services for current mandatory programs and does not have funds to add new programs. Slesar said attendance at the former program was unpredictable and a significant amount of time was spent maintaining the work places. The program became the victim of budget cuts. Domina asked Benedict to encourage the CJCC to discuss bringing back the Saturday youth work program. Benedict said the CJCC is committed to EBDM and finding new ways to deal with ongoing problems.

Farvour mentioned that Maryland has implemented drum circle philosophies in the courts as an alternative sanction and asked if he should research these programs and report back to the group? Domina said he would like to learn more about these programs. Farvour agreed to report his findings at the next meeting.

Update on Work of Committee to Improve Habitual Truancy

Domina said committee members attended a truancy conference in October and had the opportunity to work with others in the community. The committee would like to work with school and HHS staff to analyze and understand available data. Slesar and Haag commented on the extremely young age of recent truants.

Health & Human Services Department Updates

Update on Implementation of Evidence-Based Practice Supervisor BriefCASE Series Training Curriculum for Staff

Slesar said the Supervisor's EBP BriefCASE series training program was developed in response to recognition that training line staff is important but insufficient in building staff members' skills in EBP. The BriefCASE teaches staff and provides a structure to establish collaborative coaching relationships with staff and knowledge and tools to teach and reinforce core skills. To date, HHS supervisory staff have completed three of the 18 program modules and he hopes the program will reduce recidivism by increasing staff skills.

Update on Juvenile Center/Shelter Care

Slesar said Lad Lake is completing construction of a new juvenile center/shelter care facility, which is expected to be operational by July 1, 2015, and has begun hiring staff for the program. An MOU was developed with the Sheriff's Department to transport youth to the facility within two hours of notification. The Department agreed to make restraint/handcuffing decisions on a case-by-case basis. Notice of program changes has been sent to all local law enforcement and stakeholders. After the Lad Lake facility opens, local jurisdictions will continue to bring youth to the Waukesha County Juvenile Center for intake.

In response to Domina's question, Slesar said Lad Lake will transport youth to/from court one hour before/after proceedings. In response to Saafir's question, Slesar said Lad Lake does not have video conferencing capabilities. The group discussed issues and concerns with scheduling transportation and restraining youth. Slesar said these issues will be well explored and discussed before the changes occur.

Saafir left at 4:09 p.m.

Update on Current CJCC Initiatives

Drug Treatment Court Program (DTC)

Luczaj provided a brief history of DTC funding. She indicated that the CJCC DTC currently receives funding from a BJA implementation grant. In June, the CJCC is eligible to apply for up to \$200K in BJA enhancement grant funding for the DTC for the period of October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2017. The enhancement grant application will request funding to maintain program capacity and add peer specialists/recovery coaches to the program.

Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM)

Luczaj said Wisconsin, along with Virginia and Indiana, were awarded NIC grants for EBDM initiatives. The State of Wisconsin will use its funds to work on initiatives with six counties: Waukesha, Rock, La Crosse, Marathon, Outagamie and Chippewa. In addition to monthly onsite technical assistance by NIC consultants from now through March 2016, an NIC consultant will be working with the Waukesha County Policy Team to map the county's entire criminal justice system. The county's Policy Team will attend a kickoff meeting in Green Lake on June 29-30, 2015. Luczaj said the initiative requires a considerable time commitment from the county's Policy Team. Once the state completes work with this grant, it can apply for an NIC implementation grant to effectuate planning efforts.

Set Next Meeting Date & Discuss Future Agenda Items

Luczaj will send out a Doodle survey for an August 2015 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.