



Waukesha County  
Criminal Justice Collaborating Council  
Evidence-Based Decision Making Case Processing Workgroup  
Thursday, April 14, 2016

**Team Members Present:**

District Attorney Sue Opper  
Attorney Dan Fay  
Judge Ralph Ramirez

Attorney Katie Bricco  
Commissioner Robert Dehring  
District Court Administrator Michael Neimon

**Team Members Absent:**

Clerk of Circuit Court Kathy Madden

**Others Present:**

Courts Division Coordinator Amy Rendell

Janelle McClain

Opper called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

**Approve Minutes from March 17 and April 7**

Motion: Fay moved, Dehring second, to approve the minutes of March 17, 2016, and April 7, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

**Review Feedback from Policy Team on Workgroup Change Strategy & Discuss Next Steps**

The Policy Team was encouraged by the pilot program this workgroup is implementing with the Public Defender's office. Judge Ramirez reported that the judges and commissioners are on board with the program.

The workgroup discussed ways to make court appearances more meaningful. Two ideas that were brought up included assigning DAs to courtrooms and having access to video conferencing.

Opper expressed concern about having an inexperienced attorney handling a larger case like armed robbery or sexual assault, as well as having the staff to cover the need. Opper would be willing to assign DAs to misdemeanor cases, just not felonies. Also, to ask one DA to handle so many cases is a lot.

Correctional facilities are embracing video conferencing more. The workgroup should explore how to get the Public Defender's Office more involved with it, as the Sheriff's Department was willing to have the equipment installed for them but was turned down. Many of the courts in District 3 now have video conferencing for the judges.

The workgroup's job moving forward is to look at ways to make court appearances meaningful; however, there are other tasks that need to be done.

**Review Plan for Public Defender Screening Pilot and Set Start Date**

The Public Defender's office, Courts, and DAs are ready for the pilot to begin on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Bricco expressed concern that there was going to be a universal statement that every single person without an attorney will be sent to the Public Defender's office for screening. However, if the defendant has full-time employment or obvious means of paying for an attorney, they should not be sent there. Dehring stated that there will be a general inquiry about whether the defendant wants representation in the case, and then a determination can be made based on the answers provided.

Neimon and Rendell will look into a way to make contact information available for those defendants that can afford an attorney. The county needs to remain a neutral party between the defendants and private bar attorneys.

Bricco reminded everyone that when the defendants come back for the 10am hearing, they will probably not be with an attorney. They will only be able to show proof of approval.

**Discuss Next Steps & Set Date for Next Meeting**

April 28, 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 a.m.