

**MINUTES**  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 2, 2020**  
**VIA ZOOM MEETING**

**Members Present:** Justin Green (Public Member); Karin Sonneman (Winona County Attorney), Marie Kovcesi (County Commissioner); Travis Volkman (Goodview Police Dept.); Judy Gilow (Public Member); Karen Sanness (Community Services Director); Ken Fritz (County Administrator); Rená Patterson (Supervisor, Dept. of Corrections); Annette Freiheit (Superintendent, Winona Area Public Schools); Ron Ganrude (Winona County Sheriff); Fatima Said (Project FINE); The Honorable Nancy Buytendorp (District Court Judge); Mike Kuehn (Assistant Public Defender).

**Members Absent:** Paul Bostrack (City of Winona Police Chief); Mike Flaherty (Assistant Winona City Attorney); Kurt Knuesel (Winona County Bar Association); Michelle Alexander (City of Winona); Gwen Carman (Superintendent, Lewiston-Altura School District); Karrie Espinoza (Court Administrator); Steve Buswell (Winona County Jail Administrator).

**Guests Present:** Kalene Engel (CJCC Executive Director); Autumn Kusske-Anderson (Winona County ASAP); Trish Chandler (Jail Intake Worker); Chris Meyer (Winona County Commissioner); Jeff Mueller (Winona County Chief Deputy Sheriff); Carin Hyter (Treatment Court of Winona County); Amy Sixty and Laura Madsen (SEMCIL).

Minutes by Kalene Engel

- 1) **Call to Order & Introductions:** Karin Sonneman called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.
- 2) **Review/Revise/Approve Agenda for September 2, 2020:** Agenda was approved by consensus
- 3) **Review/Revise/Approve Draft Minutes from August 5, 2020:** Minutes approved by consensus without changes.
- 4) **Information/Action Items:**
  - A. Veteran’s Treatment Court Commencement Ceremony: The first commencement ceremony for Veteran’s Treatment Court will be held on September 11, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at Soldiers Field in Rochester, Minnesota. All are invited.
  - B. Presentation on Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living (SEMCIL)- Laura Madsen and Amy Sixty: Laura and Amy provided an overview of the services provided by SEMCIL, as follows:
    - A “center for independent living” or CIL is more of a philosophical term or resource center than it is an actual location.
    - Every county in the State of Minnesota must have a CIL which serves that area.

- SEMCIL is based out of Rochester and serves 11 counties in southeastern Minnesota.
- Laura, Amy and two other people work out of a Winona location. Their office primarily serves counties along the Mississippi-Winona, Houston, Fillmore, Wabasha and Goodhue.
- The SEMCIL Referral Number is 507-385-3917. The referral email is [ILreferral@semcil.org](mailto:ILreferral@semcil.org). The Winona referrals are directed to Amy.
- CILs receive general funding from the state which pays for basic services and overhead. They also receive some funding from grants, such as vocational rehab grants (which have substantially declined during the past year).
- SEMCIL clients are called consumers. The age range for consumers they can serve is “birth to death.”
- They focus on a person-centered plan. They tell people that they are “driving the bus” and SEMCIL workers are just putting the gas in it.
- Anyone who self-identifies as having a disability is eligible for SEMCIL services. They do not need to provide proof or have a certain level of disability. The disability can be a physical disability or mental illness or both.
- Services:
  - i. **Disability Hub:** One service offered by SEMCIL is the Disability Hub, which is based out of Rochester. The Hub has a toll-free number that anyone who is looking for resources can call.
  - ii. **Access:** Another service offered by SEMCIL is Access which assists people in making their home or business handicapped accessible.
  - iii. **Assistive Technology Lab:** SEMCIL also operates an assistive technology lab, which is located in Rochester. This allows people to try out assistive technology devices before they buy them. With COVID, the assistive technology director has been creative in finding virtual ways to provide access to the lab.
  - iv. **Independent Living Skills:** Laura and Amy help consumers build independent living skills to give them the freedom to live the life they choose. These services can range from helping a person learn job search skills, to helping them connect with local services, to helping them learn about their rights and advocate for them. Their goal is to help consumers build real life skills so that they can help themselves more independently in the future. They work in numerous school districts and kids in transition (ages 14-24) are a focus area for them. They recently did a Housing 101 Program in Winona to help students gain skills on how to secure rental housing. Their assistance is intended to be short term and task focused. Many consumers have one goal, so they work on that goal until they meet it and then either close the file or have the person identify a new goal.

Contact Information: Amy Sixty and Laura Madsen  
[www.semcil.org](http://www.semcil.org); Referral: 507-285-3917; [ILreferral@semcil.org](mailto:ILreferral@semcil.org);  
 Facebook page for Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living.

C. COVID Updates (Judge Buytendorp & Ken Fritz):

- Courthouse Updates (Judge Buytendorp): Courts are continuing with the current Supreme Court Order which provides that all hearings will be via Zoom by default unless the judges orders otherwise. Zoom hearings are not ideal for all hearings, but work well for some case types. There are in-person hearing dates scheduled on the court calendar.
  - CARES Funding (Ken Fritz): The County has partnered with several agencies to distribute COVID CARES money. SEMMCHRA has two grant programs—one for individuals for housing expenses and another for small businesses. Winona Volunteer Services is administering grants for individuals experiencing COVID-related hardships. The Winona Chamber of Commerce is administering a grant program for small businesses. Ken has reached out to public and private schools to inquire about COVID-related needs. The money must be spent by November 30<sup>th</sup> or it reverts back to the State.
- D. Update on New Jail (Ron Ganrude): Ron, Steve Buswell and Jeff Mueller recently visited the jails in Kandiyohi County and Chisago County. Ron was impressed with the latter. They also continue to have weekly zoom meetings with the architect and the construction manager at risk. There are plans to have adequate programming space in the jail. Optimistically, groundbreaking for the jail will occur in the spring of 2021. The jail population has been gradually increasing; the calls for service numbers are similar to pre-COVID numbers.

#### 5) Committee Reports:

- A. Jail & Jail Alternatives-Justin Green: Karen Bunkowski and Paul Ellison provided an excellent overview of the civil commitment process. See the minutes for more details. An update on the new jail (similar to the above update) was also provided.  
**Next Meeting: September 23, 2020 at noon via Zoom**
- B. Juvenile Justice-Karin Sonneman (for Rebecca Church): The main focus of the committee has been to plan and implement a family dependency treatment court using a model similar to treatment court. The workgroup working on that issue is seeking grant funding. Juvenile detention cases have decreased dramatically due to COVID.  
**Next Meeting: September 17, 2020 at noon via Zoom**
- C. Courts Committee-Judge Nancy Buytendorp: Committee members debriefed on efforts to resolve old warrants and will continue efforts to clear those up in small batches. A workgroup participated in a Zoom meeting with representatives from Olmsted County to learn more about their expungement clinic. This issue was referred to the Law Library Board. Treatment Court numbers are down; referrals are being accepted. Veteran's Treatment Court will have its first graduation on September 11<sup>th</sup>. A small workgroup was formed to work on an eviction diversion clinic, modeled after the Olmsted County clinic. Discussion was held on whether Zoom hearings are likely to continue post-COVID (they are) and what type of space would be needed in the jail to accommodate those hearings.

**Next meeting: September 17, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. via Zoom**

- D. Crime Prevention/ASAP-Travis Volkman: ASAP is looking into hosting a drive-in movie this fall. Coalition members have had several meetings to discuss contingency plans of the Year 6-10 Drug Free Communities Grant is not received. The current grant expires at the end of December, but the new grant awards will not be announced until that time. Coalition members have asked Coordinator Kusske-Anderson to develop three different contingency plans. She has also reached out to the regional coordinator and grant evaluator to brainstorm on possible funding opportunities.

**Next Meeting: September 21, 2020 at TBD**

- E. Community Outreach & Diversity Committee-Karin Sonneman: Committee members will be putting together a virtual event to highlight the work of CJCC and its partners. Kalene is working on an outline and timeline for the presentation, as well as updating the website and creating a Facebook page for CJCC. Fatima noted that Project FINE is hosting Welcoming Week and Citizenship Day. She encouraged people to visit Project FINE's Facebook page for more information.

**Next Meeting: September 16, 2020 at noon via Zoom**

- F. Other:
- a. The League of Women's Voters is hosting a suffragette rally tonight at 4pm at the Lake Park Bandshell.
  - b. A memorial service for Baby Angel will be held on Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Woodlawn Cemetery.
  - c. The Winona Day Center is now open at the site of the Winona Warming Shelter. It is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, providing wi-fi, food, showers, PPE and groups facilitated by Mike Fahey of Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center.
  - d. On Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., a ceremony will be held at St. Marys Cemetery to honor John Schneider, who was killed in the line of duty 40 years ago.

**Adjourn:** 1:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 7, 2020 at noon via Zoom