

MINUTES
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
OCTOBER 7, 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); Mike Kuehn (Assistant Public Defender); Tom Williams (City of Winona Police Chief); Becky Brandt (Court Administrator)

Members Absent: Mike Flaherty (Assistant Winona City Attorney); Kurt Knuesel (Winona County Bar Association); Gwen Carman (Superintendent, Lewiston-Altura School District); Fatima Said (Project FINE); The Honorable Nancy Buytendorp (District Court Judge); Ron Ganrude (Winona County Sheriff); Steve Buswell (Winona County Jail Administrator).

Guests Present: Kalene Engel (CJCC Executive Director); Eileen Moeller (City of Winona-Proxy for Michelle Alexander); Autumn Kusske-Anderson (Winona County ASAP); Trish Chandler (Jail Intake Worker); Chris Meyer (Winona County Commissioner); Carin Hyter (Treatment Court of Winona County); Laura Madsen (SEMCIL); Rebecca Church (Assistant Winona County Attorney), Jay Rasmussen (City of Winona Deputy Police Chief); Eric Engrav (City of Winona Deputy Police Chief); Meg Mitchell (3rd District Public Defender); Crystal Hegge (Advocacy Center of Winona); Carla Burton (Grace Place).

Minutes by Kalene Engel

- 1) **Call to Order & Introductions:** Karin Sonneman called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.
- 2) **Review/Revise/Approve Agenda for October 7, 2020:** Agenda was approved by consensus
- 3) **Review/Revise/Approve Draft Minutes from September 2, 2020:** Minutes approved by consensus without changes.
- 4) **Information/Action Items:**
 - A. Adult Education Opportunities: Flyers for the Accelerated Welding Academy and MN State College Southeast and the Winona Adult Literacy Program were distributed in the Meeting Packet.
 - B. Presentation on Grace Place (GP)-Carla Burton: Carla provided an overview of the history of and services provided by Grace Place, as follows:
 - GP has been in existence for 28 years, has locations in Winona, Rushford and Trempealeau and has a vision to support families. GP has been at its current location in Winona for 16 years.

- GP provides individual and group mentoring, utilizing music and movement to provide a unique mentoring/educational experience.
- GP operates a thrift store from which it receives revenue. It also has a “free shelf” where people in need can get up to six items for free each month.
- GP offers godly play, to share the language of the Christian faith through movement. They work with parents of children who are 18 months and younger to provide massage, appropriate touch and safe interaction.
- GP meets with teen mothers at the Alternative Learning Center
- When GP originally started, it ran a shelter for women and children. GP always intended to get back into shelter work and, recently, an opportunity presented itself for them to do so.
 - The Catholic Workers, who own the Dan Corcoran House at 802 West Broadway, were looking to pass on the house to an entity with a similar purpose. Of the three applicants, Grace Place was chosen to receive the house.
 - The house will be used as a transitional house for women and children who don’t have a place to go.
 - GP purchased the home at the beginning of the year and have invited community members/groups to help remodel the rooms, including sponsorships of rooms.
 - In addition to individual help and donations, they have also received donations from Pleasant Valley and donated labor from tradespeople.
 - They are currently working on remodeling the bathrooms and kitchen.
 - The shelter will bridge the gap between homelessness and permanent housing.
 - Residents will be connected with GP, including mentoring, and other agencies.
 - The house will be operated under a boarding and lodging license, which doesn’t require live-in staff. However, GP intends to have paid and volunteer staff on-site.
 - The house is large enough for 9 individuals, one of which is a staff person.
 - Families will be allowed to stay for up to 1 year, to allow them time to obtain permanent housing.
 - GP will support people to get volunteer work or a job or to attend school to advance them to a living wage.
 - Services will include social, emotional and spiritual services as well as daily living skills, such as budgeting.
 - GP had hoped to open Transitional Shelter by the end of the year, but it will probably be delayed until the Spring of 2021.

C. COVID Updates-Ken Fritz: COVID CARES funding is available from multiple sources for both individuals and businesses. Winona Volunteer Services, SEMCAC, SEMMCHRA, WRAP and Winona County Community Services are distributing funding for individuals. The Winona Chamber of Commerce and SEMMCHRA have offered business grants. The funding must be used by the end of November. See the following link for more information about available funding:

<http://www.winonapost.com/Article/ArticleID/70402/Businesses-families-get-boost-from-CARES-Act-funds>

- D. Update on New Jail: The Jail Design & Construction Committee is continuing with the planning process, while a subcommittee of that group is discussing the programming (space) needs. Several tours of other jails have been or will be completed and schematic designs are being reviewed. Karin's office is working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation on the acquisition of the land located next to the current Law Enforcement Center.

5) **Committee Reports:**

- A. Community Outreach & Diversity Committee-Karin Sonneman: The committee is working on a virtual education event about the criminal justice system, with a target delivery date of January of 2021. The event will include video clips from CJCC members describing who they are, what they do and how it relates to the criminal justice system.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2020 at noon via Zoom

- B. Jail & Jail Alternatives Committee-Justin Green: The majority of the meeting was spent listening to an overview of the Redemption Project, which was created by an former federal inmate to help people in prison find and obtain meaningful employment upon release. Although the program is currently operating in the Minnesota federal system, there are plans to expand it to state prisons and county jails; however, this may be several years down the road. For more information, visit www.redemptionproject.org.

Next Meeting: October 28, 2020 at noon via Zoom

- C. Juvenile Justice-Rebecca Church: Dr. Leah Morken gave a presentation on strategies to support distance learning. She is available to give this presentation to any groups who are interested. Her presentation and contact information is included in the attachment to the minutes. The Family Dependency Treatment Workgroup continues to make great progress on developing the program. Karen Sanness authorized a grant request which was submitted to the Otto Bremer Foundation. Obtaining funding is the next major hurdle to implementation. The committee continues to advocate for the need for having some juvenile beds in the new jail.

Next Meeting: November 19, 2020 at noon via Zoom

- D. Courts Committee-Karin Sonneman/Carin Hyter: A workgroup of the committee is developing expungement and eviction diversion clinics. Treatment Court has 8 participants, with two expected to join shortly. A recent treatment court graduate was featured in the Winona Daily News and assisted Grace Place with a fundraiser. The State Treatment Court Coordinator Meeting was held in September. Coordinators have been told to expect budget shortfalls in the next biennial budget. Winona was able to use some of its current budget cycle's funding to prepurchase supplies. A new statewide case

management software program is being rolled out this month. The alumni aftercare and criminal thinking groups are meeting outdoors and going well. Veteran's Treatment Court celebrated its first graduations on September 11th.

Next meeting: October 15, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. via Zoom

- E. Crime Prevention/ASAP-Travis Volkman: ASAP has applied for grant funding for a second five year period, but will not find out if it was funded until December 31st. Therefore, coalition members are developing sustainability plans. Autumn will be leaving ASAP in December to return to her hometown. On October 10th, ASAP will be hosting a Carpool Cinema and on October 24th, a Drug Take Back Event. Karin noted that CJCC had a separate Crime Prevention Committee prior to ASAP's creation five years ago. She and Travis have been in discussions to transition back to a separate committee.

Next Meeting: October 19, 2020 to be determined

- F. Other:
- a. Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center is hosting three free webinars on October 22 and 29 and November 5th. The link is available on the HVMHC website at: <https://www.hvmhc.org/free-webinars/>
 - b. SEMCIL is sponsoring an in-person driver's test at the WKM Building on November 4th. Please contact Laura Madsen for more information.
 - c. Advocacy Center of Winona is hosting a mural viewing of a ceramic mural that was completed by survivors and that will be installed by indigenous artist, Natchez. Time slots must be reserved due to social distancing requirements. Crystal Hegge posted the link to sign-up in the chat; reservations can also be made by calling the Advocacy Center of Winona.
 - d. Winona County and the City are collaborating on establishing an early voting center at the County Office Building which will be open from October 27th through November 2nd.
 - e. Winona County has been chosen as one of five outstate COVID testing spots. The site will be located in the Winona Mall and will be available 5-6 days per week. It is expected to be operational by next week.

Adjourn: 1:03 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 4, 2020 at noon via Zoom