

**MINUTES**  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**JANUARY 6, 2021**  
**VIA ZOOM MEETING**

**Members Present:** Karin Sonneman (Winona County Attorney), Marie Kovecsi (County Commissioner); Travis Volkman (Goodview Police Dept.); Karen Sanness (Community Services Director); Mike Kuehn (Assistant Public Defender); Becky Brandt (Court Administrator); Fatima Said (Project FINE); Angela Lallemond (Winona County Bar Association); The Honorable Nancy Buytendorp (District Court Judge); Ken Fritz (County Administrator); Annette Freiheit (Superintendent, Winona Area Public Schools); Justin Green (Public Member); Rená Patterson (Department of Corrections); Judy Gilow (Public Member); Matt Robertson (Assistant Winona City Attorney).

**Members Absent:** Ron Ganrude (Winona County Sheriff); Steve Buswell (Winona County Jail Administrator); Gwen Carman (Superintendent, Lewiston-Altura School District); Michelle Alexander (Winona City Councilperson); Lonnie Roloff (Goodview Police Chief); Tom Williams (City of Winona Police Chief); The Honorable Nancy Buytendorp (District Court Judge).

**Guests Present:** Kalene Engel (CJCC Executive Director); Chris Meyer (Winona County Commissioner); Carin Hyter (Treatment Court of Winona County); Rebecca Church (Assistant Winona County Attorney); Laura Madsen and Amy Sixty (SEMCIL); Meg Mitchell (3<sup>rd</sup> District Public Defender's Office); Trish Chandler (Jail Intake Worker); Emma Severson (Advocacy Center of Winona); Eric Engrav & Jay Rasmussen (City of Winona Police Department-Proxy for Tom Williams); Naomi Morris (Financial Supervisor, Winona County Health & Human Services); Jayston Seeling (Community Member); Claire Richards (Community Member); Dave Glithero (Winona County Sheriff's Dept – Proxy for Ron Ganrude).

.Minutes by Kalene Engel

- 1) **Call to Order:** Karin Sonneman called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.
- 2) **Review/Revise/Approve Agenda for January 6, 2021:** Agenda was approved by consensus
- 3) **Review/Revise/Approve Draft Minutes from December 2, 2020:** Approved with following revision: add Meg Mitchell to list of attendees. (Post-meeting note: Ms. Mitchell was listed as an attendee under Guests).
- 4) **Information/Action Items:**
  - A. Presentation on Public Assistance Programs (Naomi Morris): Naomi Morris provided an overview of the Minnesota public assistance programs administered by her office, as follows:
    - The majority of the programs are federally funded, with some assistance from the state.

- All recipients must be residents of the State of Minnesota.
- Each program has a very unique set of rules and requirements and there are multiple programs and systems that staff must use.
- Staff members must pass background checks and go through rigorous training.
- Many factors must be considered when determining benefits; therefore, comparing benefits based upon only one or two criteria (i.e. number of children in household) is not a reasonable comparison.
- The five basic areas of assistance are health care, long-term care/waivered services, child care, cash & food support, burial assistance and emergency assistance, each of which is briefly described below:
  - Health Care/Waivered Programs: Healthcare programs include Medicaid (Medical Assistance) and Minnesota Care/MNSURE and is available to families, adults without children and persons with disabilities. A person must be aged or disabled to qualify for waived services, which are services designed to keep people in their homes longer and out of nursing homes.
  - Child Care Assistance: This benefit provides funding to assist with childcare costs while a person is working, looking for work, going to work or participating in job development activities. The biggest challenge with this program is the lack of daycare providers willing to accept childcare assistance.
  - Cash Assistance and Food Support (SNAP): The primary cash assistance program for families is MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program). This program is intended to help parents meet basic needs while they move to stability and self-sufficiency. Clients receiving MFIP must work with Career Force for job counseling and are limited to a total of 60 months of assistance in a lifetime. Other benefits include DWP (short-term benefit); General assistance (temporary interim aid for individuals) and Minnesota Supplemental Assistance (to supplement SSI benefits). Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides funding for food (or seeds and plants to grow food) and comes on an EBT card.
  - Burial Assistance: This benefit is 100% county-funded and intended to provide a respectful burial for people who die without any apparent means to provide for their final disposition.
  - Emergency Assistance: This benefit is intended to assist people in a crisis, such as those facing an eviction or utility shutoff. The county works with other community partners such as SEMCAC and Volunteer Services to determine how to best assist the individual in crisis.
- Fraud investigations in this area are done by Nate Barker from Wabasha County under a contract with the Minnesota Department of Health & Human Services.

- B. COVID Updates: *Karen Sanness*-The Minnesota Department of Health & Human Services has set up a tiered system for delivering the COVID vaccine and the county is following that processes. Healthcare workers, long-term care facility residents and first responders are in Tier 1 and are currently being vaccinated. The City and County of Winona are working on doing a vaccine press conference. *Annette Freiheit*-Winona Area Public Schools will be doing a slow transition to in person learning, starting with grades 1-2 and 5 in January and grades 2-4 and hybrid 6-12 in the third quarter. *Ken Fritz*-The State of Minnesota distributed just short of 1 million to businesses for COVID relief. Winona County is working with the Winona Chamber of Commerce to distribute the funds. Funding is also available for non-profits.
  
  - C. Update on New Jail-Ken Fritz: The County Board authorized the jail design and construction committee to move forward with detailed design and development for an 80 bed (56 cell) facility. Several configurations will be reviewed to determine the best one for Winona County's purposes. The tentative plan is to break ground sometime in August.
  
  - D. CJCC Member Survey-Kalene Engel: The results of the CJCC member survey were included in the meeting packet. Thanks to those individuals who took time to complete the survey. Kalene suggested that the CJCC Executive Committee meet to discuss the survey results and next steps. There was no objection to this proposal, so Kalene will set up a Zoom meeting.
  
  - E. WRAP+ Update-Kalene Engel: Implementation of the new grant is going very well. Five implementation committees have been created and each has met at least once. A "Mental Health for Law Enforcement" will take place later this month. Job postings for the two positions created by the grant (Jail Social Worker and Community Connector) should soon be available.
  
  - F. SIM Mapping-Kalene Engel: One of the WRAP+ grant activities is to complete a new Sequential Intercept Map (as an update to the 2016 map). Winona County was selected to receive SIM Workshop Assistance from SAMHSA for the 2021 SIM Map. Kalene is compiling the pre-workshop information requested by SAMHSA, including a preliminary inventory of community assets and an invite list for the workshop. Persons interested in participating in the workshop should contact Kalene.
- 5) **Committee Reports**: Due to limited time, the committee reports were abbreviated.
- A. Juvenile Justice Committee – Kalene Engel for Rebecca Church: The committee did not meet in December; however, a survey was distributed to members for completion. The survey is intended to obtain input on the future direction for the committee. A grant application to establish a Family Dependency Treatment Court was submitted to the Office of Justice Programs. Funding decisions are expected to be announced by the end of January.

**Next Meeting: January 21, 2021 at noon via Zoom**

- B. Courts Committee – Karin Sonneman for Judge Nancy Buytendorp: The State Attorney General’s Expungement Program allows individuals seeking expungement to complete an on-line form, which allows their case to be reviewed by a member of the AG’s staff. Some of the bigger counties have links on the website directly to their County Attorney’s office, so that expungement cases can be handled more quickly and by local prosecutors. Winona County is seeking to have a “click through button” placed on the page, so individuals seeking expungement will get local, faster service. Court Administration is working with prosecutors, defense attorneys and the judges to set up settlement conference days in mid-February. These settlement conferences are geared towards clearing up cases for individuals for multiple files and are modeled after similar conferences that took place in December which were highly successful at resolving cases.

**Next Meeting: January 21, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. via Zoom**

- C. Crime Prevention (ASAP)-Travis Volkman: The Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention was selected for an additional five -year period of funding and is in the process of evaluating next steps. The Crime Prevention Committee will start meeting again as a separate group to look at crime prevention strategies.

**Next Meeting: To be determined**

- D. Community Outreach & Diversity Committee-Karin Sonneman: The main focus of the committee is the creation of a virtual tour of the justice system. Several members/guests have created videos, which are posted on the CJCC website. Members/guests who have not yet completed a video are encouraged to do so soon.

**Next Meeting: January 20, 2021 at noon via Zoom**

- E. Jail and Jail Alternatives Committee-Justin Green: Committee members discussed the new jail, WRAP+ and the Sequential Intercept Mapping, all of which have been previously discussed in this meeting.

**Next Meeting: January 27, 2021**

- 6) **Other:** Project FINE’s Annual Report to the Community will be held on February 16, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Adjourn:** 1:18 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 3, 2021 at noon via Zoom