

Wood County Criminal Justice Task Force Minutes

September 19, 2018

Present: Caitlin Saylor, Dept of Corrections; Jessica Meza, Dept of Corrections; Cindy Joosten, Clerk of Courts; Jackie Arnold, Clerk of Courts; Emily Nolan Plutchak, Public Defender; Craig Lambert, District Attorney; Bill Clendenning, Wood County Board; Dennis Polach, Wood County Board; Greg Potter, Branch 1; Todd Wolf, Branch 3; James Wunrow, Wood County Jail; Ted Ashbeck, Wood County Jail; Dan Schroeder, Dept of Corrections; Rick Gramza, Marshfield PD.

Minute Approvals: Judge Potter called meeting to order. No additions or corrections to 6/20/18 Task Force Minutes. Minutes are approved.

Public Comment: None.

Additions to Agenda: None.

Final Pre-Trials: Judge Potter notes that Probation & Parole is at Courthouse on Fridays for Final Pre-Trials and it is working well. Caitlyn asks that attorneys direct defendants to the Probation & Parole table.

Scheduling Conflicts for Prelims & Pleas: Craig Lambert states that Leigh Neville-Neil will be absent for a year on military duty. He can't get a replacement for her until her military orders come through. Chimere Nwankwo has accepted a new position in Madison and his last day is September 29th. His job is currently posted. Craig is hoping to hire a replacement by the end of October. Emily states that Michael Scarantino will now be working in Portage County. Gavin Grubofski is a new Public Defender for this county. Jim Wunrow states that it is helpful for jail personnel that attorneys see their clients in jail instead of meeting them in court.

Restorative Justice: Currently, nothing is happening. Judge Wolf questions funds that are currently in the account. Judge Potter questions what stage the hiring of a coordinator is currently at. Wolf says that it will need to be started from scratch and feels a sub-committee should be formed to look into it. Everyone agrees that a sub-committee should be set up. Committee will consist of District Attorney, law enforcement, County Board, Public Defender and Judges. Judge Wolf or Judge Brazeau will be chair of the committee. A meeting will be set.

Drug Court: Judge Wolf states that a report was sent with agenda. Drug court is having many graduations. The waiting list is keeping with maximum capacity. The TAD grant application needs to include this oversight committee supports Drug Court. Emily has a previous letter and will forward it to Judge Wolf.

Round Table: Judge Wolf raises issue with scheduling court dates and officer's schedule. Craig states that issue may arise from file still being with attorney in Court and not knowing what motion is being schedule, so not sure which officer to subpoena. Judge Potter says that all ADA's should be able to cover each other's cases, as well as support staff. Craig then brings up issue of all branches are scheduling cases on Final Pre-Trial days and the attorney needs to be in the duty branch doing the pre-trials.

Kate Frigo Drury had her baby. Gavin Grubofski is now working in Wood County as Public Defender. Public Defender is trying to get attorneys from outside the area to take public defender appointed cases.

New Family Court Commissioner, Richard Weymouth, will be starting on October 15th. Additional duties may be added to his workload, such as intake traffic and ordinances. Final Pre-Trials will be done by Judges at same time. Court commissioner is not able to do pleas on criminal cases, so they will be handled by the duty judge. Court commissioner may also be doing stipulated divorces.

Judge Wolf offers Marshfield PD to appear by video to do traffic intake. Rick Gramza addresses an issue regarding video. They are able to call the Court, but they cannot answer a call coming in. Judge Potter states that the officers should call the judicial assistant and they will transfer the call to the courtroom.

Probation & Parole states that Adam is out of the office until November. They are experiencing some agent turnover.

Rick Gramza states that Marshfield PD officers that are on light duty will be testifying in Court for officers that are not available. Judge Wolf states that he would at least like an officer involved in the incident testifying. Judge Potter states that he is okay with the officer reading the report and then testifying.

Jim Wunrow and Ted Ashbeck address that when defendants are given conditional jail time on a charge and are currently serving a prison sentence, they are not allowed to serve that time in prison. They need to come back to Wood County to serve that sentence. On unpaid fine warrants, if warrant can include fine amount or equivalent jail time, it can be served in prison after prison sentence is served. Judge Wolf suggests that hearing be done by phone before release and then they won't need to be transported back to Wood County. Those telephone hearings can be set with the duty judge. Judges will talk about it at the judge's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Submitted 10/22/18

Jackie Arnold
Deputy Clerk of Courts