

Wood County Criminal Justice Task Force Minutes December 18, 2019

Present: Andy Stublaski - Dept of Corrections; Cindy Joosten - Clerk of Courts; Bill Clendenning - Wood County Board; Todd Wolf - Branch 3; Michelle Newman - Victim Witness; Kate Drury - Public Defender's Office; Melvin Pedersen - Grand Rapids PD, Brent Vruwink - Child Support, Lori Heideman – Dispatch; Ted Ashbeck – Wood County Jail; James Wunrow – Wood County Jail; Laura Clark – Clerk of Courts

Minute Approvals: Judge Wolf called meeting to order at 12:05 PM. No additions or corrections to 9/18/19 Task Force Minutes. Minutes are approved.

Public Comment: None.

Additions to Agenda: Judge Wolf asked that the Jail Study be put on the agenda so the committee can get regular updates.

Restorative Justice: Bill Clendenning states that county board has approved the Criminal Justice Coordinator position for Wood County, with a start date of July 1st. He stated the subcommittee for the Criminal Justice Coordinator have met three times and plan to schedule tours of other municipalities that have a Criminal Justice Coordinator.

Drug Court: Judge Wolf states the numbers are way down. Working on getting back to 35 participants. There has been a lot of terminations recently. He explained the group he has now is a harder group than the last one, being there are two terminations to every one graduate. 2018 was a good year for drug court, but 2019 has proved to be a struggle to keep numbers. Judge Wolf explained he will be starting a 5 phase plan, instead of the 4 phase plan he currently uses. This will allow for setbacks. There will be more home visits by law enforcement. It will give a better opportunity for participants in the program. The State says the 5 phase program is better, as it keeps the participants more positive.

Round Table:

Cindy Joosten – Clerk of Court – Will contact CCAP to determine if there is a way for the program to show a person has DNA on file.

Mel Pedersen – Grand Rapids PD – Asked about the SMART recovery program requirements provided by the Wood County Jail. Ted Ashbeck, as well as James Wunrow, explained the program, which started in October 2019. They work with Three Bridges Recovery. They explained the program seems to be doing well.

Michelle Newman – Victim Witness – Michelle explained the Victim Witness Office will be moving to the current 2nd Floor County Board Chairman's office (formally the Finance Dept) by February 1, 2020. She discussed the new procedure for when alleged victims wish to have a contact provision on a bond lifted on domestic abuse cases. She is looking at a February start date. She was asked to email Dispatch, Jail, and the Public Defenders office once the procedure is finalized.

Ted Ashbeck/James Wunrow – Wood County Jail – Ted explained it's very difficult to keep victims separated from defendants in the jail on domestic incidents as the jail is only given initials for victims. It would be great if they could get full names.

Kate Drury – Public Defender's Office – Kate stated their secretary Lisa resigned and they have hired a new person named Brenda. They are looking at how the secretary work is handled and may make adjustments. If you need to contact the Public Defender's Office use the general email address. Kate explained she was recently promoted to Regional Attorney Manager. She will be serving Marathon, Merrill, and Rhinelander areas. She explained they are having a hard time getting attorney's to take court appointed cases at this time, as after the 1st of the year the rate goes up so nobody wants to take case now as they would be paid the lower rate for the duration of the case. When the order of appointment is filed, the rate starts. They are working on trying to get Laura Tritt to have at least one office day per week, as now she has no office time and she is running constantly between courthouses.

Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Submitted 12-19-19

Laura Clark
Chief Deputy Clerk of Courts