PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING BOARD

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wisconsin Statutes, a regular meeting of the Brown County **Criminal Justice Coordinating Board** was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 in the Karen H. Dorau Memorial Conference Room, Law Enforcement Center, 300 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Members Present:	Chair Judge Tammy Jo Hock	Public Safety Cmte. Chair Andy Nicholson
	Jail Administrator Heidi Michel	Deputy Executive Jeff Flynt
	Probation and Parole Rep. Aaron Sabel	Public Defender Rep. Brad Schraven
	Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest	Citizen Representative Tim Mc Nulty
	District Attorney Rep. Caleb Saunders	HHS Executive Director Erik Pritzl
	Green Bay Police Commander Kevin Warych	CJS Manager Mark Vanden Hoogen
Others Present:	Judge Thomas Walsh	Senator Jamie Wall
	Public Defender Atty. Manager Carrie La Plant	CJS Supervisor Laura Hettmann
	Family Services Rep. Angela Stueck	Green Bay Police Lt. Jena Luberda

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judge Tammy Jo Hock at 12:00 pm

2. Introductions.

Those present introduced themselves at this time.

3. Approve/modify agenda.

Motion made by Andy Nicholson, seconded by Erik Pritzl to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve/modify minutes of November 12, 2024.

Motion made by Mark Vanden Hoogen, seconded by Aaron Sabel to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Jail population numbers (Sheriff).

Jail Administrator Heidi Michel informed the jail is currently at 96% capacity and there are 131 people on the EMP program. Additionally, there are 54 inmates shipped out to five different counties. Public Safety Committee Chair Andy Nicholson asked if ICE has visited the jail. Michel responded they have not and she explained that every person who comes into the jail is asked where they were born. ICE gets a copy of the roster of those who are foreign born and if they have concerns, they will interview individuals. Nicholson also asked if the Brown County Sheriff's Department has identified any illegals in the jail. Michel responded that the jail does not know if someone is here illegally; ICE would have to determine that.

6. Report of Mark Vanden Hoogen re: Criminal Justice Services.

Criminal Justice Services Manager Mark Vanden Hoogen informed the grant has been submitted for the Domestic Violence Docket Program. He also noted a site visit was done to Rockford, Illinois to see how their program works, the services they offer and how they work with alleged perpetrators of crimes and the victims. It was eye opening to see what they offer and some of the ideas will be looked at here to enhance services. Criminal Justice Services Supervisor Laura Hettmann provided a handout, a copy of

which is attached, that gives a high level synopsis of what has been going on and provides more information on the program.

Vanden Hoogen also provided some numbers regarding the report center and noted that NCA (no new criminal activity) is at 81.2, FTA (failure to appear) is at 88.2 and the number of PSAs done this year is 2,909. The NCA and FTA would raise the cumulative levels. Vanden Hoogen continued that they have been doing some planning for the NFL Draft so they are prepared for an increase in criminal activity.

The TAD Grant for the treatment courts has been submitted and approved and they are in the fourth year. They have hired a Clinical Social Worker who will focus on the Young Adult Court, Drug Court and Heroin Court.

Vanden Hoogen continued that two treatment court participants recently did some CIT training where they presented their back story, their history with law enforcement and what progress they have made. Feedback to this was very positive and he added there are a lot of good things that happen in treatment courts outside of court operations.

Health and Human Services Director Erik Pritzl asked that the Integrated Domestic Violence Docket be included on the next agenda for further discussion. He also referred to the chart comparing treatment courts to the specialized docket in the handout. One of the questions that keeps coming up is reduced sentences and how offenders are treated and Pritzl noted the treatment courts work very differently than this docket in that the docket does not take this into consideration and it is not part of the plan.

7. Report from the State Public Defender's Office regarding appointment of criminal defense attorneys.

Public Defender Regional Attorney Manager Bradley Schraven informed 600 appointments have been made through the office since January and that is approximately two-thirds of the people normally waiting. They continue to prioritize people in custody based on when they are added to the list. There are obviously caveats to that such as conflict cases. The biggest problem is cases with multiple co-defendants. Schraven noted that internally all attorneys are exceeding their caseloads which results in some appointments taking a little longer and they continue to work on this. If there are cases that judges put special attention on, Schraven's office also tries to put special attention on those. The goal is always to appointment those who are in custody the longest. Most attorneys are taking higher level felonies but they try to balance everything.

Judge Hock noted one of the complaints she has heard from attorneys is that the list is overwhelming and they do not have time to keep going over the list so some of them are taking cases in other counties because the lists are shorter and easier to navigate. She asked if there is a way to communicate to the attorneys in a more user-friendly manner to encourage the attorneys in Brown County to take Brown County cases instead of cases from other counties. Schraven responded he can talk to staff members who manage this to see if there is a different way to do things to make it less challenging. He added that attorneys get e-mails about taking cases from outside the area. He does not think the amount attorneys get paid for travel makes taking cases outside the area the most financially sound decision, unless they are taking multiple cases.

Judge Hock said it seems like when attorneys are asked to take a specific case, they do consider them. She noted the SPD Office used to specifically contact attorneys and ask them to take cases, but this has seemed to have changed and the list is getting longer. She questioned if asking attorneys specifically may help. Schraven responded they do that sometimes and they try to get outside attorneys to take conflict cases. He feels most attorneys prefer to be contacted via e-mail, but he understands the list can be overwhelming as well.

The current wait list in Brown County is constantly changing and it depends on conflict and non-conflict cases and it is currently at about 600 . Schraven noted about two-thirds of those cases are conflict cases. Local Attorney Manager Carrie La Plant added that the 600 cases are cases, not necessarily clients and it was noted that a lot of people on the list have multiple cases.

Judge Hock talked about a nationwide movement to look at conflict offices and to encourage more people to go to law school. She asked if there were any suggestions of things this Board can help with to make the process better. Schraven responded that he did not think there was a ton that can be done and noted most offices are not fully staffed with attorneys. The last several years there have been a number of paid internships for law students to have opportunities to learn what it is like to be public defenders.

Schraven continued that the biggest issue he hears from attorneys is the ability to appear remotely, especially for travel purposes for court as well as getting ahold of clients in jail. To his knowledge, there is not an issue with appearing virtually in Brown County but there are some jails that do not let attorneys call in.

Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest commented that he looked at the pending list in December and there were at least 40 defendants that were waiting for attorneys for over nine months. He has heard from staff that they keep coming back to court every few months for status and it is always that they do not have an attorney. He asked if there is a way to get those older cases appointed as some are waiting nine to 12 months. Schraven said they continue to reach out to local attorneys to take cases and they prioritize the oldest cases and in custody cases.

Judge Hock added that she has noticed when defense attorneys find out someone has been in custody for a very long time, they often do whatever they can to take the case. La Plant noted that calls are made, but it is also helpful when judges ask attorneys to take cases. Judge Hock replied that that is an awkward situation as attorneys should still feel that they can say no. La Plant acknowledged it is a tough situation, but they are doing everything they can.

8. Future Agenda Items, if any.

Judge Hock informed she will include the Brown County Integrated Domestic Violence Docket on the next agenda.

Judge Hock also informed that Robert Srenaski has tendered his resignation to the Board after serving eight years as a Citizen Representative. Deputy Executive Jeff Flynt wished to thank Srenaski for his years of service and noted that County Executive Troy Streckenbach intends to appoint Angela Stueck to take Srenaski's place. Judge Hock also wished to recognize and thank Srenaski for all the years he has served on this Board.

9. Other such matters as authorized by law.

The next meeting date was scheduled for May 13, 2025 at noon.

10. Adjourn.

Motion made by Jeff Flynt, seconded by Mark Vanden Hoogen to adjourn at 12:45 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Legislative Specialist

Brown County Integrated Domestic Violence Docket (BCIDVD)

Introduction

The current court process can be complicated for families in Brown County affected by Domestic Violence. There can be multiple case types in multiple branches with multiple court dates and conflicting orders. This can be seen when looking at the cases filed throughout the last two years. In 2023 and 2024 there were a total of 1,244 criminal Domestic Violence cases filed in Brown County. Of those cases, 233 also had concurrent family cases, 192 had associated restraining orders, and 62 had multiple case types (criminal, family, and restraining order). The Brown County Integrated Domestic Violence Docket was designed to ensure victim safety, offender accountability, informed judicial decision-making, and increased court efficiency through consistent case coordination, increased offender monitoring, strong community collaboration, and the implementation of evidence-based practices.

Implementation

Phase I

Through collaboration with the Brown County Clerk of Courts Office, the District Court Administrator, and the State of Wisconsin Office of Court Operations, a process has been identified for routing any associated family/divorce cases, as well as any Domestic Violence or Child Abuse-related injunctions to accompany the criminal Domestic Violence cases as appropriate. Beginning 6/1/25, all Domestic Violence-related court cases involving one family unit will appear in front of one of two, specially trained, Circuit Court judges. The process will be initiated when a criminal Domestic Violence case enters the system. The clerks will assign all Domestic Violence cases to either Branch II or Branch V. A Mentor Court (Winnebago County, IL), in collaboration with the State of Wisconsin Office of Court Operations, will be conducting and coordinating specialized training for the judges, as well as other court staff, to educate on the dynamics of Domestic Violence cases in an effort to create a more trauma-informed process.

Phase II

A grant application was submitted for the OVW Fiscal Year 2025 Justice For Families Program. The grant award may be up to $600,000 over 3 years. In the application, a request was made for funding to support the addition of a BCIDVD Case Manager to help coordinate case information and services for victims and offenders, as well as funding for a Victim Advocate to be located in the Brown County Courthouse. The Case Manager will review the docket daily and collaborate with local law enforcement, the DOC, Victim Advocates and Victim Service Providers, treatment providers, and the Clerk of Courts Office to provide timely case updates to the judges, thus allowing them the ability to have more informed decision-making. Award notifications are scheduled to occur after 10/01/25.

Key Partners & Support

Key partners in the development of the BCIDVD include Judges Thomas Walsh and Marc Hammer of the Brown County Circuit Courts, District Attorney David Lasee, Attorney Carrie LaPlant of the Office of the State Public Defender, Mark VandenHoogen and Laura Hettmann of Brown County Health and Human Services-Criminal Justice Services, Victim/Witness Coordinator Erika Franken of the Brown County District Attorney's Office, Golden House, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, District Court Administrator Tom Schappa, and Attorney Kelsey Mullins of the State of Wisconsin Office of Court Operations. Brown County Sheriff's Office-Courthouse Security has also been supportive in developing processes designed to meet victim-safety needs in the Brown County Courthouse. The Brown County Clerk of Courts office has been involved in the identification of cases and development of processes that will allow the implementation of the BCIDVD occur. Additionally, the BCIDVD has the support of the Brown County Coordinated Community Response Team, which includes representatives of the Green Bay Police Department, Family Services, local hospitals, and local school districts.

Expected Benefits

The BCIDVD will streamline cases to create system efficiencies in the handling of cases, leading to faster time to disposition, less court appearances, expedited responses to bond and probation violations, and uniformity in orders. This program will impact victims by providing increased safety in the courthouse/courtroom, decreasing the frequency of court appearances, and coordinating with victim advocacy services to create a safer and more trauma-informed approach to serving victims of Domestic Violence. This program will impact offenders by improving the consistency with which associated cases are handled and ensuring Domestic Violence offenders follow through with court orders, including attendance and participation in necessary treatment services.

Comparison of Treatment Court and Specialized Docket

The table below outlines the comparison of a Treatment Court Program and a Specialized Docket.

Treatment Court vs. Specialized Docket		
	Treatment Court	Docket
Consent to Participate	☑	☐
Weekly Status Conferences	☑	☐
Case Management	☑	☑
Treatment	☑	☑
Coordinated Cases	☐	☑
Multidisciplinary Team	☑	☐
Post-Sentencing	☑	☑
Pre-Sentencing	☐	☑
Reduced Sentence	☑	☐
Services to Victims	☐	☑
Increased Accountability	☑	☑
Informed Judicial Decision-Making	☑	☑
Consistency	☑	☑
Specialized	☑	☑
Requires Little Funding	☐	☑
Efficient	☑	☑