

**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 May 10, 2018 at 8:00 am at the Brown County District Attorney's Office, 300 East Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**Present:** Chair Judge Walsh, Lt. John Mitchell, Supervisor Joan Brusky, Supervisor Pat Evans, Citizen Representative Bob Srenaski, Citizen Representative Tim Mc Nulty, Family Services Representative Angela Stueck, Health and Human Services Director Erik Pritzl, Citizen Representative Christopher Zahn, Treatment Court Supervisor Mark Vanden Hoogen, Probation and Parole Representative Jennifer Hornacek, Public Defender Representative Tara Teesch, Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest, County Executive Troy Streckenbach, District Attorney David Lasee.

**Excused:** District Court Administrator Tom Schappa, Judge Zuidmulder

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**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Judge Walsh at 8:00 am.

**2. Approve/modify agenda.**

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Mark Vanden Hoogen to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. Approve/modify minutes of March 8, 2018.**

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Bob Srenaski to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Jail population numbers (Lt. John Mitchell).**

Lt. Mitchell reported the jail is currently at 92% capacity with 32 adult inmates and 4 juveniles being shipped out. Currently the only place with open space is the reception area which is not approved for long term housing and it is likely that they will need to ship inmates again in the next few days. There are also some areas where inmates are sleeping on the floor due to lack of space because of the male/female ratio.

Supervisor Evans indicated he had heard at the state of the city address that crime has decreased in Green Bay and asked for an explanation given the numbers in the jail. Lt. Mitchell said people are staying in jail longer and just because a crime rate exists does not mean the crimes are resolved with an arrest. District Attorney David Lasee added that crime rates are done by the UCR and the UCR uses a reporting system that does not catch things like child pornography. Lt. Mitchell said caution must be used when you link jail population and crime rates together because it is much more complicated than just numbers.

**5. Communication protocol between committee members (Judge Walsh).**

Judge Walsh said going forward anyone who has something they would like e-mailed out to the committee should send it to the County Board Office who will then run the items through Judge Walsh before being sent out to the entire committee.

Evans asked who this Board reports to and it was indicated that it reports to the Public Safety Committee. County Executive Troy Streckenbach noted this Board is created by State Statutes. Evans said Judge Walsh is doing a great job with this group, but suggested an item be added to the next agenda for election of Chair and Vice Chair. Streckenbach said the Judge is Chair due to the fact the Board is created by State Statutes but noted that the current Chair can decide how the Board is to run.

Citizen Representative Bob Srenaski asked if there is a document that clarifies the mission of this group and he was advised to refer to the State Statutes.

**6. Next steps on Criminal Justice Department recommendation. County committee presentations.**

Treatment Court Supervisor Mark Vanden Hoogen said he has spoken with Erik Hoyer, Chair of the Human Services Committee who indicated he will discuss a mutually convenient date for a joint meeting of the Human Services Committee and Public Safety Committee with Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Pat Buckley. The concept of the Criminal Justice Department will be presented at this joint meeting and Vanden Hoogen will keep this group advised, but it is anticipated that a joint meeting will be scheduled towards the end of the month.

Streckenbach asked if it is at the point where a model has been selected. Vanden Hoogen responded that the model will be the same as Outagamie County's model. Streckenbach said depending on when a joint meeting is held, this may be something that will not be put into action until the budget.

Evans said he appreciates the work put into coming up with a new model, but after doing some research and talking to some people, including Family Services, he has come to the conclusion that our current model is sufficient. In his opinion, communication between the entities is the biggest problem and he will go on record at this time saying he will not be in support of changing what we have right now.

Judge Walsh asked for thoughts on bringing Bernie Vetrone in from Outagamie County to talk about their model when this is presented to the Committees. Both Srenaski and Brusky felt it would be a good idea to have him present to answer any questions.

**7. Criminal Justice System Efficiency Improvement Work Group (Supervisor Brusky, Bob Srenaski).**

Brusky recalled that this Board approved the formation of the Criminal Justice System Efficiency Improvement Work Group in March. In February a communication was put in at the County Board regarding the formation of the work group, but due to circumstances beyond her control, there was not approval of this until the Public Safety Committee meeting held last week. It is Brusky's understanding that this is now approved and work can begin. In anticipation of this, Brusky and Srenaski had conference calls with two professors as well as an in-person meeting with one of them regarding using interns from UWGB's data science Master's program. These meetings were very productive and positive regarding cooperation between the data science program and Brown County.

Srenaski said in terms of progress, they have been told by the Public Safety Committee that by their approval of the minutes of the last meeting, they approved the project. That having been said, if their minutes are approved by the County Board, the project is approved by them. He said they did not want to get ahead of themselves by recruiting people for a project that may not come to fruition. It is also their belief that if the Public Safety Department is created, this work group would probably be best situated within the jurisdiction of that. However, because this is a data processing and data creation project to a large extent, they met with professors as mentioned by Brusky but when this item is passed, it is anticipated they will need additional resources and expertise and this was discussed with the professors they spoke with. The Master's program these professors are running includes a capstone part which is equivalent to a thesis in which the candidate takes on a case-specific project of something that has not been done before and the professors seem very enthusiastic about incorporating this into their curriculum and indicated they would be able to provide resources and expertise to assist with this. Srenaski and Brusky were also informed that the grant writer at the university will be made available to write grants if need be. He noted that no commitments have been made for any of this as they are waiting for final approval from the County Board.

**8. Digital County (County Executive Troy Streckenbach or Judge Walsh).**

Streckenbach said the intent behind the digital county initiative is to look at data and digital disruption. From a criminal justice standpoint there are different symposiums, including one on July 20 in Cedarburg, that will be looking at the jail operations in terms of how to use digital or AI block chain to better manage our system. He is not sure if this Board technically has expertise on this, but there are components such as the Jail Captain, the DA, Clerk of Courts and Human Services and others who have interaction with the jail system and criminal justice system who can potentially play the role of an expert at the table talking about how the current system is operating. There are also technical experts that can create solutions and efficiencies and better mining of data to better serve the system. The idea is to have digital

disruption to solve some of the problems in County government. This is going on in other industries and change is happening at a rapid place. The initiative that we are behind is under a larger umbrella called advancing AI Wisconsin and the purpose is to bring awareness to disruptive technology and the positive aspect of it, not the negative side. Streckenbach wants Wisconsin to be part of the wave, not part of the wake and he thinks we have all the expertise to put County government in the same line as smart cities. When looking at County government as a whole, we look at highway, jail, human services and other mandated services and try to figure out where changes in technology can fit in. This is a conversation with technology experts to see what can potentially be changed. Streckenbach feels there is a lot of value in being part of this because we know the current system is not working. He said he will send information out for anyone who is interested to learn more.

*County Executive Troy Streckenbach was excused at 8:30 am.*

**9. Treatment Courts (Mark Vanden Hoogen, Judge Walsh, Judge Zuidmulder).**

Vanden Hoogen said there are currently 93 active participants in the treatment courts and 51 individuals in the diversion program. The OWI court has a case manager, team and judge and they are looking at starting the court in mid-July. Judge Walsh added that the Heroin Court is going well. He mentioned the graduations and said he can get notices to the members of this Board as to when there will be graduations so they can attend if they wish.

**10. New Treatment Court Grant Projects (Judge Walsh).**

Judge Walsh informed that the State has recently announced that they are offering some grants to set up more treatment courts, one of which would be a family treatment court focused on entry from the CHIPs system and the other would be a juvenile treatment court with entry from the delinquency process. These grants are rolling type where if best practices are being followed we could pretty much depend on the funds being there the next time around. Vanden Hoogen said he has had some preliminary discussions with Child Protection and Juvenile Justice to see if there is a need and both departments were very interested. The grants are for 5 years and are in the amount of \$200,000 - \$500,000 per year and there are 2 – 4 grants available. Priority for these grants will be given to organizations that have established and shown they are adhering to best practices so because Brown County has multiple treatment courts that follow best practices, Vanden Hoogen feels the County would have a good opportunity with regard to these. There is about 1 ½ - 2 months to get applications in and there would be a lot of work that goes into applying. The deadline to apply for the family court grant is June 23 and Vanden Hoogen believes the timeframe for the juvenile treatment court is similar.

Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest said he heard about this recently at a conference he attended and it sounded like some counties are operating these two concepts as one entity. He said it sounded like they are still trying to get things organized and get counties interested in the program. Sometimes when juveniles are involved there are parents who are already involved in the system and then the children are coming into the system at a very young age and this would be bringing groups together who work through some of those issues. There seemed to be positive response at the conference. Lt. Mitchell added that from his experience in running the juvenile detention center for a long time, a juvenile treatment court would be a good thing to explore and he feels this would definitely be something worth looking at.

Judge Walsh asked Health and Human Services Director Erik Pritzl for his input on this. Pritzl said both populations this would be aimed at seem to be increasing. Substance use issues have a significant impact on the numbers of removals of children as well as in-home safety services and trying to reunifying them. Those numbers have increased over the last five years and youth justice numbers are also up as are Shelter Care placements and secure detention placements. Pritzl feels adding these treatment courts would require additional staff but that would probably be supported by the grant.

Citizen Representative Tim Mc Nulty asked if there would be judicial support for this. Judge Walsh responded that this has not been discussed yet at a judges' meeting, but he indicated that he would like to run one of these courts in addition to the heroin treatment court.

Public Defender Representative Tara Teesch said the concept of addressing generational substance abuse issues is exciting and said that nipping those issues in the bud could make resources available for use for other programs. Teesch asked where the most bang for the buck would be with these courts and Vanden Hoogen responded that the best bang for the buck would be with the family court model because it would help with the whole family while the juvenile treatment court would help juveniles only. Lasee agreed and said the most this group could do is symbolically support the process and he also feels this would be a good thing to bring to the United Way, particularly the family court as United Way could possibly assist in the grant writing. He said that putting this all on the plate of Mark Vanden Hoogen is a lot and not necessarily something that is in his realm and falls more under the Human Services area.

**Motion made by David Lasee, seconded by Tara Teesch that the Criminal Justice Coordinating Board offer support for this project if Human Services is able to write the grant and, if only one grant can be written, that it is the grant for the Family Court. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11. Future Agenda Items, if any.**

Pritzl asked if there would be interest by this group in hearing about youth corrections and the changes that are occurring at the state level because this will affect Brown County. He said he can provide an overview on this and what is happening regionally and where the interest is in creating facilities. Judge Walsh said he will add this to the agenda for a future meeting.

Vander Leest said he learned of a program at the juvenile conference he attended that is similar to the DARE program formerly offered by the County. The program Walworth County is using includes education regarding prevention as well as consequences. Since juvenile crime continues to be a major problem he felt this is something that could also be addressed in Brown County if there are no other prevention programs happening here. Pritzl said that a staff member from Human Services and someone from Rise Together joins in the presentations that are made to students in middle school and high school.

Srenaski referenced the major issue at the jail of staffing and the cost of staffing and asked if in the future a quantification of the staffing issues at the jail could be given along with the jail population numbers that are presented. Lt. Mitchell said they are currently down 12 correctional officers. Srenaski asked if that is a record and Lt. Mitchell said it is not and they do have several people currently in training. As fast as they can get applications in they are scheduling interviews because the process takes a while.

Evans congratulated DA Lasee and the rest of his team on the excellent job they did on the George Burch trial. It was a huge case and Evans feels Lasee should be formally acknowledged by this group for the excellent job they did. Lasee thanked Evans for his words and said they could not have done it without the assistance of the Sheriff's Department.

Brusky said the WCA has five steering committees, once of which is judicial and public safety and she has sent in her nomination papers for that and is hoping to be appointed. In the event she is appointed and anyone has anything they would like her to bring forward, she would be happy to do it.

**12. Such other matters as authorized by law.**

The next meeting date was discussed and July 12, 2018 at 8:00 am was selected.

**13. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by David Lasee to adjourn at 8:56 am. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Administrative Specialist