

**Courts
Committee Minutes**

January through June 2018

DRAFT

**Courts Committee Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2018 at 8:03 a.m.
Court Administrator's Conference Room**

Attendees: Judge Buytendorp, Carin Hyter, Karin Sonneman, Michael Kuehn, Wendy Van Duynes, Renee Rumpca, Steve Buswell, Lindsey Lancette

Minutes by: Lindsey Lancette

Drug Court Update (Carin Hyter): Tyler Brown, a Drug Court participant, completed his Phase IV project. His goal was to raise \$500 and he raised a little over \$900. There were several attendees from the community. Carin Hyter stated that nursing and social work students want to be involved with Drug Court. There will also be an alumni fundraiser on March 31. The current Drug Court numbers are not moving, though the referral process has been tweaked in an effort to increase participation.

Strategic Planning: Karin Sonneman described the success of programs through county pretrial services and Justice and Mental Health Collaboration grants. She stated that these programs will need support from law enforcement. Steve Buswell described a program started in Blue Earth County. Judge Buytendorp recommended dedicating the next meeting to these programs.

Courthouse Safety Update (Wendy Van Duynes): The County signed its portion of the agreement and sent it back to the state. The Courthouse may be able to get some additional security equipment. There will be an upcoming Courthouse Security Meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 8:41 a.m.

Next meeting: March 16, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. in the Court Administrator's Conference Room

Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Courts Committee/Pre-Trial Services Workgroup Minutes

The Courts Committee did not meet in February of 2018 due to a lengthy murder trial.

The next meeting of the Courts Committee is on April 19, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. in the Court Administration Conference Room

Courts Committee Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.
Court Administrator's Conference Room

Attendees: Judge Buytendorp, Kalene Engel, Michael Kuehn, Wendy Van Duyne, Lindsey Lancette

Minutes by: Lindsey Lancette

Drug Court Update (Judge Buytendorp): Tyler Brown graduated from drug court and many graduates were in attendance. Bill Moe was able to thank many drug court supporters during the ceremony. Drug court has four new participants since the last meeting, and Carin Hyter is working with WSU Social Work students to create pamphlets about drug court to further increase awareness and participation. Carin is attending the Blandin Leadership program along with another drug court team member, Bridget Klinger, this week. Carin will also attend the state drug court coordinator meeting on March 27th.

Court Reminders (Wendy Van Duyne): There will be a state-wide, opt-in program for e-mail or text message court reminders. Wendy Van Duyne believes that it will be rolled out by the middle of 2019. Attorneys should encourage their clients to fill out the forms to provide the necessary information. When the program is rolled out, these forms will likely be provided with the public defender applications. Kalene Engel suggested that they may be able to be incorporated into the jail booking process.

Courthouse Safety Update (Wendy Van Duyne): The courthouse has a new metal detector. Steve Buswell sent out the policies regarding its use and staffing.

Strategic Planning: Kalene Engel discussed the Yellow Line Project. There have been significant updates to the project's website, and Judge Buytendorp suggested that the next meeting be a joint meeting with Courts Committee and the Jail and Jail Alternatives Committee to go over the website. Kalene also mentioned that somebody compared Winona County's current policy with the Yellow Line Project policy and found that the Yellow Line Project typically intervenes at the point of arrest. Judge Buytendorp noted that if Winona County wants to implement this program, it will need law enforcement support. Kalene also noted that it will need support from probation and possibly have a social worker in the jail. Wendy Van Duyne mentioned that it would be helpful to bring in the Department of Corrections to see if such support would be available for probation violations.

Kalene also brought up the possibility of having probation present at first appearances, as many people in the Winona County Jail are there on probation violation holds. Judge Buytendorp mentioned that Olmsted County follows that system, and while it means that first appearances often go longer, it means that probation violations are resolved sooner and therefore require fewer court appearances overall. Wendy agreed that this would be a good system, but the Department of Corrections needs to be on board with it. Michael Kuehn noted that many people are in jail on probation violation holds due to new charges, so while this system may reduce the amount of people at the jail for probation violation holds, it may not be as dramatic of a

reduction. Judge Buytendorp suggested inviting the Department of Corrections to the Courts Committee meeting in May.

Wendy also discussed the state pretrial group. She explained that many counties are using a tool used in Hennepin County, either in a modified or original format. She stated that the state is aware of this pretrial tool and is pushing for broader use, but that it is not a top priority.

There was also a brief discussion regarding Justice and Mental Health Collaboration. Kalene suggested pairing ARMHS workers with those who need it. The ARMHS workers would be able act as case managers, even though it may not be in a social work capacity. This will be discussed further at the meeting in May.

Meeting adjourned: 9:05 a.m.

Next meeting: March 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the County Office Building, Conference Room A/B (joint meeting with Jail and Jail Alternatives Committee)

Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Courts Committee/Pre-Trial Services Workgroup Minutes

The Courts Committee did not meet in April 2018, due to the two Courts Committee meetings held in March 2018.

The next meeting of the Courts Committee is on May 17, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. in the Court Administration Conference Room

Courts Committee Meeting Minutes
May 17 at 8:00 a.m.
Court Administrator's Conference Room

Attendees: Judge Buytendorp, Kalene Engel, Steve Buswell, Michael Kuehn, Ron Ganrude, Peter Gifford, Carin Hyter, Karen Sonneman

Minutes by: Peter Gifford

Drug Court Update (Carin Hyter):

19 people in the program right now. 20 is cap. Numbers have increased. County Board made a proclamation for the month of May, Drug Court Month. Someone is completing relapse phase today. WSU and social services students involved in community projects with drug court. Phase 4 participant is completing a phase 4 community service project this weekend. Enhancement grant is being applied for in the 3rd district: \$500,000.00 over the course of 3 years with a focus on computer system updating and training. Application is due in June.

Court (Judge Buytendorp):

Question regarding Candace and Wendy leaving; however, Judge Buytendorp says we are still waiting on more information regarding their potential replacements Still working on a scheduling matrix for visiting Judges, including Judge Opat. Winona County has him 63 days out of the year. Judge Hayne will be here 69 days out of the year. They will be handling all types of cases. Senior Judges will only be taking limited under advisements. We will be working with Darlene and Chuck Kjos.

Strategic Planning:

Judge Buytendorp Introduced Yellow Line Project Discussion. Kalene Engel stated she e-mailed Angela Youngerberg about discussing the Yellow Line Project and questions regarding the program. Angela apparently hopes to answer questions by forwarding to the Yellow Line Project website, but Kalene believes they would receive questions in writing too.

Kalene discussed how the project will help police in providing them with additional options in dealing with those persons who may be involved with criminal activity prior to arrest. Kalene noted she brought information about the project to the last meeting. Yellow Line Project provides a procedure through which officers provide the program authorization and recommendations to persons, if the persons agree to the authorization and program recommendations, no charges will be forwarded to the county attorney.

Kalene notes big questions on probation violations. How do you notify probation if you don't pursue charges? Kalene also notes: What are some of the eligible charges? Some aren't even the type that you hold someone for. Some aren't even close to the yellow line that would lead to jailing such as DOC, Underage drinking.

Steve Buswell called over to Blue Earth to see if they knew how many jail beds were reduced through the program and Blue Earth felt it was no less than 5% of the population. Blue Earth was apparently not even close to the same level of diversion tactics and programs as the Winona County Sheriff's office. Steve notes he believes we're already mostly doing what Yellow Line Program recommends.

Michael Kuehn notes Winona County diversion initiatives were driven out of a mental health focus, but Yellow Line seems more about reducing costs and bed space. Michael notes that the lack of mental health objectives doesn't align with Winona County's objectives. Notes a program in Steele County that focuses on mental health. Steve agrees with Michael regarding the objectives; however also notes that procedures could help establish a uniform process for pre-charge diversion.

Kalene notes an issue with probation holds. Michael discusses ways they've been considering trying to expedite the jailing and release of Probation Violators.

Ron Ganrude explains the crisis response team: Can counsel someone over the phone based on reporting of alarming behavior. Can also help the person get to the Hospital or check in on them the next day. Kuehn notes that Olmsted has a program where a social worker, possibly on-call, to help deal with crisis situations for possibly mentally ill persons exhibiting alarming behavior.

Michael asks what sort of practical realities does Winona County face regularly regarding mental health individuals and what it is that the Sheriff's Office is looking for regarding how to deal with the mental health issues. Steve notes 10% of general Winona County Jail population deals with severe mental health issues. Steve re-states a need for procedure on what to do with a person for public safety reasons rather than moving straight to jail. Kalene notes that, while the mental health isn't a major focus of the Yellow Line Project, getting a basic procedure that can help educate the population is a good thing. Steve thinks Winona County needs it in place.

Karen says the Yellow Line Program is just another piece Winona County can use for pre-arrest diversion. Karen and Steve both note there aren't enough facilities for mental health individuals anymore. Karen says that, until we get changes at the State level, we may not be able to address mental health as much as we would like. Kalene says that community services may be necessary to address these issues. Steve jokes we should ship them to Rochester.

Judge Buytendorp says Committee should take the notes from the hearing today to determine primary concerns with the Yellow Line Program and what can be done to alleviate those concerns. Judge Buytendorp also wants to know exactly what things Winona County can be doing with the resources it has right now to deal with the concerns noticed in the notes. Also compare what things Yellow Line suggests Winona County do with what is already being done.

Kalene wants to look at who we're holding and why. Karen notes there's a project already in place trying to analyze this data. Ron Ganrude wants to make sure we know what data we're asking for exactly before proceeding.

Steve notes that this need to know who's being held and why is a big reason for implementing Yellow Line. Steve thinks that, by taking this diversionary tactic, we can focus police on arresting and jailing those who need to be jailed for public safety concerns.

Steve says that they're working with a member of City Counsel. Ron will be able to present this program and techniques currently implemented to the Chief's Meeting to discuss. Steve does note that each department is different, with different goals and philosophies. Notes the use of Field Training Officers to help officers understand discretion. Notes that, with Winona County, a Jail shift officer additionally lets officers know whether it's necessary to bring that person to jail.

Judge Buytendorp notes that our primary concern is still that we don't know what to do with mentally unhealthy individuals. Kalene says she has a connection with a crisis response team leader (what kind of availability do they have to present a CJCC) who can present about how to better respond to troubled individuals (presented here about 1 and ½ years ago). Kalene still wants a list of who is being held, why they're being held. Steve still notes that the situation is variable depending on the officer, the person being arrested, the sergeant. Ron says we want a procedure in writing so that way we all know who should be held in what situations.

Kalene says she will send information out regarding what she received from the Yellow Line Project website. Judge Buytendorp wants that new information on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 8:53 a.m.

Next meeting: June 21, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

Courts Committee Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.
Court Administrator's Conference Room

Attendees: Judge Buytendorp, Kalene Engel, Marie Kovecsi, Steve Buswell, Carin Hyter, Karin Sonneman, Dave Glithero, Christy Ferrington, Lindsey Lancette

Minutes by: Lindsey Lancette

Drug Court Update (Carin Hyter): There will be four graduates next week and a drug court alumni will be speaking at the ceremony. After the graduation, there will only be 13 participants in drug court, but Carin Hyter receives information from potential participants on an almost-weekly basis. There is an upcoming Soberfest softball tournament for drug court participants across the third judicial district. Participants are no longer required to pay fees for drug court, as the processing is proving more difficult and there are alternative funds available. Carin submitted an application for an enhancement grant along with other drug courts in the district. If the grant is awarded, she plans on using the funds for a case management computer system.

Yellow Line Project and the Winona Crisis Response Team (Christy Ferrington): Christy Ferrington described the Winona Crisis Response Team's current process and available services. She would like to incorporate these services in with the Yellow Line Project, as the team currently tends to receive calls for services only when a crime has not yet been committed. Kalene Engel stated that the Crisis Response Team would be a good way to bridge the gap between receiving a crisis call and the time when an individual would be able to receive broader services. Christy mentioned that the Crisis Response Team is drumming up publicity for their services, and Kalene and Carin mentioned that it would be a good idea to mention ARHMS workers in the process. Kalene also mentioned that the justice and mental health collaboration grant may be used to help link jail services with ARMHS and the Crisis Response Team. Steve Buswell stated that there would need to be law enforcement buy-in to make this effective. There is support from the Sheriff's Office, but it may be useful for all law enforcement officers in the county to receive training or refresher courses so that they can better determine when ARMHS or the Crisis Response Team would be appropriate, thus allowing people to receive services as soon as possible. Marie Kovecsi also mentioned that the system could help to break the cycle of committing crimes while in crisis and that such framing could help with law enforcement buy-in. Kalene and Steve also discussed using video conferencing to allow the Crisis Response Team to determine if emergency services are necessary before taking the time to go out and meet with a person experiencing a crisis.

Budget Proposal (Karin Sonneman): Many important criminal justice programs or aspects of such programs have been funded through grants and Karin Sonneman thought that it's important for the county to provide more funding to sustain the programs on a more regular basis. This would also allow important employees in those programs to be county employees and maintain a stronger link with the community. Karin is using a sequential intercept map to frame the various programs for the budget proposal. She believes that more consistent funding will help ensure that the system as a whole is funded instead keeping programs in individual silos. Because

diversion programs have become a hot topic, she believes that she can emphasize the diversion aspect of this system in an advantageous way.

Meeting adjourned: 9:25 a.m.

Next meeting: August 16, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. in the Court Administrator's Conference Room