

# DUNN COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COLLABORATING COUNCIL

## DRAFT

### Minutes of the Dunn County Evidenced-Based Decision Making (EBDM) Work Group Meeting Held on August 5, 2020 via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:**
2. **Call of the Roll:**
  - a. Present were Chair Menomonie Police Department Chief of Police Eric Atkinson; Judge James Peterson; District Attorney Andrea Nodolf; Deferred Prosecution Coordinator Deana Arntson; DOC Field Supervisor Melissa Buesgen; Website Specialist Krista Vind and Criminal Justice Coordinator Sara Benedict.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 27, 2020 Meeting:**
  - a. DA Nodolf made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Deferred Prosecution Coordinator Arntson seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.
4. **Staff Reports:**
  - a. The CJCC meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2020 via Zoom.
  - b. Various work groups are starting to meet more regularly again.
  - c. The second quarter report for TAD has been filed with the state. It was noted that the number of referrals has declined with Covid-19.
  - d. The Assessment Protocol has been on hold as staff has not been able to get into the jail. There is a meeting coming up to decide how to proceed with this process.
5. **General Criminal Justice Reform Discussion**
  - a. There is a wide breadth of discussion on improving outcomes for the community with police, courts, and CJCC.
  - b. Due to the pandemic, there has been a notable reduction of arrests in Dunn County. Chief Atkinson indicated only the most egregious of offenders are currently being arrested. At this time, minor offenders are just being issued warnings. The result of the warnings is that the City is not seeing repeat offenders. As a result, even after the pandemic is over, this practice will continue to remain in effect, as it allows for far fewer arrests.
  - c. Project Hope was funded by the City Council, earlier this year, allocating \$75,000 to begin the program. This would allow the hiring of a school resource officer (SRO) who would be responsible for presenting the deflection program as well as the juvenile intake assessments.

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- d. Due to the pandemic, the Botvin Life Skills program will not be implemented in schools, this year. Instead, there will be a virtual delivery program for the parents, only. In 2021, the Botvin program will begin for the students.
- e. Chief Atkinson is looking for others to assist with their expertise, in order to get this program running smoothly and as effectively as possible.

### **6. Center for Policing Equity**

- a. Menomonie Police Department has reached out to a group called the Center for Policing Equity. This group is non-profit and will analyze the data and records system, and are scheduled to analyze the data at MPD.
- b. Chief Atkinson will reach out to DUSO and UW Stout to see if they would also like to have their records analyzed.
- c. This group will look at data as far back as each PD would like to go. Chief Atkinson is asking to look back to when the Legacy system began in 1999.
- d. Coordinator Benedict will connect with the Data Work Group to make them aware of the project and support in sharing data.

### **7. Proxy Tool Utilization and Pre-Charge Program**

- a. The proxy is used when there is an encounter with people at time of arrest. To date, this has not been used with investigative cases. Chief Atkinson would like to see this tool expanded. It may alleviate some of the time with the judges. In addition, it may be beneficial to expand this to allow more individuals to be eligible for the programs.
- b. Chief Atkinson suggested implementing the proxy training into policy, for new officers, in order to widen the scope of individuals who may qualify for the diversion programs. His office will do some research on the best way to proceed with this policy and will welcome any assistance from this group.
- c. There was also an inquiry about expanding the charges that may be allowed into the existing programs.
- d. Discussed holding a side meeting to further discuss ways to enhance Proxy and Pre-Charge Program utilization by law enforcement. Coordinator Benedict will arrange.

### **8. Diversion for Referrals**

- a. Prosecutor Arnston searched the data going back to 2017 to see how many referrals came from law enforcement vs. what came from the DA's office. The numbers coming from law enforcement are quite low.

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### 9. Update on Juvenile Diversion

- a. The plan is to develop a type of proxy for juveniles. If anyone has any thoughts on this, Chief Atkinson is looking for feedback. He will also reach out to Director Korpela to gauge her interest, as well.

### 10. Update on Pre-Charge Program - Discussed with number 7.

11. **Next Meeting Date:** To be Determined by Doodle poll.

### 12. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

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Chief Eric Atkinson, Chair

Signed: Sara Benedict

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