

**CJCC MEETING  
Minutes  
June 7, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON:** Chair: Nathan Dreckman, Vice-Chair Jeff Lockhart, Gary Ranum, Robert Keeney, Judge Craig Day, Brittany Guthrie, Clark Thelemann, Jeff Kindrai, Lance Wetter, Darla Adams

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Aaron Olson, Ben Wood, Lisa Riniker, Lisa McDougal, Teresa Burton, Dr. Hiatt, Debra Reukauf

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Craig Reukauf (excused), Ashley Dickman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kristin Schier, Shane Drinkwater, Intern Abigail Stille

**OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Selina Baus, Herald Independent

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The meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, was called to order by Chair Nathan Dreckman. Notice of the meeting was posted in the Grant County Administration Building, Grant County Courthouse, and Grant County website.

Motion by Jeff Kindrai, seconded by Robert Keeney, to approve the Agenda as posted. Motion carried without negative vote.

Motion by Gary Ranum, seconded by Brittany Guthrie to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2022. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Criminal Justice Survey – Update**

Kristin Schier informed the Council that she is still collecting a few surveys. She had mailed 300 and noted that she did not get them all returned. She then asked, what she should do with them? Should the reports be split by department, separated and reported together, or should everything be together?

Gary Ranum answered that it is hard to tell without results. Judge Day stated there is value in knowing the source and whether or not it was done by a random person or someone who's been incarcerated.

Kristin reported the mailings did not provide a lot of information nor feedback; she explained there are a lot of responses that show no opinion and never been involved with the criminal justice system. Judge Day responded that no opinion isn't terrible, to which Sheriff Dreckman agreed.

Sheriff Dreckman then stated that it would be best to report out by group. Council agreed that the reports should be separated by department, with a summary of it all

together. Kristin stated she plans to have the reports completed by the August 2 meeting.

### **Congregation Involvement in the Criminal Justice System – Update**

Lance Wetter noted that he doesn't have an update as he first needs to know from the Council the exact direction he should be heading, and he requested two things: to meet with CJCC members to understand their roles and get a contact list of other CJCC coordinators so he can reach out to other pastors. Lance asked: how can the church and State work together?

Jeff Lockhart said one of the primary driving factors of both mental health and substance abuse is that everybody tends to do what their peers do. Jeff explained this is why establishing a new sober social group is important within treatment, and the reason why AA is the most successful treatment program in the world – it provides a new community for that individual. Council discussed. Lance asked: how can we steer people to a church organization? Jeff asked if there is a Chaplain that comes into the jail? Sheriff Dreckman noted there is. Jeff explained and gave an example: The Chaplain could make the jail inmates aware of these churches, and the Chaplain could then steer those individuals to that congregation.

Gary Ranum discussed New Life Foundations, which is a ministry with the purpose of reaching inmates in the jail. The biggest problem that New Life Foundations had was finding congregations willing to take these individuals in and provide resources to them. Lance Wetter agreed that this is an issue as he has contacted 70-90 churches and only got six responses.

Clark Thelemann noted that from the Social Service side it would be helpful if there would be an actual contact. Clark explained that it's intimidating going into a huge group of people right away, so it is important to build that individual relationship as well.

Judge Day established two points of action: figure out which church communities are willing to participate, and then how to integrate those individuals into the organization. Gary Ranum added that the Chaplain to the inmates has to be an integral part to this. Gary then asked: is there a possibility of allowing people to be escorted outside of the jail to attend services while incarcerated? Sheriff Dreckman answered no, but stated that he feels what could be the most impactful thing would be a specific jail ministry versus what we have now. He explained further that having a focused group that came in with the mission of not only teaching and preaching, but connecting to the outside world would be beneficial.

Lance Wetter reiterated that he would like to meet with the CJCC members individually to better understand their roles. He also stated he would have a list of churches by the next meeting.

## **Opioid Settlement Utilization – Update**

Jeff Lockhart passed out and discussed an article from the Wisconsin Counties Association entitled: Use of Opioid Settlement Funds: Saving Lives Now and Investing in the Future. Jeff also discussed what the Iowa County committee is doing and what their recommendation will be to their county board. He noted that Iowa County only has half the funds Grant County has – around \$35,000 to spend the first year. Iowa County's plan is to spend first year funds on a professional needs assessment and then spend the remaining funds in addressing the results of the assessment. Jeff stated that he thinks this is a sound plan and will be recommending the needs assessment to the Grant County committee once it is established. Jeff also noted that if Grant County goes with the needs assessment there may be some cost savings if we go with the same firm that Iowa County will be working with.

Sheriff Dreckman asked Jeff when he anticipates the group forming? Jeff remarked, that is not his call. Robert Keeney responded that probably in the July meeting the committee may be formed, and he is open to suggestions. Jeff Kindrai commented that local pharmacist Michelle Farrell reached out to him and asked how pharmacies could be involved. Council discussed.

Gary Ranum noted that a lot of this will involve Unified which covers both counties, so it may be worthwhile to imitate what Iowa County is doing so we mesh together. Gary Ranum asked what Iowa County's model is – what did they come up with? Jeff explained that it would be based upon the results of the needs assessment, matching evidence-based interventions to the greatest local needs. Ideally the same process would take place in Grant County, also based on greatest local need.

Gary Ranum asked what should come first: the establishment of the group or a needs assessment? Jeff Lockhart answered that the establishment of the group comes first. The group makes the recommendation to the County Board as to how to spend the funds, e.g. by hiring someone to do the needs assessment.

Gary Ranum discussed the need for more regionalized treatment facilities and asked if there is even enough money to do that. Jeff Lockhart replied while there are start-up funds available, the key question becomes who is responsible—Fed, state, or county—to sustain it long-term. Council discussed.

Gary Ranum asked what the next step is, to which Jeff Lockhart responded the formation of the committee being the next step. Jeff also noted that Iowa County chose to have two county board members be the Chair and Vice-chair of the committee. Robert Keeney stated his hesitancy with establishing the committee at this time – the realization of the cash. Council discussed.

Gary Ranum asked if there is any action we want to take, or do we want to put it off until next meeting? Kristin added to that question by asking if it should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Judge Day responded we should keep it on the agenda for tracking, and it was established that Robert Keeney would take the lead on establishing the committee at the July County Board meeting.

### **Open Discussion**

Jeff Kindrai started open discussion by saying health departments are currently focusing on Delta-8 / THC. Jeff Kindrai shared his concerns and thoughts and wanted to make the County aware. There are counties in the State asking for local ordinances prohibiting Delta-8 / THC. Council discussed.

Gary Ranum had a thought about statistics regarding various arrests, etc. He asked if we have statistics of various infractions, but also statistics on which of those we prosecute, and what's the recidivism of those? Gary Ranum explained further that what he is trying to grasp is: What is the status of criminal activity in Grant County; how are we dealing with it; and are we satisfied? Are there statistics available that would point out to us that we have a particular problem that we might not be seeing? Should we be focusing on something? Judge Day answered stating that he is sure the statistics are achievable, but statistics don't always give you the full picture of what's behind it. Council discussed. Jeff Kindrai agreed and said that having situational awareness on what's going on within the County is important when looking at statistics.

Dr. Hiatt pointed out that he and Selina have noticed a stark increase in mental health issues in the jail where they have had patients who are psychotic with psychotic breaks, and even patients that have been emergency detained. Dr. Hiatt noted that they have looked into studies and would be interested in the County doing a study as they have been seeing a lot more cases in the last year or so.

Jeff Lockhart reiterated how prevention education that addresses the root causes of substance abuse and addiction whether meth, heroin or alcohol is going to be similar. Jeff suggested to the Council that we spend half of the settlement money on prevention and half on treatment and stated that he plans on proposing this to the Opioid Committee. Council discussed the law enforcement component, and the Sheriff would want to be a part of the prevention project. Judge Day discussed the difficulty in drying up the supply chain. Sheriff agreed – there is just too much readily available.

Motion by Robert Keeney, seconded by Jeff Kindrai, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Next meeting: August 2, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Grant County Board Room, Administration Building.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristin Schier, CJCC Coordinator