

**Minutes of the February 8th meeting of the Sawyer County
Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members Present:

- Chair: Kathy McCoy
- Lorraine Gouge
- Marc Helwig
- Gary Hilgendorf
- Andy Albarado – virtual at 12:18 pm
- Mike Woller
- Tweed Shuman
- Doug Mrotek
- Bruce Poquette
- Katie Belanger
- Ryan Reed
- John Yackel
- Elaine Smith – Vice Chair
- Marshal Savitski

Others Present:

Lynn Fitch
Becky Barry
Anna Amparo
Alex Butterfield
Grant Gerber
Julia Lyons
Stephanie Nault
Mike Thompson

Call to Order – Vice Chair Elaine Smith called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call was taken. Quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda

Public Comments --

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: January 11, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Helwig Second by: Mr. Mrotek

Motion carried without negative vote.

Resignation of Citizen Member, Gary Hilgendorf --

Mr. Hilgendorf introduced Grant Gerber, a House of Hope program graduate, as a potential replacement. A motion was made by Mr. Mrotek; second by Mr. Shuman to accept the resignation. Motion carried without negative vote.

Appointment of New Citizen Member, Grant Gerber --

A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Yackel to accept Grant Gerber as the new community committee member. Motion carried without negative vote.

Jail Report -

A written report was provided. Sheriff Mrotek advised that the report format had been revised from previous versions and they would like to add the status of “employed” and “unemployed” on future documentation. Current statistics indicate that 80% of inmates are unemployed. Our female inmates are currently being housed in Barron County due to staffing shortage. A motion was made by Mr. Shuman; second by Mr. Helwig to accept the jail report. Motion carried without negative vote.

Criminal Justice Coordinator -

Diversion and Treatment Court Update – Ms. Barry reported out on the current statistics, including 36 people on the waitlist; they are sending out waitlist intake letters. She introduced Heather Lessard as the new treatment court

supervisor, and they have created a diversion coordinator position due to increased volume. Administrator Albarado has asked that all the treatment court cases go through this governing body for approval after they've been through the CJCC work group. The treatment court was developed to steer the direction of the treatment court. A motion was made by Mr. Shuman to approve the work group making recommendations to forward to the Committee; second by Mr. Helwig. Motion carried without negative vote.

Health & Human Services Report -

Ms. Lyons provided an update for overall public health services. They do some disease testing in the jail system, and have applied for the Narcan grant for training and supplies. There may also be a fentanyl test strip grant in the future. Other grants may be available for treatment services, and they are beginning to work with other local coalitions to combine efforts. The next opioid settlement should be arriving soon; methods of distributing the funds are still being reviewed. They are reaching out to EMS, the medical examiner, and others to determine overdose statistics locally. Additional settlement payouts are expected but figures are not yet known; we have received \$120,000 at this point in time. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Yackel to accept the public health report; motion carried without negative vote.

Opioid/Overdose Planning --

Update Strategies to Reduce Overdose Deaths – Covered above

Report on Possible State Funding for Housing – Katie Belanger --

Stephanie Nault from state Department of Corrections introduced herself. She oversees all housing and treatment resources. The DOC has seen a gap in housing options for the homeless population in our county. The state has a budget to assist with housing options (both emergency and longer-term temporary situations) for existing buildings. They also have a monitored-apartment type facility option that can receive financial assistance. Case management becomes difficult if there is no established housing where individuals can be tracked. Ms. Nault offered to be on a team for exploration of housing options. A motion was made by Mr. Shuman; second by Mr. Hilgendorf to accept this report. Motion carried without negative vote.

Presentation: Task Force to Explore Homeless Shelter – Mike Thompson --

Executive Director of the House of Hope, Mike Thompson, introduced himself. He is willing to lead a team to address the local homeless situation. He would like to organize a group of five individuals to begin looking for solutions in for homeless individuals, and he asked committee members to consider being a part of this team.

Community Services Updates -

Grant Gerber will be reporting in the future.

Future Agenda Items -

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings -

Adjournment – 1:00 pm

Next Meeting: March 8, 2023 **Time:** 12:00 pm **Location:** Assembly Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk