

**Minutes of the August 9<sup>th</sup> 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
- Grant Gerber
- Andy Albarado
- Mike Woller
- Tweed Shuman
- Doug Mrotek
- Bruce Poquette
- Katie Belanger – Jenny Hole representing
- Ryan Reed
- John Yackel
- Elaine Smith – Vice Chair
- Marshal Savitski @ 11:51 am virtual
- Julia Lyons

**Others Present:**

Lynn Fitch  
Katie Ann Dussel  
Joyce Knowlton  
Heather Lessard  
Joe Sajdera

**Call to Order** – Chair Kathy McCoy called the meeting to order at 12:01 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: July 12, 2023**

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Helwig                      Second by: Mr. Mrotek  
Motion carried without negative vote.

**Deflection Grant Update (Dan and Bresina) -**

Katie Ann Dussel advised the 2024 TAD pre-application is due at the end of this month.

**Jail Report -**

A written report was provided. The YTD average daily population rate at the jail is 71.56 with one individual on Huber privileges. The current unemployment rate remains high at 82.6%. Female inmates have returned to the Sawyer County jail. Andy and Lt. Woller have met with Northwood Tech to investigate some programming opportunities for inmates.

**Criminal Justice Coordinator -**

A written report of statistics was provided. Ms. Lessard reviewed the report; there are 16 people on the waitlist and 17 new bonds pending.

**Opioid Budget Discussion -**

A proposed 2023 budget was provided for use of the opioid settlement funds. Ms. Lyons reviewed the highlights that include quite a bit of funding for advertising the message that needs to get into the community. Also created is a website that can accept public donations; additional grant money in the HHS department will also be available.

Budget areas include *harm reduction, prevention, jail/law enforcement, support, and advertising campaigns*. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Ms. Lyons to approve the proposed budget and forward to Finance Committee and County Board. Motion carried without negative vote.

#### **Health & Human Services Report -**

Fentanyl Awareness Update – Joyce Knowlton provided an update of the Fentanyl Awareness activities currently underway and developing for the future. There has been a rise in cases of overdose deaths in the nation. In 2021/22 each year we had nine overdose deaths, and 2023 fatalities are continuing to rise. A Sawyer County Fentanyl Awareness Team has been created which represents law enforcement, members of the schools and other community members. Community education is ongoing in the area and they have created a presentation to share with the public as well as a website that collect donations. Almost 90% of the marijuana confiscated last year had fentanyl in it. An online training had to be created because their in-person training was over-loaded with responses. Training in area K-12 schools for teachers is underway, and Hayward has approved training at the student body level. A list of upcoming events was provided where the message will be shared. A peer recovery program has been established to help in the transition process.

#### **Homeless Taskforce Update -**

Mr. Gerber provided a verbal update indicating they want to do two Town Hall meeting this fall, and are working on fund generation. Mr. Helwig reported that more women with children are being seen than they are seeing men. The next meeting is September 11<sup>th</sup> at Spider Lake Church at 11:00 am.

#### **Rise '23 Conference Update -**

Ms. Lessard advised that six people were sent to the conference, four of which were actively on a recovery court team. LCO also sent four individuals. Conferences covered diversion, pre-trial, family court, tribal court, mental health and many other topics to over 7,000 participants.

#### **Community Services Updates -**

Mr. Gerber advised they have a program graduate to celebrate. There is currently no one in the house.

#### **Future Agenda Items – 2024 budget, an overview of jail programming**

#### **Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings -**

#### **Adjournment – 12:55 pm**

**Next Meeting:** September 13, 2023      **Time:** 12:00 pm      **Location:** Board Room  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk