

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: JANUARY 11, 2010

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RICHARD MEYER COMMUNITY RESOURCE ROOM
4311 JACKSON STREET, OSHKOSH

PRESENT: HARVEY RENGSTORF
LAWRENCE SMITH
BILL WINGREN
TOM ELLIS
DONALD GRIESBACH

ALSO PRESENT: CHRISTIAN GOSSETT – DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
KRISTINA LINDE – DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MICHAEL BROOKS – SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MARK HARRIS – COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JENNIFER WOLDT – NORTHWESTERN

Chairman Harvey Rengstorf called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. **Approve minutes from the December 8, 2009 meeting**
A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lawrence Smith, seconded by Bill Wingren. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.
2. **Communications**
None.
3. **Input on agenda items by public**
None.
4. **Resolution to approve grant for Misdemeanor Division Program – District Attorney**
District Attorney Christian Gossett advised they received a grant of \$80,000 per year, for three years, from the Office of Justice Assistance. This grant will be used for misdemeanor drug cases (possession of marijuana, cocaine etc.) There are about 400 cases per year and currently, they can be placed on probation, but Probation makes contact with these individuals only about four times per year and there is no treatment and no assessment. The only way it is found out that they are not following the terms of their probation is if they are arrested for another drug offense.

Individuals arrested for misdemeanor drug offenses must volunteer to enter into this program and there will be a \$250 Program Fee per person, which is about \$80 less than the court costs. This fee will go DHS and will generate revenue of about \$50,000 a year with an anticipated participant rate of 200 per year. DHS will then hire a part-time AODA

Counselor who will do all assessments on the individuals. Individuals will be placed into one of three categories based on their level of addiction and risk to continue using drugs. DHS will also layout their treatment programs and will perform random drug checks.

In order to successfully complete the program the individual must complete all of their treatment programs, have six months of "clean time" and remain crime-free. If completed successfully, the drug charge will be dismissed. Failure to complete the program successfully will result in them going to court for sentencing and many individuals don't realize that college financial aid can be lost if convicted of drug charges. They hope to start the program on March 1, 2010 and the program will be overseen by the Safe Streets Committee.

The \$80,000 grant money will be used to cover the cost of changing one of his part-time legal secretaries to a full-time position who will continue performing their normal duties along with being the program administrator for the program. It will also be used to cover the cost of the random drug testing and to offset indigent costs.

A motion to approve the OJA grant of \$80,000 per year, for three years, was made by Bill Wingren, seconded by Lawrence Smith. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

5. **Resolution to approve grant for Three County Drug Task Force – District Attorney**
District Attorney Christian Gossett advised that the LWAM (Lake Winnebago Area Meg) was awarded a grant that will cover the cost of three positions that will work two-days a week; one for Winnebago County, one for Outagamie County and one for Fond du Lac County and they will cover drug prosecutions. They are looking to coordinate these positions along with the March 1, 2010 start date of the Misdemeanor Division Program. This grant only runs for two years so it will not run for the same amount of time as the Misdemeanor Division Program. He did not know the exact amount of the grant money as it was the LWAM that applied for the grant and his office is just the beneficiary, but stated the cost of one prosecutor working two days a week is about \$20,000 - \$23,000 a year. It has no impact on the County budget.

A motion to approve the Three County Drug Task Force grant was made by Bill Wingren, seconded by Lawrence Smith. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

6. **Resolution for study of future needs for County Jail**
Sheriff Brooks advised the RFP is not yet complete, but he hopes to have the RFP ready by the end of the month and have it sent out sometime in early March. This study will include much more than the last study done in 1999, which did not include such things as Day Reporting and the GPS Bracelet Program. This study will look at all options, including alternatives to incarceration, any additional alternatives, any needs that impact the jail population that could be addressed through the Courts (STOP Program, Drug Court etc.), utilizing a mental health court, looking at needs today and in the future, look at surrounding counties and the State of Wisconsin as to the type of needs that they may need in the future that may allow us to either house our prisoners with them or utilize open beds in our facility to generate revenue to help offset the cost of day-to-day operations

This new study will also look at the entire law enforcement system including Probation/Parole, police agencies, the courts, the District Attorney's Office, how the jail

operates and what other alternatives are available. This is all necessary as the charging decisions and bond recommendations made by the District Attorney's Office, the bond and sentencing decisions made by the courts, along with their participation in programs such as Drug Court and the STOP Program, and the policies of Probation/Parole agents as to when they will revoke probation, when they will place individuals in the jail on a hold, and the decisions made above the probation agent level on sentence recommendations all impacts the jail. Significant changes have been made over the 11 years regarding the people involved from these agencies.

Sheriff Brooks states he is not an expert and this why a study needs to be done in order to get an accurate projection to present to the County Board so that they can make an informed decision not just dealing with crime, but also quality of life issues. The projections from the last study were very close up until the last three years when changes were made with alternatives to incarceration, Day Reporting and Drug Court decision made by the judges.

7. Sheriff's Report

The new Evidence Coordinator started today (01/11/10). They will handle the evidence room, all electronic evidence, and will also collect evidence from major crime scenes. The grant that covers the cost of this position will end in 2012. Sheriff Brooks hopes that the time involved and freeing up of a detective will justify keeping this position.

Due to the upcoming retirement of their Huber Coordinator, they have re-evaluated the position and will be creating a new job description that will make the position more of a supervisory position. This will free up the Lieutenant to become more involved in professional standards and operation of the jail to allow for more supervision in the jail. He will present the job description at the next meeting.

Captain Matz left Iraq last week Friday, but is not expected to be done with active duty until the end of the month. Sheriff Brooks will bring him to a future meeting.

8. Items for next agenda

- End of year numbers for the District Attorney's Office
- Rough draft RFP for future jail needs study
- Change in Huber Coordinator job description for the Sheriff's Office

9. Future meeting date

January 28, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Richard Meyer Community Resource Room

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:00 a.m. by Donald Griesbach, seconded by Lawrence Smith. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandy Schauz
Winnebago County Sheriff's Office