

JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
Administrative Center – Room 3220
2:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicki Burke, Joe Bilskemper, Ray Ebert, Bridget Flood, Tara Johnson (2:35), Joe Veenstra

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Maureen Freedland

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Margaret Norden, Steve Helgeson, Steve O'Malley, Mike Horstman, Dick Mial, Sharon Hampson, Jeff Wolf

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vicki Burke called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

APPROVE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2010

MOTION by Flood/Bilskemper to approve the Committee Minutes of February 9, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously. Freedland, Johnson excused.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Flood/Bilskemper to receive and file the following consent agenda items:

1. Local Emergency Planning Committee Minutes of September 16, 2009;
2. Criminal Justice Management Council Minutes of November 18, 2009, and Criminal Justice Executive Committee Minutes of January 13, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously. Freedland excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

None reported.

UPDATE ON BEARCAT USE

The Chair took the item out of order. Mike Horstman reported that the BearCat was obtained through a Homeland Security grant in August, 2005. It is shared regionally with Jackson, Trempealeau, Monroe, Vernon, and Jackson Counties, and the Police Departments of the Cities of Onalaska and La Crosse, according to the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding. Officers must go through specialized training. Agencies are responsible for any damages. It is used to respond to emergency situations and in situations where there is high potential for guns being used. It is also used for training exercises. He summarized usage for each year, including an incident of an active shooter where it was used to evacuate neighbors, incidents of armed and barricaded suspects, hostage situations, and several examples of warrants for drug searches. Supervisor Veenstra asked about a situation in Douglas County where the La Crosse County BearCat provided support, and Horstman explained that La Crosse County is deemed a regional site, and is available in cases of emergencies, including ones where another county provides support to the FBI.

UPDATE ON ANNUAL BYRNE GRANT FOR MEG DRUG TASK FORCE

Jeff Wolf reported that notification was received that the 2010 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program award will be in the amount of \$27,919 in federal monies, and \$14,186 in penalty assessment funds administered by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. The funds are to support activities of the five-county West Central MEG Drug Task Force. He stated that the grant funds are included in the budget.

REPORT ON ILLEGAL DRUG USE TRENDS

Jeff Wolf provided information on illegal drug use trends, including the following:

- Marijuana is still the most predominant drug. Trends are various ways of growing and lacing with other drugs.
- Methamphetamine manufacture is down due to legislation on pseudophed sales. However, drug dealers find alternative drugs to sell.
- Cases of steroid and sleeping pill abuse have increased, primarily through the internet.
- Doctor shopping for narcotics is being monitored by 40 states; Wisconsin is getting a program started. Doctor shopping also results in insurance fraud, which drives up the cost of health care.
- There is an increase in prescription pain killer overdose deaths, which are now more prevalent than deaths associated with cocaine, heroin or LSD.
- There is an increase in teenagers stealing prescriptions from parents; Ritalin is also being sold and abused.

Wolf stated that local hospitals and pharmacies have been cooperative in working with law enforcement. Supervisor Ebert asked about the County Solid Waste Department's program to dispose of prescription drugs. Wolf replied that it was a model for the rest of the state, and inquiries received from other counties are referred to Solid Waste. Sheriff Helgeson spoke about the retired deputy who works at Solid Waste to satisfy the requirement for a certified officer.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None requested.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – APRIL 13, 2010, AT 2:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Veenstra/Bilskemper to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Freedland excused. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Approved, April 13, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder