

JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE
August 7, 2012
Administrative Center – Room 3220

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Vicki Burke, Ray Ebert, Tammy Gamroth, Bob Keil
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Thomas Downer
OTHERS PRESENT:	Steve O'Malley, Steve Helgeson, Doris Daggett, Mike Kiefer, Steve Josephson, Bev Heebisch, Terri Pavlic

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 12, 2012 MINUTES OF JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE

MOTION by Keil/Gamroth to approve the June 12, 2012 minutes of the Judiciary and Law Committee. **MOTION carried unanimously.** (Downer excused)

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. CJMC minutes – May 16th and June 20th, 2012

MOTION by Gamroth/Ebert to approve and accept the above minutes of the CJMC as presented. **MOTION carried unanimously.** (Downer excused)

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

There were no conference/meeting reports presented.

JAIL PROGRAMMING UPDATE

Mike Kiefer, Jail Program Coordinator at La Crosse County for the last five years, was present to give the committee an update on jail programming. Mike was recently recognized by NAMI for the work he does in the jail. Mike distributed the August/September 2012 jail news letter, along with a summary of all 34 jail programs. The first concern with the jail programs is safety and security in the facility. There are two purposes of jail programming: one is safety of inmates and staff by keeping inmates' minds occupied to better enrich their lives; and the second purpose is to hopefully break the cycle of incarceration and to rehabilitate them. Our jail offers programs to any inmate housed in the general population, although some of the programs require waiting until the next series of classes start. Approximately 80% of females in the jail general population request to attend programs and the men's requests' fluctuate between 60-75%. There is a high demand for these programs and sometimes there are wait lists of 5-7 weeks. The largest class size is 15 in a class.

La Crosse has a full time instructor from Western Technical College and is one of the only jails in the State of Wisconsin that has a full time instructor within the jail. La Crosse County jail is actually considered a satellite campus of Western Technical College. We partner with WTC and initially received grant funding for 3 years for a full time position, and has now been renewed for another 3 years. The GED and HSED classes are both offered. In a typical year, between 25-35 people earn a credential and these tests are offered free in the jail. Also, once out of jail, these people only pay \$5 for a test at WTC to continue with these tests to obtain their GED or HSED certification.

JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE
August 7, 2012
Page 2

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Steve Josephson, Jail Mental Health Supervisor, for over 20 years, gave an update on mental health services in the jail. Many of the programs help mental health inmates in keeping them occupied and their minds distracted from focusing on their problems. Some main goals are suicide prevention; prevent crises from happening, prevent bullying, and to identify people with mental illness and get them the services and treatment they need. The mental health unit has the equivalent of one full-time worker. Dr. Trannel, a psychiatrist, comes to the jail every two weeks and he assists with the inmates with the most complex issues. Mental health services provide coverage Monday thru Saturday. On Sunday, the jail staff calls crisis services for emergency issues.

If there is a crisis on a Saturday or Sunday, the staff calls crisis services. They aim to identify inmates with mental health problems, and these are initially identified through the booking process. Jailers are trained every year in mental health training. Families also may call with concerns about an inmate. Staff also works closely with Mental Health Recovery Services, as well as providers that these people may currently be seeing.

In today's count, there are 68 inmates taking some type of psychotropic medications, (some multiple medications), with the total jail count at 210 (which is about 30%).

FEEDBACK ON JAIL SERVICES

Chair Burke reported that Captain Daggett received a letter from an individual who complimented the jail nursing staff and the care and treatment he received while in our jail.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: September 11, 2012

ADJOURN

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Keil/Ebert to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.** (Downer excused)

The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next Council meeting.

Approved September 11, 2012
Recorded by Terri Pavlic