

## LA CROSSE COUNTY NOTICE OF MEETING

<b>COMMITTEE OR BOARD:</b>	<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL</b>	
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021</b>	
<b>MEETING PLACE:</b>	<b>VIA ZOOM PLEASE SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW ON HOW TO CONNECT</b>	
<b>TIME OF MEETING:</b>	<b>5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.</b>	
<b>PURPOSE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	
1.	Call to Order	
2.	Approval of the March 17, 2021 minutes of the CJMC	
3.	Public Comment – Public is able to participate in this agenda item via zoom link	
4.	SRO Report – Presented by SRO Subcommittee	
5.	Information on Proposed “Lightest Touch” Policy for Juveniles Offenders – Presented by Captain Avrie Schott, Mandy Bisek, Bridget Todd-Robbins, Phil Stegeman	
6.	Citizen Member Terms & Recruitment Plan	
7.	Review of agency update report	
8.	Informational / Misc. items	
9.	Future agenda items	
10.	Adjourn	
<b>NEWS MEDIA</b>	<b>OTHER</b>	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>
La Crosse Tribune	Kim Vogt	Tim Gruenke – chair
Coulee News	Mayor Timothy Kabat	Dr. Lisa Kruse – vice chair
WKBH / WLFN	Peter Kinziger	Chuck Ashbeck
WLSU	Patrick Brummond	Kim Cable
WKBT-TV	Jim Speropulos	Judge Scott Horne
WIZM	Joseph Sumner	Tom Jacobs
WXOW-TV	Mark Clements	Dr. Troy Harcey
Onalaska Community Life	Judges Bjerke, Levine, Horne, Doyle	Jeff Wolf
Holmen Courier	Patrick Barlow	Jerri Hertel/Jean Young
FoxNews	Kate Holinka	Monica Kruse
<b>COUNTY DEPARTMENTS</b>	Shawn Kudron	Margaret Larson
County Administrator	Duane Teschler	Araysa Simpson
County Clerk	Becky Spanjers	Avrie Schott
Facilities	Teri Serres	Jayne Rifenberg
Justice Support Services	Maureen Freedland	Joella Strieble
Corp Counsel	Bev Heebsh	Jason Witt
	Jim Verse	Angel Lee
		Dr. Suthakaran Veerasamy
		Keonte Turner
		Toya Reynolds
		Andrew Alvaro Rasmussen

***A quorum of the Judiciary and Law Committee may also be present at this meeting***

**MEMBERS:** If unable to attend, call Tiffany Cornell at (608) 785-6150.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Committee may receive information from the public, but the Committee reserves the right to limit the time that the public may comment and the degree to which members of the public may participate in the meeting.

**PERSONS WITH DISABILITY:** If you need accommodation to attend this meeting, please contact Tiffany Cornell at (608) 785-6150 as soon as possible.

**DATE NOTICE FAXED/MAILED/EMAILED AND POSTED: April 13, 2021**

***This meeting may be recorded and any such recording is subject to disclosure under the Wisconsin Open Records Law.***

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wicourts.zoom.us/j/94632125414?pwd=M3RiNk1vaWpCMHRrMjBscWhSNi9hZz09>

Meeting ID: 946 3212 5414

Passcode: 817131

Dial in location:

+1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 946 3212 5414

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL****MARCH 17, 2021****MEETING HELD VIA: ZOOM****LINK TO RECORDING:**

<https://wicourts.zoom.us/rec/share/hugOx5M4wxLmiVINglUSnvOaTIif3LMZ4WK7V-FHXgB4sVCg17pY84mhfC1-mZFNh.LKAI9092cfysUdRY?startTime=1616018443000>

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Tim Gruenke, Lisa Kruse, Margaret Larson, Tom Jacobs, Jayne Rifenberg, Jeff Wolf, Araysa Simpson, Shawn Kudron, Angel Lee, Jenna Theler, Joella Striebel, Jason Witt, Andrew Rasmussen, Monica Kruse, Charles Ashbeck, Rob Abraham, Troy Harcey, Toya Reynolds, Sutha Veerasamy
<b>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</b>	Kim Cable, Keonte Turner, Jean Young/Jerri Hertel
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Vicki Markussen, Mitch Reynolds, Mandy Bisek, Benjamin Ames, Jane Klekamp, Jim Verse, Judge Levine, Leah Durnin Hoover, Alayna Yang, La Crosse Resident, Kaitlyn Riley, Ben Moris, Laura, Maureen Friedland, Garrett Denning, Rachel Krueger, Ashley H, Nese Nasif, Eric Timmons, Monica Gorski, Jess Thill, Ty Don, Annie B, Rosenawa's iPhone, Greg Geboski

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Tim Gruenke called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm via Zoom

**MAYORAL FORUM WITH CANDIDATES VICKI MARKUSSEN & MITCH REYNOLDS**

Chair Tim Gruenke gave introduction of the candidates, focus of this particular forum on Criminal Justice issues, and outline of how the forum will operate.

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>REYNOLDS RESPONSE</b>	<b>MARKUSSON RESPONSE</b>
If elected mayor what is your #1 priority to address crime in La Crosse?	Understand that the impacts of crime are different depending on who you are, where you live, and what demographic you may fall into. True as well for policing and police practices. Different perspectives are brought to the topic of crime and policing depending on their experience. Speaks of his own personal experience with La Crosse Police being extremely positive. The first way to deal with crime in the community is to understand the needs of the people of the City of La Crosse and how it impacts them. Discusses how crime rates have remained stable over the last 10	The mayor needs to meet the team. Has met with Chief Kudron and Assistant Chief Abraham and would like to meet the rest of the team. The second thing is that hearing what people are saying when she goes door to door. People talk about safety, at the level they interact. Ensure community voices are being heard, so ensuring we get the survey back from UWL who is working on that community feedback is critical. One of the things spelled out in First 100 Days plan is assessing the state of our people. With coming out of a pandemic we know that the mental strain is higher than it has ever been

	<p>years in regards to property crimes and decreased in regards to violent crime, yet how we perceive that crime can be significantly greater depending on perspective. First priority is to make sure we're having an open conversation in relation to crime and policing, and begin that process immediately with community members and community stakeholders.</p>	<p>and drug addictions are up. Interested in talking to non-profits and others in the community to determine what we need to do to get people to healthy ways of interacting. The mental health and wellness of our people have an integral role.</p>
<p>What is your plan for the first 90-120 days to establish trust and cooperation with system partners?</p>	<p>Making sure we take the time to meet with the many stakeholders involved to assess how stakeholders interact with Criminal Justice System and how it impacts our community and neighbors that live here. In regards to the police department and city police union, have to help keep them in account as well as make sure we are addressing their needs, as well as the county, the courts, the YWCA and the work being done with racial sensitivity and restorative justice, etc. References meeting a few weeks ago in which criminality gets tied into homelessness. This is an example of conversations that are needed to understand at a more comprehensive level.</p>	<p>Covered a bit in previous question. First of all making sure she has identified all the partners. There are different doors that people enter into the system. Determining where the gaps are. Determining where partnerships have worked well and not so well. What is the vision moving forward. Taking all viewpoints and understanding the themes. Understanding the role of Police Chief and Officers. What are the key areas that we need to work on.</p>
<p>What ideas do you have to address the homelessness problem in La Crosse other than using police and the jail to address that population?</p>	<p>Intrigued by Chelsea Hub model that is an interactive method for being proactive towards addressing the needs of those community members who are at risk. Identifying the needs and allocating community services to focus on those needs so there isn't a need for constant ongoing policing. Example of police responding to same individuals 6 times in 1 night, as an example of inefficiency. By having a more proactive and more socially conscious way of addressing these issues we don't have to rely on our police so much.</p>	<p>Commendable that police are there 24 hours / day, 7 days / week, 365 days / year, so they seem like a logical response, but not always the best response. We have the Collaboration to End Homelessness who has the skillsets that are needed. These partners have talked about mobile crisis to go out and meet the needs of the individuals. One of the shared goals between the City and this group is the decriminalization and the providing of resources. So if there is another entity that can respond to those calls that are appropriate, we</p>

		<p>should have those conversations. In the meantime, interested in an idea that Chief Kudron brought up about a co-responder model, bringing someone who is trained in mental health along with the police officer could make a difference.</p>
<p>Two of our largest issues in the Criminal Justice system are drug addiction and mental health. What ideas do you have for increasing resources or solutions for these problems outside of the use of police resources?</p>	<p>We are definitely lacking resources for addiction and mental health. Speaks of personal experience in family with mental health and addictions. Difficult to find someone who has not been impacted by the devastating effects of addiction. One thing we need to do is advocate for the removal of stigma associated with seeking help for addiction. This can be part of the leadership the mayor brings to the city. Having the personal experience in his family, helps him to understand the struggle and demons that people face on a regular basis.</p> <p>Make sure we're advocating for opportunities with local providers, such as Coulee Recovery Center wanting to provide a recovery facility in community.</p> <p>Important that the mayor is advocating for decreasing the stigma, but also clearing the way and removing restrictions for organizations to allow organizations to pursue creating service in community.</p>	<p>This is a complicated problem, and intertwined with everything. One of the main issues is just not having the services to address addiction and mental health, leading people to go outside our community for those services. Need to have conversations with healthcare providers to see how they can better meet those needs. No representatives of the local healthcare organizations in the CJMC stakeholder group, so how do we pull them into these conversations. There is a financial component that presents a gap. If we're not treating those individuals, incarceration is sadly effective once you get them in, get them the medication, and have some success rates. But that is not the answer. However we can get the right team of individuals before arrest, can detect the needs of the person and meet those needs. Tremendous opportunity for diversion prior to accessing the system.</p>
<p>The CJMC asked a subcommittee to look into the creation of a citizen advisory board to allow further community oversight of police. What is your opinion on the creation of such a body?</p>	<p>The subcommittee is advisory, just like the CJMC is advisory in nature. There is perception that the subcommittee is somehow creating an advisory board, but that is not the case. They're investigating, identifying, and making recommendations for such a board. He sees nothing wrong with studying this concept. There is already something in place such as this in Madison. Drawing good</p>	<p>Feels there is a lot of commonality between the goals of the subcommittee and the La Crosse Police Department and the Police and Fire Commission that oversee them. Everyone wants a safer community, vibrancy, reduce criminalization and trust is needed and information gathered in a trusting way. Where feedback is provided, acknowledged and there's accountability to that feedback to</p>

	<p>lessons from that and getting input from the community through survey conducted by UWL are the right steps to determine whether such an oversight board would be right for our County. As far as the board itself, doesn't think there is anything wrong with having additional oversight, seeing it more as an ombudsman role where a citizen who may have a complaint can know there is a citizen group that will make sure that there is follow through on that complaint, which doesn't seem to be an easy process with the Police and Fire Commission. Appreciates the work the subcommittee is doing, looks forward to the recommendations, and looks forward to potentially having a citizen advisory board.</p>	<p>say what are you going to do with it, and accountability back to those providing that feedback. Because if they are providing feedback and they are experiencing the exact same things out of the Police Department, then there's some concerns. We obviously all want people to have a dignified interaction with our police. The survey that's being done provides valuable feedback, and she is looking forward to it and seeing how widespread the response was. We unite on protecting and serving, those are the areas of commonality. In speaking with Chief Kudron, he's very open to feedback, open to review of policies and manuals, desiring trust and transparency. In mentioning the Madison model, there is a difference in that is a City policy, this is a County policy. There is state statute that gets in the way. She is fore this group and the feedback coming in. One piece that is different is whether this is an oversight board or an advisory board. If an advisory board then much easier to work into those state statutes, and something that could be figured out.</p>
<p>What role do you see for the mayor in increasing or building trust between police and marginalized populations?</p>	<p>He has gotten feedback that communities that we look at as being marginalized would like to be heard more often, to make certain that they're feedback is part of the conversation. Community conversations to provide more opportunities for that structured environment, so it is something that is cooperative, and not something with conflict. Has also heard that the NRO programs are very well received by some of the communities that face the biggest challenges within our city. The effort has been appreciated by at</p>	<p>We can't assume that trust is given at the moment of interaction. The mayor, then, is somewhat of a trust builder, and trust is built over multiple interactions. Having relationships with individuals and organizations. They understand the needs that they have of the city, they understand the type of dynamics that they want to have with the city. It begins with conversation, and understanding the shared goals. When we do that repeated times and are accountable to what we say we are working on as a city, not just the police. By</p>

	<p>least some of the people that he has spoken to who have had some conflicts with the police. Therefore, would like to see a broader conversation in regards to NRO's. Also believes it is essential for the Mayor to be the advocate for making certain that we're reaching out to BIPOC communities that feel like their interests are not being considered in relation to policing. Work with the police and those in those communities to help them feel like they have a seat at the table.</p>	<p>having a system that is about continuous improvement. How do we make our relationships and our systems better. There is a cultural piece to this, and when we are always having negative interactions, that's not a way to build trust. We also have to be celebrating as a community the incredible diversity that we have. Obviously the police department plays a key role in that as well. We can't forget to celebrate the good along with the challenges.</p>
<p>The School Resource Officer (SRO) program has been under review for the last year. Do you have any ideas for the role of police or the city in serving at risk youth in the community?</p>	<p>Strong opportunity to evaluate how we've been interacting with the school system and police. Find out what are the best parts about that and replicate those within either the school district, the community or both. One of the benefits that some felt were police building relationships in schools, but those relationships weren't always good and sometimes were. Personal experience with children growing up in La Crosse School District were extraordinarily positive. Experience matters. That's not the case for everyone. Need to understand where those negatives were and try to not do that again. Defers to the School District on the SRO issue because they went through a comprehensive study and identified what they felt were significant failures within the SRO program and a massive contributor to the school to prison pipeline. Believes they are working on plans to make certain that they are reaching out in relation to school social work to address the needs of that at-risk community. Believes we can work with the School District collaboratively to make certain that we're addressing those needs as</p>	<p>We have to accept the School District's answer and their plan. Describes her personal experience with an email being sent out from the principal who have heard concerns from students and teachers that there is a safety need. Mom heart says, do I want an officer 10 seconds away or 10 minutes away, obviously I'm going to say 10 seconds. Parents and teachers have concerns and we have to make sure those concerns are being addressed. We have to be monitoring how many calls police officers are still making to the schools. Impressed with a meeting downtown a few weeks ago in which an officer there remembered the names of her boys and asked how they were doing. Told her that the officer had formed a relationship with her kids. However have to address what is going to happen with our juveniles. References the System of Care that will hopefully get expanded out into the community. Diverting juveniles from going into the system and getting them the resources they need and reducing number of arrests. How do we keep positive</p>

	well.	connection to police officers? Ensure it is not a threatening interaction, but an ongoing relationship.
Both locally and nationally the police have been under pressure to make changes. What is your view of policing in today's society? For example, are there any changes you would like to explore?	<p>One of the key things to remember is that the police are not separate from our community, they're part of our community, and their policing is a reflection in a lot of ways the rules that we require of them. If we want to really change policing in our society we need to change how we're expecting them to enforce laws. This will likely be bigger than a city standpoint, although we can do something about how we deal with certain crimes.</p> <p>He is open to the ideas of reallocating resources from the police department if we can identify ways where the needs they fulfill on a regular basis as it relates to social work, mental health, addictions. If we can find ways to reallocate these resources to free up police to do police work, would be open to that. Would like to advocate with Police Chief for additional racial sensitivity training. Look at strategic planning the department did a couple years ago and identify on a regular basis if they're fulfilling the obligations of that strategic mission. For instance, social media posts that can be frightening or point out dangers in our community – are those fulfilling that strategic mission?</p>	<p>Our police officers have a very tough job, making approximately 60,000 calls a year which is incredible. There's more and more demands on them, knowing the statistics mental health and addiction adds a whole complexity to our police officers. One of the first questions she asked of officers was how's your morale, because they take on a lot of negative energy and it's important to make sure they are stepping out of constantly feeling like they have a target on their back. To appreciate the work that they are doing. Feels that police have the same goals that everyone wants to have a safe community. Very impressed with our police department that they are open to feedback. If we can help relieve their work with things like mobile crisis unit or something that gives them support and allows them to focus on other areas that would be important.</p> <p>Would the city support LBTQ training – thinks building trust with that community and being interested in what is important to those groups and incorporating it. One of the most pressing things to continue, ensure we are listening to neighborhood groups. Have heard from many of those groups that they have fears with defunding the police, we need to be focusing on safety and we can't cut our way to safety. Ensure our communities are feeling supported and relationships are being formed with our police officers.</p>



<p>Is there anything else you would like people to know about your views on crime and our justice system in La Crosse?</p>	<p>Important to understand that we need to have conversations with not only those that are impacted by crime – and many likely will be impacted by crime – and also those that feel they are feeling be unjustly impacted by the Criminal Justice System. There is very strong evidence that there is a disproportionate impact of the Criminal Justice System on our BIPOC communities, right here in our own community. Doesn't think status quo is good enough. What can we do in the City of La Crosse that can have some impact on that? Believes that crime originates in the socioeconomic circumstances that we come from, and so how can we impact the circumstances proactively, rather than reactive on the back end that is more costly. Advance our community that is proactive rather than reactive.</p>	<p>Read the strategic plan of CJMC, first observation, where are the metrics? How do you know how you are doing? In terms of collaboration between CJMC and the City would like to see some common metrics (recidivism, deferrals, etc.). City of La Crosse brings in 80% of individuals into the criminal justice system.</p> <p>As mayor would be looking to all department heads, especially police department, to use their expertise. Want them to have connections to other communities to find innovation and solutions to our problems.</p> <p>Commends our police department for transparency tab on website. Wants to make clear, she is not for defunding the police. I think that does not align with the values of our community. The number 2 thing she hears is that safety is a concern for the community and if we say that we are going to have fewer police on the street that is a concern. Look for more efficient, effective, and different ways of providing service. Ensure communicating out how changing as a police department and the city.</p>
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Both candidates shared their websites:

[mitchreynolds.com](http://mitchreynolds.com)

[vickiformayor.us](http://vickiformayor.us)

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 17, 2021 MINUTES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**MOTION** by Tom Jacobs / Judge Horne to approve the February 17, 2021 minutes of the Criminal Justice Management Council. **Motion carried unanimously;** Turner, Cable, Young/Hertel excused.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Benjamin Ames – Comments on Facebook post of La Crosse Professional Police Supervisors and Officers Association, regarding member of Council, Joella Striebel intending to cast her in a negative light. Feels it was entirely inappropriate and potentially puts her in danger in the community with how widespread it was shared. Post stayed up until current Mayor

commented on the in propriety of it. Feels this is totally unprofessional. Would like to see investigation and accountability to the person(s) behind that post.

Rev. Benjamin Morris – Comments on last month’s meeting and was disheartened by Officer Abraham took toward this committee. Reverend Morris also serves in a very public role and believes in a role of public accountability there are times that are uncomfortable. If this committee and our community is going to work toward goals of having public accountability for policing. We’re going to work toward the goals of justice and racial representation, it is important to ensure personal grievances are not brought into the meeting. There are 2 professions that have watched their public status plummet and lose public trust – police and clergy. Commends committee for the work it is doing and the members who have sat through harassment. As La Crosse Police Department sits through moments of discomfort, that we realize that it is only through public accountability that any institution can gain trust in the community.

La Crosse Resident / Sarah – Comments on Facebook post. Not comfortable with name or face being associated with how it impacted her. Makes for a bad taste of how views police department. More telling that it took post from Mayor to take it down. Hoping an apology was offered to the woman, but the community has not heard this apology. Feels they behaved badly and can’t take that back. Once put out there the whole community will judge you for it. Reckless. Appreciate the prior comments. The damage done to this woman is real. She was not criminal and got hung out. Will be very hard to undue. Appreciates those that show up to these committees and puts their lives and the lives of their families on the line to do this important work of holding people accountable for their words and actions.

#### **INFORMATIONAL/MISC. ITEMS:**

Tim and Lisa have heard from a number of committee members, community members, and others that echo what many of the members of the public have said. Tim and Lisa have prepared statements to share with the committee. For the citizen members on this committee it is important to know that we feel the Police Union’s post was over the line and cannot go without some statement from us.

Tim’s Statement:

*"Want the police union to know this is very intimidating to citizens and doesn't think they realize just how intimidating it can be. This is not an example of ethical or professional behavior. The Criminal Justice Management Council is founded on the idea that we bring people together who have different viewpoints. We discuss issues professionally and politely, making our community better for everybody. We have prosecutors and defense attorneys who don't always agree. We have judges and probation officers. Police and people who have been arrested by police. We've always tried to include the citizens of the community, who are not here to give us a pat on the back but to share their differences and share their criticisms, and to address any problems they have. So we can hear from them, listen to them, give them a voice and listen to people who normally have no voice, no matter how uncomfortable that makes those of us in the system feel. What the police union did was exactly the opposite. They were telling a citizen don't talk if you're critical of the police, don't speak up unless we want to hear from you, and if you have even a suggestion that there's going to be some criticism you'll be singled out. I can't imagine how that made her feel, and it's not something that we can condone. I'm glad to see that the post was taken down relatively quickly. Hopefully people realize their errors and understood how serious it was. The police union clearly has a problem with the committee that Joella was investigating, and I just want to be clear to everybody that we are the ones that asked to have that committee. We had a discussion and we've said this is something we have to*

*explore. We had someone from Madison come and speak about it and it was to explore the possibility that this committee would exist. She didn't do anything wrong, and she certainly didn't deserve to be treated that way. If the police union wants to build trust with communities, I think they have to first be willing to hear things that they don't like without defensiveness or using their power to defeat that criticism. If it did anything for me it was to point out the fact that that's exactly what we do need is something other than a Police and Fire Commission because citizens have been intimidated at just the mere suggestion that there might be something that might criticize or hold the police accountable. So, from my perspective as a chair, I apologize to Joella for her speaking her mind to be treated this way because this is not what we want. We want citizens to want to be in this floor, we want them to feel it is a good experience, a positive experience. And the last thing that we should have is for somebody to feel like they're being singled out by any member of the committee or organization."*

Lisa Kruse makes a statement:

*"I've been a citizen member on this council for nearly 8 years. I've dedicated a lot of time and energy to this group because I believe in the importance of the work done around this table. That work requires a dedication to evidence-based practices. Fact finding and researching, having collaborative, productive conversations about advancing the mission and vision of this group. Working to achieve an equitable contribution of voices around the table, both citizen and practitioner. The last several years has been devoted to diversifying the representation on this council to provide better perspective and important contributions from marginalized voices at this table. The attacks on one of our citizen members and the work of a subcommittee that was created by the CJMC has fundamentally threatened all of this work and is the opposite of what this group should be and should strive for. I strongly condemn the actions over the last several weeks that have put one of our members in fear of safety and well-being. It is important for us all to come together as a collective in condemning these actions lest we want a chilling effect on the climate of this council. If this group wants citizen members around this table, there must be a renewed effort to elevate those voices and establish their importance. Thank you."*

Joella Striebel makes a statement

*"Thank you for the opportunity to address the council. I joined the CJMC as a citizen member in the summer of 2017. I was interested in serving the community in this capacity based on a desire to deepen my understanding of the local criminal justice system from the perspective of those working within it, as well as a desire to bring the unique perspective of my own experiences and my windows into the experiences of others. As an addiction professional, an activist, and an organizer, I'd had the opportunity to develop trusting relationships with many individuals who hold various marginalized identities and have interacted with our criminal justice system. These included people who use drugs, people with significant mental health challenges, people who've experienced homelessness, people who have supported themselves with sex work, people with CPS involvement, people with various disabilities, and intersecting with all of these, people who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color. As I understand it, these connections along with my willingness to speak up and say things that might be uncomfortable or difficult to hear led to my being invited to serve on the council.*

*Until I joined the CJMC, my own experiences as a white woman in this community with law enforcement had been neutral to positive.*

*Serving on this council was supposed to be about us working together toward a common goal. It was supposed to be about having challenging ongoing conversations, together, to make improvements to our local justice system, to strengthen relationships between stakeholders and community members like me and those whose perspectives I hoped to help bring to the table with me, and to educate the community about how our justice system works. I understood that my role was to share with the communities I interact with what I learned here, and to share with the council what I learned from those communities. So that's what I did. It became evident early on that some stakeholders were more receptive to hearing uncomfortable feedback than others.*

*I never anticipated that volunteering my time to improve our community would negatively impact my life, safety, and health, but it has. In recent weeks, I have been singled out by law enforcement leaders and publicly identified as an enemy of the police. In my opinion, the assistant chief of the La Crosse Police Department interrupted a public meeting to question my character. The local police union somehow obtained and publicly shared private Facebook photos of me and, in my opinion, questioned my integrity and suggested that I am not capable of rational thought. These photos have been shared over and over again, leaving me vulnerable to public scrutiny in a way that I could never have predicted or prepared for. Because of my participation on a subcommittee, as directed by this body, I am now the target of ongoing harassment by others in the community. A belated private apology from Chief Kudron does little to counteract the harm that has been done publicly. My family and I do not feel safe in our home. We do not feel safe in our community.*

*The police did that.*

*Two statements that I made recently, and that I proudly stand by, have been the catalyst for the most recent harassment.*

*The first, I did say, and I believe "Strong communities prove police obsolete." This was cast as hateful. A belief that our community can become strong enough to render policing as we know it today obsolete is not an expression of hate. On the contrary, it is an expression of deep and abiding love for community, and an expression of faith in all of us that we can do better and we can be better for each other. I believe in a future where neighbors look out for one another and where everyone's basic needs are met.*

*The second statement, "All cops are bound to a system of violence and oppression," was mischaracterized as a statement that all cops are themselves violent and oppressive. This characterization is inaccurate and unfair. All cops ARE bound to a SYSTEM of violence and oppression. To deny this is to deny the very history and inception of policing, and to deny the experiences of those across this country who continue to suffer disproportionately from harmful policing practices. Those who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, LGBTQ+, those who are poor, those who are experiencing homelessness, those who are disabled, those who use drugs, those who experience mental health challenges, those who engage in sex work, those who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.*

*I believe that all police are bound to a system of violence and oppression in the same way that I believe that all white people, myself absolutely included, are bound to white supremacy and that all men are bound to toxic patriarchy. These are not fringe ideas. They are well-supported by research in sociology and criminology, as well as the lived experiences of people all over the world.*

*The reactions by law enforcement to the exploration of community oversight of police in La Crosse have demonstrated clearly just how urgently additional oversight is needed and how inadequate the current system is at keeping civilians safe from police abuse of power. For that, I express my deepest thanks to the City of La Crosse Police Department.*

*It has become clear that I can either serve on this council in a way that is authentic and true to my values, or I can do everything in my power to try to keep myself and my family safe, but I cannot do both. I choose my safety. This is my last CJMC meeting as a citizen member.*

*My participation on the CJMC and its subcommittees has been unfairly painted by certain members of the police as problematic and divisive. It is my expectation and sincere wish that removing myself as a supposed obstacle will reduce police resistance to the creation of a Community Oversight Board, which is so obviously and desperately needed.*

*Thank you”.*

Tim thanks Joella for her time and dedication to the Council.

Judge Horne comments – thanks Joella for her energy and effort that she has devoted to this, and unfortunate that she has been put in this position. Feedback is never comfortable. Many issues brought to the floor. Has a lot of respect for law enforcement, and that others have another experience. People in positions of authority need to listen to those that are impacted by our actions and our statements. Politics today are one of divisiveness, hostility. It is important we listen to feedback of those of different backgrounds and experience. From Judge’s perspective, involvement in this council has been enlightening. This whole effort is to help us do a better job at the jobs we do. We depend on the trust of the community. That is something that is earned. The community has the right to expect that when they want to share their experiences, that we will listen and be thoughtful before responding. Hopes that all of us in positions of authority can respect those that appear before the committee, and recognize the good faith in sharing their experience, and take a step back to reflect before reacting. Thanks committee members for having the good community sense and commitment to the community for sharing their experience, and hopes that those in positions of authority respect that experience. Thanks Joella for her service and commitment and hopes she reconsiders, but would understand if she doesn’t. Appreciates the other citizen members for their service.

Monica Kruse expresses her dismay at the fact that one of our competent, committed citizen members has been scared off by the exact thing this committee was looking to eliminate in our community. Joella has done an exceptional job at leading the subcommittee. Extremely disappointed in the pressure that has been exerted has caused her to leave. Monica feels more emboldened to do this work. Hope that Joella reconsiders. All on committee are committed to doing the work to find ways to make our community safer and more responsive.

Lisa Kruse comments on her respect for Joella’s request to leave the council, and feels this council should not pressure her to come back. Values her as a member, and is grateful for Joella’s advancement of the goals of CJMC. Sad that she is in such fear of her wellbeing and

safety due to the actions of the folks that should be the people there to protect us and keep us safe.

Angel Lee comments (difficult to hear due to technical issues). As victim advocate and advocate of color leaving words of encouragement to Joella. Thanks her for being so vulnerable in such a public space. Hears points of empowerment and disappointment. Leaves Joella with a quote, "Vulnerability is the most accurate measure of courage."

Sutha Veerasamy comments - On the Council for a while now and has spoken up on issues of race. No matter where brings up the issue of race, they are quick to point out that La Crosse is not like Chicago, LA, New York. This incident shows us that La Crosse is no different. As a person of color, shudders to wonder what would happen to him if he had been the one to make comments, if this is what happens to a white woman? "What would they do to this brown boy?" If we are willing to acknowledge that Chicago has a problem with their police force, we have to acknowledge we do as well. It seems there is one individual in the police force that is the face of the police community, and seems to be giving his voice to each issue that comes up. By allowing this, it seems to suggest that this individual is the face of the police force and it is the view of the department. Would like to hear something from the Chief that says clearly, that this individual does not represent us. "Convince us, convince me."

Mandy Bisek comments as CJMC staff person, and another leader in the criminal justice system, noting the Council's Mission and Vision, that is not often reviewed or reflected, but seems appropriate at this time. Perhaps reviewing at further meetings.

CJMC MISSION: The Criminal Justice Management Council seeks a just, coordinated and accountable criminal justice system for La Crosse County by promoting collaboration and engagement of criminal justice stakeholders and the community.

VISION STATEMENT: All people in La Crosse County experience a healthy, safe and just life.

Tim reminds everyone to vote for Mayor on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, Chair Gruenke adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.

Recorded by Mandy Bisek

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
AGENCY UPDATE

DATE: 4-8-21 AGENCY: DOC / DCC  
SUBMITTED BY: Jean Young, Chief Region 8

**CJMC mission related agency updates and any relevant background or context:**

**Relevant service data:**

We opened our doors to the public on April 5th. We continue to encourage remote work when possible, but have adjusted staffing patterns to meet local court / stakeholder needs.

**Media attention, community events, etc. – please include links or relevant details**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
AGENCY UPDATE

DATE: 4/8/2021

AGENCY: Justice Support Services

SUBMITTED BY: Mandy Bisek

**CJMC mission related agency updates and any relevant background or context:**

The Justice Support Services section is comprised of 5 units:

- 1.) La Crosse Area Family Collaborative (LAFC) - early intervention/prevention of Child Protective Services (CPS) referrals
- 2.) System of Care (SOC) - early intervention / prevention of Youth Justice (YJ) referrals - currently focused in 3 Middle Schools & 2 High Schools in La Crosse School District
- 3.) Youth Justice - informal and formal supervision of youth referred to Human Services for charges
- 4.) Western Regional Adolescent Services (WRAS) - Juvenile Detention & Shelter facilities that serve counties regionally
  - Shelter
  - Short Term Juvenile Detention (JDF)
  - Long Term Secure Placement (CORE Academy)
- 5.) Adult Justice Support Services (JSS) - supportive & diversionary services for the adult criminal justice system
  - Pre- and Post-Charge Diversion Programs
  - OWI Treatment Court
  - Drug Treatment Court
  - Bond Monitoring
  - Sentence Monitoring
  - Intoxicated Driver Program / Driver Safety Assessment
  - Fresh Start Re-Entry Program (currently transitioning to a shared CCS position)

**Relevant service data:**

See attached spreadsheet of 3 year trends of JSS programs

**Media attention, community events, etc. – please include links or relevant details**



**JUSTICE SUPPORT SERVICES TREND DATA**

2018-2020

JSS - ADULT				ETHNICITY			RACE						GENDER		AGE				SUCCESS	
		TOTAL CLIENT EPISODES	UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS	HISPANIC	NON-HISPANIC	UNKNOW N	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICA N	NATIVE HAWAIIA N	UNKNOW N	MALE	FEMALE	17-25	26-35	36+	UNKNOWN	SUCCESSFUL DISCHARGE	UNSUCCESSFUL DISCHARGE
BOND	2018	1082	808	2%	93%	5%	75%	16%	4%	2%	0%	2%	74%	26%	23%	33%	44%	0%	52%	48%
	2019	1045	706	2%	93%	5%	72%	17%	5%	2%	0%	3%	77%	23%	24%	33%	43%	0%	46%	53%
	2020*	711	594	3%	9%	4%	70%	22%	4%	2%	0%	3%	77%	23%	23%	32%	44%	0%	57%	43%
SENTENCE	2018	240	209	2%	91%	7%	76%	13%	4%	3%	0%	4%	70%	30%	23%	39%	38%	0%	64%	36%
	2019	184	152	3%	88%	9%	71%	17%	3%	0%	7%	75%	25%	18%	42%	35%	0%	64%	34%	
	2020*	102	93	1%	90%	9%	72%	21%	2%	0%	6%	79%	21%	20%	31%	49%	0%	76%	23%	
DRUG TX COURT	2018	57	55	0%	93%	7%	86%	5%	9%	0%	0%	0%	68%	32%	16%	49%	35%	0%	50%	50%
	2019	57	54	0%	96%	4%	82%	7%	9%	0%	0%	2%	72%	28%	8%	25%	67%	0%	67%	26%
	2020*	40	38	0%	98%	3%	88%	5%	5%	0%	0%	3%	73%	28%	18%	55%	28%	0%	26%	65%
OWI TX COURT	2018	161	161	2%	94%	3%	90%	4%	2%	2%	0%	1%	74%	26%	5%	27%	69%	0%	71%	25%
	2019	175	174	2%	85%	3%	86%	5%	4%	2%	0%	3%	70%	29%	8%	25%	67%	0%	67%	26%
	2020*	141	141	3%	94%	3%	87%	7%	4%	1%	0%	2%	73%	27%	6%	28%	66%	0%	53%	36%
IDP	2018	899	887	2%	61%	37%	57%	4%	3%	1%	0%	34%	70%	30%	21%	32%	47%	0%	77%	8%
	2019	591	588	2%	98%	0%	86%	8%	4%	2%	0%	0%	67%	33%	25%	32%	43%	0%	97%	3%
	2020*	510	504	5%	83%	12%	87%	3%	2%	0%	0%	8%	68%	32%	43%	17%	40%	0%	82%	17%
PRE-CHARGE DIVERSION	2018	105	105	1%	77%	22%	82%	10%	4%	2%	0%	3%	65%	35%	51%	25%	22%	2%	68%	32%
	2019	79	78	4%	68%	28%	67%	11%	3%	1%	0%	18%	63%	35%	51%	23%	27%	0%	76%	23%
	2020*	60	60	5%	83%	12%	87%	3%	2%	0%	0%	8%	68%	32%	43%	17%	40%	0%	82%	17%
POST-CHARGE DIVERSION	2018	335	331	1%	87%	13%	84%	7%	3%	0%	0%	5%	63%	37%	42%	28%	29%	1%	76%	23%
	2019	377	375	2%	89%	9%	81%	11%	3%	1%	0%	5%	63%	37%	42%	25%	33%	0%	86%	10%
	2020*	286	286	4%	90%	7%	80%	11%	3%	1%	1%	3%	63%	37%	44%	26%	31%	0%	82%	12%
FRESH START	2018	7	7	0%	100%	0%	71%	14%	0%	14%	0%	0%	71%	29%	29%	14%	57%	0%	0%	0%
	2019	42	42	0%	100%	0%	88%	2%	2%	7%	0%	0%	60%	40%	21%	31%	48%	0%	39%	45%
	2020*	28	28	0%	100%	0%	71%	14%	7%	7%	0%	0%	86%	14%	14%	46%	39%	0%	73%	23%

	TOTAL CLIENT EPISODES	UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS	HISPANIC	NON-HISPANIC	UNKNOW N	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICA N	NATIVE HAWAIIA N	UNKNOW N	MALE	FEMALE	UNDER 10	10-13	14-16	17	UNKNOWN	
YJ	2018	348	311	5%	48%	47%	66%	26%	2%	5%	0%	1%	65%	35%	2%	37%	57%	9%	2%
	2019	370	317	6%	56%	38%	66%	28%	2%	3%	0%	1%	59%	41%	3%	34%	61%	2%	0%
	2020*	236	226	6%	60%	34%	61%	32%	1%	1%	0%	4%	62%	37%		35%	61%	3%	0%

	TOTAL CLIENT EPISODES	HISPANIC	NON-HISPANIC	UNKNOW N	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICA N	NATIVE HAWAIIA N	UNKNOW N	MALE	FEMALE	UNDER 10	10-13	14-16	17	UNKNOWN	
WRAS JDF In-County	2018	87	13%	86%	1%	63%	30%	0%	7%	0%	0%	74%	26%	0%	30%	63%	7%	0%
	2019	63	17%	81%	2%	67%	27%	0%	5%	0%	0%	71%	29%	0%	5%	93%	13%	0%
	2020*	18	11%	89%	0%	44%	44%	0%	11%	0%	0%	67%	33%	0%	6%	72%	22%	0%
WRAS JDF	2018	56	5%	84%	11%	79%	7%	0%	13%	0%	2%	70%	30%	0%	16%	80%	4%	0%
	2019	100	7%	84%	9%	63%	17%	0%	15%	2%	3%	86%	14%	0%	14%	79%	7%	0%

OOC	2020*	31		3%	84%	13%	52%	26%	0%	13%	0%	10%	74%	26%	0%	26%	68%	6%	0%
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WRAS SHELTER In-County	2018	96		6%	78%	16%	61%	34%	1%	0%	0%	0%	54%	46%	0%	32%	55%	13%	0%
	2019	106		10%	81%	8%	60%	25%	5%	9%	0%	0%	49%	51%	0%	20%	62%	18%	0%
	2020*	64		5%	81%	14%	63%	16%	3%	17%	0%	2%	61%	39%	2%	38%	50%	11%	0%
WRAS SHELTER OOC	2018	63		11%	70%	19%	90%	8%	0%	2%	0%	0%	73%	27%	0%	25%	63%	11%	0%
	2019	73		7%	79%	14%	81%	7%	0%	10%	0%	3%	75%	25%	0%	23%	58%	19%	0%
	2020*	48		4%	90%	6%	60%	10%	0%	25%	0%	4%	65%	35%	0%	25%	67%	8%	0%

WRAS CORE In-County	2018	6		0%	100%	0%	67%	17%	0%	17%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	33%	50%	17%	0%
	2019	5		20%	80%	0%	60%	20%	0%	20%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
	2020*	5		20%	80%	0%	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
WRAS CORE OOC	2018	10		0%	90%	10%	70%	10%	0%	20%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	10%	90%	0%	0%
	2019	11		9%	91%	0%	45%	27%	0%	27%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
	2020*	11		9%	91%	0%	64%	36%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	91%	9%	0%

		TOTAL CLIENT EPISODES	UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS	HISPANIC	NON- HISPANIC	UNKNOW N	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICA N	NATIVE HAWAIIA N	UNKNOW N	MALE	FEMALE	UNDER 18	18-25	26-35	36+	UNKNOWN
LAFC	2018	176	168	3%	63%	34%	64%	26%	2%	1%	0%	7%	13%	87%	4%	9%	42%	41%	4%
	2019	203	190	11%	77%	11%	63%	32%	2%	1%	0%	2%	14%	86%	1%	11%	47%	39%	1%
	2020*	224	201	8%	91%	1%	63%	33%	2%	2%	0%	0%	13%	87%	0%	17%	46%	37%	0%

		TOTAL CLIENT EPISODES	UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS	HISPANIC	NON- HISPANIC	UNKNOW N	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICA N	NATIVE HAWAIIA N	UNKNOW N	MALE	FEMALE	UNDER 10	10-13	14-16	17	UNKNOWN	SUCCESSFUL DISCHARGE	UNSUCCESSFUL DISCHARGE
SOC	2018	110	105	1%	94%	5%	63%	29%	4%	2%	1%	2%	58%	42%	0%	20%	55%	25%	0%	63%	37%
	2019	134	84	9%	89%	2%	60%	34%	4%	1%	0%	1%	62%	38%	0%	44%	51%	4%	0%	71%	18%
	2020*	69	68	4%	88%	7%	62%	29%	3%	1%	0%	4%	58%	42%	0%	46%	49%	4%	0%	58%	23%

		UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS
BOND	2018	808
	2019	706
	2020*	594

SENTENCE	2018	209
	2019	152
	2020*	93

DRUG TX COURT	2018	55
	2019	54
	2020*	38

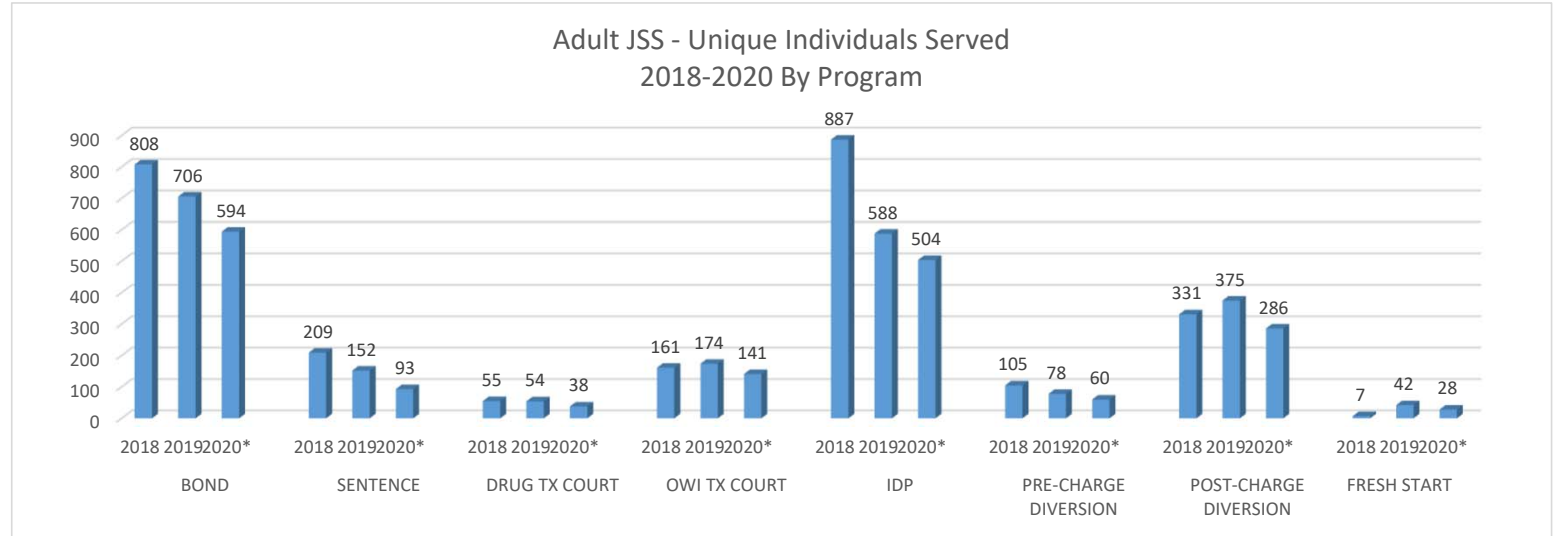
OWI TX COURT	2018	161
	2019	174
	2020*	141

IDP	2018	887
	2019	588
	2020*	504

PRE-CHARGE DIVERSIO	2018	105
	2019	78
	2020*	60

POST-CHARGE DIVERSIO	2018	331
	2019	375
	2020*	286

FRESH START	2018	7
	2019	42
	2020*	28



**IN THE MATTER OF  
OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR  
LA CROSSE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**

**ORDER**

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, and as amended on April 15, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court suspended, until further order of the court, most in-person proceedings, subject to exceptions for certain matters, if remote technology is not practicable or adequate to protect the constitutional rights of the citizens of Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered each circuit court to submit an operational plan to the chief judge of the applicable judicial administrative district. The operational plan was to include the requirements set forth in the order, and reduce to the greatest extent possible the risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, and promote the health and safety of all those present in the courtrooms and other court-related confined spaces. Supreme Court Orders, *In Re the Matter of the Extension of Orders and Interim rule concerning Continuation of Jury Trials, Suspension of Statutory Deadlines for Non-Criminal Jury Trials, and Remote Hearings during the COVID-19 Pandemic (05/22/20)* and *In Re the matter of the Final Report of the Wisconsin Courts COVID-19 Task Force (05/22/20)*.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the La Crosse County Circuit Court submitted an operational plan to resume in-person court proceedings and jury trials pursuant to the Wisconsin Supreme Court's May 22, 2020, order. The plan verifies that the court has communicated with the appropriate stakeholders regarding the protective measures. It also requires face coverings for all individuals present in the courtroom, appropriate social distancing, sanitation/hygiene practices, and appropriate signage.

IT IS ORDERED the operational plan for the La Crosse County Circuit Court is approved for the resumption of in-person court proceedings and jury trials.

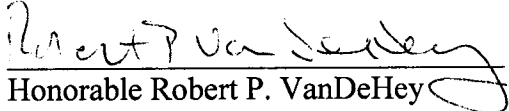
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the Wisconsin Supreme Court's amended order *In Re the Matter of Remote Hearings During the COVID-19 Pandemic (04/15/20)*, ceases to apply to the La Crosse County Circuit Court:

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the Wisconsin Supreme Court's amended order *In Re the Matter of Jury Trials During the COVID-19 Pandemic (03/22/20)*, ceases to apply to the La Crosse County Circuit Court:

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the Wisconsin Supreme Court's Interim Rule 20-02 *In Re the Matter of an Interim Rule re Suspension of Deadlines for Non-Criminal Jury Trials Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic*, ceases to apply to the La Crosse County Circuit Court:

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the provisions of this order shall be subject to modification or termination by future orders.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2021

  
Honorable Robert P. VanDeHey  
Chief Judge  
Seventh Judicial Administrative District

## **COVID-19 Circuit Court Operating Plan for La Crosse County**

Recognizing the need to ensure the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals entering the buildings housing the courts, the courts of La Crosse County will implement the following protective measures:

### **General**

1. The county judiciary has convened a stakeholder committee to discuss and consider the recommendations outlined in the Wisconsin COVID- 19 Task Force report.
2. All judges will use all reasonable efforts to conduct proceedings remotely but may at their discretion begin setting in-person proceedings April 5, 2021.
3. Before calendaring in-person hearings, staffing needs must be addressed and any equipment and supplies deemed necessary must be ready and available.
4. The county judiciary will continue to meet regularly with stakeholders, maintain communication with the local health authority and the county office of risk management. This Operating Plan may be withdrawn or amended to address any changes in the public health conditions in La Crosse County.

### **Judge and Court Staff Health**

1. Judges and court staff who can perform the essential functions of their job remotely will continue to do so, whenever possible.
2. The health of Judge and Court Staff will be controlled by the La Crosse County COVID-19 protocols and guidance posted on the county website.
3. Judges and court staff will be required to wear face coverings, practice social distancing and practice appropriate hand hygiene recommendations at all times.
4. Protective Measures will be required of all persons coming into the Courthouse: observing at least six foot social distancing; masks worn at all times in the courtroom; installation of Plexiglas around the witness stand in all courtrooms; multiple hand sanitizing stations located throughout the courthouse; using a single public entrance with posted notice of these requirements.
5. Anyone refusing to abide by these requirements will be denied entrance until the matter is reviewed by the Intake Judge. The personnel at the scanner will notify the JA for the Intake Judge and await instructions before taking any further action.

### **Scheduling**

1. The following court schedules are established to reduce occupancy in the court building: Video and telephonic hearings and meetings whenever possible; restrictions on observers when necessary; consideration of 6 person juries and trials to the court; use of juror questionnaires; staff working from home; Courthouse conference rooms shall not to be used as meeting location for lawyers and clients with out court permission. Cleaning supplies will be available in the conference rooms cleared for use for attorneys and their clients but they will be responsible for sanitizing this space before and after their use.

### **Vulnerable Populations**

1. Individuals who are over age 65 and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy are considered to be vulnerable populations.
2. Each judge will include information on orders setting hearings, dockets notices, and in other communications notifying individuals who are in vulnerable populations of the ability to contact the court to identify themselves as a vulnerable individual and receive accommodations.
3. Vulnerable populations who are scheduled for court will be accommodated by liberally excusing them or arranging video or telephonic presence.

### **Social Distancing**

1. All persons not from the same household who are permitted in the Courthouse will be required to maintain adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet. Signs are posted all around each floor.
2. No more than two individuals not from the same household will be permitted in an elevator. If more than one individual from the same household is in an elevator, no other individuals will be permitted in the elevator.
3. Each restroom has been evaluated to determine the appropriate capacity to ensure social distancing and the maximum capacity has been posted on each restroom door.
4. Public common areas and seating have been appropriately marked to achieve social distancing.

## **Gallery**

1. The maximum number of persons permitted in the gallery of each courtroom has been determined and posted. The maximum capacity of the courtroom will be monitored and enforced by court staff.
2. The gallery of the courtroom has been marked to identify appropriate social distancing in the seating area. Seating is limited to every other row.
3. In each courtroom, the counsel tables, witness stand, judge's bench, and clerk, court reporter, and bailiff seating have been arranged in such a way so that there is social distancing of at least 6 feet between each space.

## **Hygiene**

1. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed at the entrance to the building, outside of elevators on each floor, outside of each courtroom, and outside of bathrooms.
2. Disinfectant wipes or spray are available near the door of the courtroom, at counsel tables, at the witness stand, on the judges' benches, and in the hallways.
3. CDC flyers outlining appropriate hygiene, social distancing, or public safety have been posted in multiple locations on each floor.

## **Screening**

1. When individuals attempt to enter the Courthouse, a notice will be posted indicating the protective measures in place and scanner staff will ask for a commitment to abide by these measures. Individuals who refuse will be denied admittance to the courthouse until the matter is reviewed by the Intake Judge. If required to appear in court, the appropriate court office will be immediately notified. The scanner staff will notify the JA for the Intake Judge and await instructions before taking any further action.
2. Inmates being transported from the jail to a courtroom will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 in accordance with protocols established by Jail Administration in consultation with County Health Department.
3. Staff who are screening individuals entering the courthouse will be provided personal protective equipment.
4. Staff who are doing the screening have a listing of court official phone numbers in order to notify the courts of individuals who may have been denied entrance.

## **Face Coverings**

1. All individuals entering the La Crosse County Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center will be required to wear face coverings at all times. All persons present in the courtrooms and associated locations will wear face coverings at all times unless the Court specifically finds on the record that an individual has a medical condition preventing use of a mask, the spoken word cannot be understood, or it is necessary for a witness to remove a mask to aid in assessing credibility.
2. Individuals will be encouraged to bring cloth face coverings with them, but if the individual does not have a cloth face covering, a disposable face mask will be provided, as available.
3. Individuals who will be required to be in the court building for a judicial proceeding will be provided masks and required to wear them while in the courthouse.

## **Cleaning**

1. Courthouse cleaning staff will clean the common areas of the court building so that common spaces are cleaned as mandated by Health Department protocols.
2. The courtrooms will have supplies available to clean between every hearing, between morning and afternoon proceedings, and at the end of each day the courtroom is used.
3. Courthouse cleaning staff have been provided cleaning supplies shown to be effective with this coronavirus.
4. Courthouse cleaning staff have been trained on proper cleaning techniques and provided appropriate personal protective equipment.

## **COVID-19 Jury Trial Plan:**

### **EFFECTIVE DATES**

- Jury trials will begin May 17, 2021, in phases approved by the LaCrosse County Circuit Court. This date assumes we have bailiffs available who have received their full COVID-19 vaccines at least two weeks prior to this date. Given the extraordinary cleaning duties assigned to bailiffs, their vaccination is critical to the safe implementation of this plan.
- This plan will be in effect until modified or vacated by the La Crosse County Circuit Court.
- The Court reserves the right to modify these procedures and schedules consisted with advice from the Center for Disease Control and La Crosse County Health Department.



## PHASES

- Three phases have been established by the LaCrosse County Circuit Court. Identification of the applicable phase will be made by the Presiding Judge in consultation with the judges of the Circuit Court and relevant public health guidelines.
  - Phase 1: No jury trials
  - Phase 2: Trial of priority cases only (The Presiding Judge is to identify priority cases in consultation with the other judges).
  - Phase 3: Trials will be conducted according to the regular trial schedule approved by the LaCrosse County Circuit Court.

## SCHEDULING

- In an effort to limit the number of Jurors and litigants in the courthouse at any given moment, the trial schedule is modified for 2021 and 2022.
- Rather than selecting 2-3 panels on the second and fourth Mondays of every month, jury selections will be scheduled with a maximum of two selections on any given week. The five branches will rotate jury weeks with an annual schedule available to the public, litigants and bar. Schedules will be established based on the phase structure approved by the Court.
- The Presiding Judge will have the authority to modify the schedule to accommodate priority cases if the responsible judge is unable to schedule the case in a timely manner within the existing schedule.

## NOTIFICATION AND DEFERMENT OF JURORS

- At the time of the summons, the court will send a letter notifying jurors of the health and safety practices in the courthouse. The letter will contain the following language:
  - **Normally jurors are only excused for extreme hardship, but given the current pandemic, the court may grant any requests for deferral of jury service if a juror has a personal concern over his/her safety or that of someone with whom the juror comes into regular contact that might affect the juror's ability to serve. The juror should call the Clerk of Court immediately to discuss deferment.**
- Jurors requesting deferment based on the criteria set forth in the juror deferment policy may be deferred by Clerk of Court. A notation will be made of the reason for deferment and will be available for review by the parties.

## JURY SELECTION

- In an effort to limit the number of persons present in the courtroom for jury selection and the duration persons are present, judges are encourages to utilize a number of techniques including but not limited to:

- Use of jury questionnaires to exclude jurors in advance.
- Encouraging counsel in civil cases to stipulate to six-person juries and to use other alternative dispute resolution practices as may be appropriate for their particular cases.
- Communicate fully and often with all interested parties to coordinate timing of arrival of necessary parties and potential support persons.

## **FACILITIES**

- Each courtroom has been marked for social distancing. Jurors and a limited number of spectators will be seated only on seats designated with an X.
- Trial will be conducted in Branch 1 so jurors who are able may walk up the stairs and avoid the elevator except for those needing accommodation. The Courtroom has been marked in a way that identifies seating locations which are socially distanced. Jurors will be seated not only in the jury box but also in designated seats behind the rail if necessary. A limited number of spaces will be set aside for victims, support persons and other spectators. These spaces will be kept separate and distinct from jurors and the court shall approve persons beyond court staff, parties and counsel and jurors with preference being given to support persons allocated on an equitable basis between the parties.
- The Jury Assembly Room will be used for jury breaks and deliberation during selection. Both jury rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will be used for short breaks during the trial accommodating social distancing by breaking up the number of jurors in each jury room.
- Jurors will be assigned to specific breakout rooms and a record kept of the assignment to assist in contact tracing if necessary. Jurors will be instructed to wear masks and remain 6 feet apart when eating and drinking.
- The trial courtroom is not large enough to accommodate all jurors for jury selection. The court will make use of jury assembly room to accommodate jurors. The Jury assembly room will have audio and visual access to the selection so the jurors who have not yet been called will be able to see and hear the questioning of prospective jurors.
- The normal jury room restroom will be utilized by jurors. Each user will be asked to wipe down touched surfaces after each use. Sanitizing wipes will be provided by the court.
- The Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center has been equipped with an air filtration system using CARES grant funds.

## **PUBLIC TRIAL**

- In order to maintain social distancing in the courtroom, spectator seating in the gallery will be limited by the court

- The right to a public trial will assured through Dacast Live Streaming access which will be published in advance as part of the court's calendar and is accessible to the public. Page URL: <https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/livestream.htm>

### **ENTERING THE COURTHOUSE**

- All prospective jurors entering the courthouse shall undergo screening. Jurors will be asked to review a Juror Health Reporting Agreement in advance of reporting and notify the Clerk of Court prior to reporting if any of the specified symptoms exist. Court staff will verify the absence of symptoms upon reporting.
- Prospective Jurors to arrive at East Entrance and be directed to the scanners using the inclined hallway to accommodate social distancing as they are screen and checked in by clerk of court staff. The hallway will be marked to assure social distancing. Using the random list Prospective Jurors will be escorted by jury bailiff to the courtroom or to the jury assembly room based upon their random number.
- Juror orientation will take place once the jurors are assembled in the courtroom and Jury Assembly Room. The video will be shown using Zoom and questions will be addressed by the Clerk of Court live in the courtroom and via Zoom in the Jury Assembly Room.

### **FACE COVERINGS**

- All persons present in the courthouse shall wear face coverings at all times except when eating or hydrating or when a witness is testifying and excused by the judge for purposes of allowing the jury to evaluate credibility.
- The face covering shall cover the nose and mouth in a manner sufficient to impede the emission of vapor from the wearer. Surgical type masks are preferred but not required.
- Individuals are encouraged to bring their own mask although the court will have a sufficient supply available.
- The Witness box in each courtroom will be fitted with Plexiglas shields on three sides and be secured so they do not present a security risk. A Bailiff is to clean area between uses.
- Neither counsel nor any other person may approach within 6 feet of the witness except with approval of the court.

### **SANITATION**

- Dispensers for hand sanitizing with alcohol-based sanitizer and wipes for sanitizing surfaces will be provided by the courts. Counsel will be responsible for ensuring counsel table is wiped down at the beginning of each half-day session.
- All door handles, elevator buttons, stair rails and other frequently touched surfaces in the trial courtroom, jury assembly room and transport areas shall be cleaned throughout the day and fully cleaned each night using protocols established by the County Health and Facilities Departments.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

- All persons in the courthouse will be expected to maintain 6 foot distances between other individuals at all times.
- The courtrooms have all been marked with an X for each seating location which is six feet from any other location. The court shall enforce this seating arrangement.
- Court staff shall ensure no more than 2 persons are transported in an elevator at any one time. Jurors will be given the option of using steps if accompanied by a bailiff.

## **HANDLING OF DOCUMENTS OTHER EXHIBITS**

- Regular hand sanitization before and after handling exhibits shall be required.
- Pre-marking of exhibits and pre-loading of documents for electronic display is encouraged.
- Counsel are expected to exchange exhibits in advance and ensure witnesses have reviewed exhibits prior to testifying so as to limit the necessity of approaching a witness within 6 feet during testimony. Exceptions may be authorized by the court.

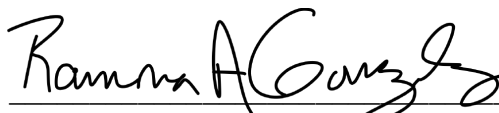
## **JUROR SNACKS AND MEALS**

- Bailiff will make and pour coffee while wearing food safe gloves. Individual pre-packaged snacks may be consumed whether brought by jurors or supplied by the court. Jurors shall attempt to maintain a 6 foot distance at all times. If this is not maintained, those within 6 feet of one another will be considered close contacts for purposes of contact tracing and isolation.
- Bottled water, individual soda and boxed meals will be provided for jurors by the court
- Jurors may bring individually packaged snacks/beverages if they prefer.

In developing this general court operations and jury plan, I consulted with the stakeholders as recommended in the Wisconsin COVID- 19 Task Force report and conferred with all La Crosse County Circuit Court Judges.

I will ensure that all judges using La Crosse County courtrooms will conduct proceedings consistent with the plan.

Date: March 11, 2021



Presiding Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
AGENCY UPDATE**

DATE: April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

AGENCY: School District of La Crosse

SUBMITTED BY: Troy Harcey, Associate Superintendent of Instruction

**CJMC mission related agency updates and any relevant background or context:**

- (1) [School Board Resolution in Support of Transgender, Nonbinary, and All LGBTQ+ Students](#) approved April 5th, 2021.
- (2) [School Board Resolution in Support of the Hmong, Asian American, and Pacific Islander Community](#) approved April 5th, 2021.
- (3) You likely have learned the next [MOU agreement](#) relative to School Resource Officers is currently at a pause.
- (4) April 6th [election results](#) are in. Annie Baumann, Brad Quarberg and Robert Abraham successfully earned seats on the Board of Education.

**Relevant service data:**

**Media attention, community events, etc. – please include links or relevant details**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
AGENCY UPDATE**

DATE: April 8, 2021

AGENCY: Sheriff

SUBMITTED BY: Sheriff Wolf

**CJMC mission related agency updates and any relevant background or context:**

The jail is currently working with the Health Department on implementing COVID vaccinations for inmates in the county jail. The Health Department advises that they will or have received a number of Johnson and Johnson vaccinations (1 dose) which would be the appropriate vaccination for those incarcerated. Planning is being done to ensure that vaccinators are available, required vaccination documentation is made, and that immunizations are conducted over a number of days to prevent numerous illnesses from the vaccination at the same time. A survey of inmates over the weekend of April 2nd found that currently approximately 25% of inmates would like the vaccination. As soon as general public requests are satisfied and availability of vaccination is made, we will begin the process and also make plans to vaccinate future inmates.

**Relevant service data:**

Jail population:

Wednesday, April 7 - 91

Males - 82

Females - 9

Monday, April 5 - 95

Males - 86

Females - 10

Monthly Average (March 2021) - 91

Monthly Average (February 2021) - 96

Monthly Average (January 2021) - 103

Monthly Average (December 2020) - 92

Monthly Average (November 2020) - 82

**Media attention, community events, etc. – please include links or relevant details**