

## LA CROSSE COUNTY NOTICE OF MEETING

<b>COMMITTEE OR BOARD:</b>	<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL</b>	
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 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>	
	<b><u>CJMC MISSION:</u></b>	
	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.	
1.	Call to Order	
2.	Approval of the 9/15/21 minutes of the CJMC	
3.	Public Comment – Public is able to participate in this agenda item via zoom link	
4.	Mental Health Response and Emergency Services Presentation Gundersen Health System Staff- Kara Bayer and Jennifer Linse	
5.	Resolution re: Creation of a Study Committee Related to Policing	Steve Doyle
6.	Retreat Planning	
7.	Review of agency updates (written updates provided in packet)	
8.	Informational / Misc. items	
9.	Future agenda items	
10.	Adjourn	
<b>NEWS MEDIA</b>	<b>OTHER</b>	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>
La Crosse Tribune	Brenda Strong	Tim Gruenke – chair
WIZM/WKTY	Dennis Montabon	Araysa Simpson – vice chair
WKBH & WLFN	Jane Klekamp	Andrew Alvaro Rasmussen
WKBH – TV 8	Jenna Theler	Chief Kudron/Captain Avrie Schott
WLSU/WHLA	Jim Verse	Chief Scott Alo
WSM News	Judges Bjerke, Levine, Doyle	Dr. Heidi Allred
WXOW-TV 19	Kate Holinka	Dr. Suthakaran Veerasamy
WEAU	Keith Belzer	Dr. Troy Harcey
WPR	Lisa Fieck	Heidi Svee
Magnum Broadcasting	Mandy Bisek	Jason Witt
<b>COUNTY DEPARTMENTS</b>	Mark Clements	Jayne Rifenberg
County Administrator	Maureen Freedland	Joe Packard/Jenna Theler
County Clerk	Mayor Mitch Reynolds	Judge Gonzalez/ Judge Horne
Facilities	Megan DeVore	Keonte Turner
Justice Support Services	Peter Kinziger	Margaret Larson
Corp Counsel	Ryan Westpfahl	Micheal Sersch
	Shane Collins	Monica Kruse
	Tonya Van Tol	Sheriff Jeff Wolf
	Troy Miller	Tina Tryggestad
	Vicki Burke	Tom Jacobs
	Vicky Gunderson	Vincent Loera

***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: October 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**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

**MEETING HELD VIA: ZOOM**

**LINK TO RECORDING:** [https://wicourts.zoom.us/rec/share/MEfHQB5u3bs9mU-4fv0ROV4XggcsKs3qiLuB1jwEZ4sHKfA\\_C2AJdVIOfb7n39L6.0arDkJ0-9PfXXJ8p](https://wicourts.zoom.us/rec/share/MEfHQB5u3bs9mU-4fv0ROV4XggcsKs3qiLuB1jwEZ4sHKfA_C2AJdVIOfb7n39L6.0arDkJ0-9PfXXJ8p)

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Tom Jacobs, Michael Sersch, Tim Gruenke, Scott Horne, Vincent Loera, Andrew Rasmussen, Heidi Svee, Jason Witt, Jayne Rifenberg, Jenna Theler, Joe Packard, Suthakaran Veerasamy, Tina Tryggestad, Troy Harcey, Vincent Loera, Araysa Simpson, Avrie Schott, Heidi Allred, Monica Kruse, Margaret Larson
<b>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</b>	Wolf, Alo
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Mandy Bisek, Tonya VanTol, Gary Tyler, Jane Klekamp, Jim Verse, News 8, Olivia Herken (Tribune), Steve Doyle, Mike Tighe, Dawn Wacek, Peter Nelson, Chiara Packard

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 18, 2021 MINUTES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**MOTION** by ((Simpson/Loera)) to approve the August 18, 2021 minutes of the Criminal Justice Management Council. **Motion carried unanimously;** Wolf & Alo excused.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**GARY TYLER – Visiting La Crosse & CJMC**

Tim Gruenke & Araysa Simpson provides Mr. Tyler a general perspective on recent local issues the CJMC is tackling.

Mr. Tyler weighs in on the importance of realizing the difficulty for those who may have been negatively impacted by law enforcement may be hesitant to bring those concerns forward. Historically the black community has had traumas that impact them today. Our responsibility is to listen to our constituents and willing to listen to their concerns. La Crosse can be a role model to show how to relieve racial conflict.

Gruenke remarks on historical attempts of our diverse community's representation and perspective on the Council as often times this has led to disappointment

Important to establish trusting relationship with diverse community members to bridge the gap of issues that exist in our community. Mr. Tyler suggests Thomas Harris, or others. Important that we look at all sides of a situation. Important to have open doors to address and discuss problems, through establishing relationships. La Crosse has the opportunity to be a role model and bridge the racial divide that exists, representing the black and white communities. Interact in ways that we can see each other as people. Encourages local law enforcement to reach out to diverse community to empathize and hear where they are coming from.

Tyler weighs in on his observations when in La Crosse, as he sees much opportunity and potential in the relationships he has observed between the black and white communities. Need lines of communication.

Svee: What I've observed is that, like it is nationwide, BLM and talks about an oversight committee have become incredibly politicized. Folks who do speak up face repercussions. Communication breaks down.

Gruenke: elaborates on this fear that Svee discusses and asks Mr. Tyler to elaborate on his experience and how he was personally able to overcome his views on police.

Tyler gives his personal background to the Council. As a victim of police brutality, which lead him to believe all police were the same. He expands on his story while in prison, the realizations he had in his reactions to his surroundings, where everyone reacted negatively. Realized that because he was in prison for something he didn't do, he made a decision to change his attitude toward the security officers within the prison, which then changed their attitudes toward him. Lines of communication opened, and some became close friends. The day Mr. Tyler was released from prison, the Warden acknowledged their friendship and bond they developed.

Tyler elaborates on additional stories of growth in his respect and forgiveness toward police.

Admires the Council for what we are trying to accomplish, encourages the council to keep up this work, and offers to assist if we are in need.

Rasmussen: Appreciates Mr. Tyler's perspective. Asks what he is working on now.

Tyler: Safe Place for Youth – Outreach and Engagement worker in Los Angeles, seeking youth that are vulnerable and have run away to assist in getting them safely connected to resources.

Tyler reminds the Council that they are a part of this committee for a reason, because they want to make a difference in our community. This is the time to be open, ask questions to make connections and make a difference.

Harcey: What is the amount/if any interaction Gary has with schools and what that interaction looks like in his current role.

Tyler: Covid has impacted this work. Prior to that did more speaking engagements and connections within schools. Connected to law enforcement when they have recognized youth in need in the community.

Simpson: Asks if Tyler could speak on a couple of areas that the criminal justice system could improve on, based on his experience.

Tyler: Justice system failed him at the time, felt it was non-existent to him in dealing with his situation when he was 16 years old. Many decades after Tyler's sentence, law finally changed in 1976 to execute minors. Despite this ruling, argument that Tyler's execution should remain. Cites data that shows juveniles spend more time than adults for the same types of crimes. Recognizes that the system has gotten better since this time, but still much work to do. Treating youth differently than adults in the justice system is important. Advocates to legislators that before passage of any law that it does not create more victims.

Gruenke thanks Mr. Tyler for his time and perspective. Acknowledges the tremendous amount of forgiveness he has demonstrated.

### **UPDATE ON POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WORK – Steve Doyle**

Steve Doyle updates the Council

Prior to pulling together a committee, Doyle spoke with several people to give him some perspective and background on the work. Also worked with Keith Belzer on how to create an agenda for the committee/discussion that focused on:

- 1.) How did we get to where we are today?
- 2.) How do we get to where we want to go?

August 31, committee made up of approximately 50% law enforcement, 50% community to discuss above questions.

Answers to those questions from Doyle's perspective as mediator:

How did we get to where we are today?

Law Enforcement did not feel they were a part of the process. Whether this perspective was accurate or not, it was important to acknowledge this.

How do we get to where we want to go?

Where Doyle wants to go – want a unanimous vote from the County Board to move forward on this resolution and work. If we do not get a unanimous vote it shows that we are not ready to truly engage in this work. Acknowledges comments made by Mr. Tyler stating that La Crosse could be a role model in this work.

Everyone needs to feel they are a part of the process

Next meeting scheduled for October 5, 2021. At this meeting, will discuss who should be on the committee being created by the resolution that will ultimately research and create the "oversight" committee. Law Enforcement have committed to being a part of this. Doyle worries that there are members of our diverse community that do not feel comfortable being a part of this committee in a way that will be productive and safe.

Doyle asks of the Council – if Council has names or suggestions of community members that would be beneficial to have at this committee to offer helpful perspective.

Doyle offers perspective to the Council that La Crosse County is often looked to as an example to others in the state. Encourages us to continue to be the leader and ensure that we do it with everyone engaged.

Timeframe is unknown at this point, Doyle would like it to be as soon as possible.

Theler: Clarifies who the citizen members that are currently in discussion are – Monica Kruse, Jane Klekamp, Tim Gruenke, Vincent Loera, Andrew Rasmussen. Also brainstormed citizen members to be a part of the discussion. Those who have been approached thus far have not felt comfortable in this work at this time.

Svee: Clarifies, wasn't this committee to determine the committee already done?

Doyle: Yes, however because law enforcement did not feel a part of the process, it has been held up to ensure all feel involved, on all sides to ensure success of this work moving forward.

Simpson: Clarifies that the initial committee was to determine if this was something we wanted to explore, which the recommendation was, yes. The resolution then made the proposal to create a committee that would further research and determine the makeup and details of the actual oversight committee.

Sersch: Reached out to one of the Council members that voted against the resolution. Stated they felt a step was skipped in coming from the CJMC to the County Board.

Doyle: Judiciary and Law Committee felt this resolution should have gone through them first before full County board. When the resolution returns, this will occur.

Larson: Addresses as the Chair of the Judiciary and Law Committee specific to the piece of the resolution that discusses reporting directly to the Judiciary and Law Committee Also asks where the change from "advisory" to "oversight" language came from in the resolution.

Kruse addresses this question – in subcommittee's research oversight was used in most municipalities as it had more "authority."

Rasmussen acknowledges the confusion in these terms. Reminds the Council that in speaking with Keith Findley from Dane County, they too call themselves an oversight board, but do not have authority to discipline. The hope is with this next committee these details can be further addressed.

Doyle elaborates to say this is a detail that should be worked through as part of this particular committee's work.

Jacobs: Statutorily law enforcement relies on Police and Fire Commission. How does an oversight committee interact with this commission.

Doyle: This again, is why this buy in is so important. The only way there could be a role the county/community could have a role in issues within the policies/procedures of law enforcement would require the agreement of local law enforcement to have this feedback, as it is not required of law enforcement agencies statutorily. Aligns this to the CJMC's makeup, which is mutually agreed upon to collaborate, but not required to do so.

Will look for another update in October CJMC meeting from Steve on the progress of this committee's work.

## **AGENCY UPDATE REPORT REVIEW:**

## **INFORMATIONAL / MISC:**

Will be looking for another citizen member to replace Keonte Turner. Announcement will be going out soon. Asks council to make recommendations for anyone they think would be a good addition to the Council.

Council shares feedback on Gary Tyler's input to the Council as appreciated and a good reminder of the immense forgiveness that Mr. Tyler displays in the wake of such a difficult story.


**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, Chair Gruenke adjourned the meeting at 6:25 pm

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

Recorded by Mandy Bisek

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION # _____</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</b></p>	<p><b>ITEM # _____</b></p> <p><b>BOARD ACTION</b></p> <p>Adopted: _____  For: _____  Against: _____  Abstain: _____  Abs/Excd: _____  Vote Req: _____  Other Action: _____</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION</b></p> <p>Adopted: _____  For: _____  Against: _____  Abstain: _____  Abs/Excd: _____</p>
---	--	---

**RE: CREATION OF A STUDY COMMITTEE RELATED TO POLICING**

**WHEREAS**, the Criminal Justice Management Council [CJMC] is a committee created by the County Board to act in an advisory capacity to the Judiciary and Law Committee, Health and Human Services Committee and County on all aspects of the criminal justice system and to "recommend changes, including the creation, elimination or modification of programs, policies and procedures" and;

**WHEREAS**, in June of 2020 a subcommittee of the CJMC was formed to explore the concept of a Citizen Advisory Board or Police Oversight Committee and;

**WHEREAS**, in May of 2021, after completing their work, the CJMC subcommittee reported back to the full CJMC recommending the creation of a 'civilian oversight board' and since that time this terminology as well as the terminology "independent police oversight committee" has also been used to refer to this possible committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of a formal committee, particularly one that is multi-jurisdictional, would require a change in ordinance and full approval of the La Crosse County Board as well as specific and independent action by each jurisdiction in the County; and

**WHEREAS**, additional study and coordination between stakeholders across the County is necessary to consider and implement such a change; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the consideration of any ordinance change, there are additional issues that need more comprehensive study and recommendation to the Judiciary and Law Committee, and ultimately the full Board; and

**WHEREAS**, while the committee has been referred to as "an independent police oversight committee" and "civilian oversight board" and "independent police advisory committee" the actual name, purpose and scope of any potential committee should be part of the issues to be studied; and

**WHEREAS**, an ad-hoc study committee created under s. 2.02(10) would assist the Board in making informed decisions;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors hereby establishes a study committee related to policing comprised of members appointed by the County Board Chair subject to approval by the County Board; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that membership of the committee will be made up of stakeholders including law enforcement; policy and decision makers for agencies and municipalities; and community stakeholders including victim advocates, representatives of disproportionately



**RE: CREATION OF A STUDY COMMITTEE RELATED TO POLICING**

impacted communities, subject matter experts, criminal legal system researchers, representatives with legal, civil rights or law enforcement expertise; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study committee shall consider and make recommendations to the County Board regarding the name, feasibility and framework for any future committee including scope and authority; structure; and funding while also taking into account the nature of a county-wide multi-jurisdictional approach; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that given the multi-jurisdictional nature of the law enforcement organizations, the study committee related to policing should remain aware that any recommendations, decisions and authority related to the hiring, termination or discipline of individual law enforcement officers remains under the control of each jurisdiction and their own law enforcement agency and personnel/Human Resource department; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, recommendations or direction from the committee shall not supersede any statutory or municipal authority granted for the management of any law enforcement agency and thus will be considered non-binding; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the study committee will periodically report to the Judiciary and Law Committee, with the Judiciary and Law Committee establishing a timeline related to the work of the committee, resulting in a final report to the full County Board.

**FISCAL NOTE:** No financial impact to La Crosse County.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMITTEE CHAIR**

**RECORDING CLERK**

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	_____	_____	_____	Requested By: Date Requested: September , 2021 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director	_____	_____	_____	
Corp. Counsel	_____	_____	_____	
Board Chair	_____	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
AGENCY UPDATE

3

DATE: October 11, 2021

AGENCY: Public Defender

SUBMITTED BY: Araysa M. Simpson

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

**Relevant service data:**

We are all moved into our new space. As a reminder our new address is 149 6th Street S., La Crosse, WI 54601. We also have a new phone number and that is 608-766-4001.

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

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
AGENCY UPDATE

DATE: 10/11/21

AGENCY: La Crosse School District

SUBMITTED BY: Troy Harcey

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

2021 Rebuilding for Learning Summit, Advancing Racial Equity as a Community is November 1st, 2021. It is a virtual program again this year (9 am - 3:30 am). The invite will be coming by the end of the week! Alonzo Kelly (Strategic Leadership) will be the morning keynote and Bina Patel (CEO and Founder of Saathi Impact Consulting) will be the afternoon keynote. Breakout sessions will include Aplifying Black Voices, YWCA, Overview of Equity 101 and Foundations of Organizational Change. If you have any questions, please call Kristi Arenz at 608.789.7654 or email at [krarenz@lacrossesd.org](mailto:krarenz@lacrossesd.org).

**Relevant service data:**

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

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
AGENCY UPDATE

DATE: October 12, 2021

AGENCY: Sheriff

SUBMITTED BY: Sheriff Jeff Wolf

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

**Relevant service data:**

Jail population:  
Tuesday, October 12 - 94  
Males - 78  
Females - 16

Monday, October 11 - 102  
Males - 85  
Females - 17

Monthly Average (Sept. 2021) - 104  
Monthly Average ( Aug. 2021) - 107  
Monthly Average (July 2021) - 109  
Monthly Average (June 2021) - 102  
Monthly Average (May 2021) - 111

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