

LA CROSSE COUNTY NOTICE OF MEETING

COMMITTEE OR BOARD:	CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL	
DATE OF MEETING:	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021	
MEETING PLACE:	VIA ZOOM PLEASE SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW ON HOW TO CONNECT	
TIME OF MEETING:	5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	
PURPOSE OF MEETING:	Monthly Meeting	
	<u>CJMC MISSION:</u>	
	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 August 18, 2021 minutes of the CJMC	
3.	Public Comment – Public is able to participate in this agenda item via zoom link	
4.	Gary Tyler - Visiting La Crosse & CJMC	
5.	Update on Police Oversight Committee work – Steve Doyle	
6.	Review of agency updates (written updates provided in packet)	
7.	Informational / Misc. items	
8.	Future agenda items	
9.	Adjourn	
NEWS MEDIA	OTHER	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
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 Svec
Magnum Broadcasting	Mandy Bisek	Jason Witt
COUNTY DEPARTMENTS	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:

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

1

AUGUST 18, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA: ZOOM

LINK TO RECORDING:

https://wicourts.zoom.us/rec/share/eHAXLBF4yTcFh1FhHcJVr8M3C7NlqiDDXHmkjqJBD9Hi8ifbHdlcqZ_l88V3Oxbv.r2JmINFj2cZ5d7f8

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Judge Horne, Tom Jacobs, Michael Sersch, Jenna Theler, Vincent Loera, Heidi Svee, Tim Gruenke, Joe Packard, Jeff Wolf, Scott Alo, Sutha Veerasamy, Andrew Rasmussen, Jason Witt, Avrie Schott, Jayne Rifenberg, Araysa Simpson, Monica Kruse, Heidi Allred, Alice Benson, Tina Tryggestad, Margaret Larson, Tonya Van Tol
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Troy Harcey, Keonte Turner
OTHERS PRESENT:	Jane Klekamp, Jim Verse, Sam Seefeld, Angie Smith, Michael Beiermeister, Olivia Herken, Andrea Richmond, Eric Timmons, Brad Williams, Chiara Packard, J Pogreba, Elliott Levine

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tim Gruenke called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF JULY 17, 2021 MINUTES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

MOTION by Horne/Kruse to approve the July 17, 2021 minutes, of the Criminal Justice Management Council, with the amendment noted below. **Motion carried unanimously;** Harcey, Turner excused.

- Amendment: Tim Kabat's name to be replaced with Mayor Mitch Reynolds

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Emails from Cia Siab – Hmong Advocacy Group, and Laura Aballera attached for reference Related to item #5 of agenda (Update on Police Oversight Committee work)

CONTINUED PRESENTATION ON CRISIS SERVICES – Sam Seefeld & Angie Smith

Power Point Information Attached

Discussion:

- Look into barriers and how to fix them
- Resources are available but not all are in place that need to be here
- Look into models that treatment courts utilize
- Downfall of waiting to get into residential placement versus immediately, when the person is ready
- Lack of available placement for young teens
- Engage friends and family to arm themselves with interventions to protect the person while maintaining protected health information
- Mapping out mental health system, identifying services and gaps

UPDATE ON POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WORK – Steve Doyle

Jane Klekamp indicated Doyle watched the previous CJMC meeting. He and others have met with the La Crosse Police Department chief to determine how to move the resolution forward. Trying to pull a committee together to see if there can be a consensus from law enforcement so it can move forward at the County Board level. Doyle plans to work with other community members to determine who should be on that subcommittee and then will report back at the next CJMC meeting.

Kruse: Process is moving more slowly than Doyle most likely anticipated. Believes Doyle is not trying to put together a committee but getting just a small group together with one or two people on each side for a one-time meeting, not a long-term subcommittee. Thinking it will not take very long to come to a consensus on topic.

Rasmussen: Doyle is doing what was requested last meeting, seems there is confusion. Last meeting it was said he will not start reaching out to people until committee hears Doyle's side of things. Feels clarification is needed.

Gruenke: Clarified that Doyle wanted to make a motion to the County Board to send the proposal back to this committee; Doyle proposed a meeting with other people for support before it goes back to the County Board.

Rasmussen: Is this the same amendment or has there been a new one added?

Gruenke: Same one, nothing has been added yet.

Kruse: Supervisor Padesky added an amendment for committee members to do a ride-along with an officer. Believes that is part of the resolution. At this point, committee can now suggest to the County Board whether it approves any of the resolutions, amendments, or language discussed.

Gruenke: Procedurally, the committee is waiting for Doyle to report back to the committee what he has discovered/resolved, then committee would vote whether to make a motion to do nothing, send to the County Board as is, or send to the County Board with modifications.

Theler: Would be beneficial for the letters to be shared with Doyle.

Gruenke: Permission to have the letters included in the minutes, which Doyle has access to.

Kruse: Will make sure Doyle is aware of the letters and reads them.

Theler: Is Doyle to come back with questions/suggested changes, or rather with an agreement on what has already been proposed to law enforcement?

Gruenke: Assumption is that Doyle will come back with report on his discoveries and suggestions, and then discuss as a committee.

Klekamp: Confirmed that is Doyle's intent. The challenge is getting people together before the next meeting.

Svee: There is already County Board and Law Enforcement representation on this committee; can we form a small group to talk with law enforcement to find out the concerns/questions and then move forward as a committee?

Gruenke: Because that is what Doyle is working on, as well as unable to do so until next month due to having to give notice, let's discuss next month after Doyle reports back.

Loera: Can Doyle put recommendation to us ahead of time to mull over prior to the next meeting?

Gruenke: Will bring this suggestion to Doyle and ask that he put something together in writing for the committee.

Klekamp: If anyone on this committee is interested in being part of the group Doyle is trying to create, send your contact info to Kruse.

Kruse: To answer Svee's question in more detail, Doyle's view is that this resolution belongs to the County Board at this time which is why he is assisting putting the group together versus this committee.

VICTIM CONCERNS REGARDING MEDIA RELEASES – Heidi Svee

Svee: Referenced State Statute 950, Rights of Victims and Witnesses of Crime, when discussing the harmful results of the press release displaying mug shots of the victims of the recent triple homicide. Criminalizing victims can deter victims from coming forward in the future. Hoping there can be a commitment to avoiding this, out of respect and honor of victims of crimes.

Wolf: The goal with all media releases is transparency. There were some inaccuracies, so it was decided to perform all releases via the County Sheriff Facebook page. An open records request was made by media for photos referenced by Svee. Had conversations with the victims' families regarding the strategy behind releasing the photos. Cannot go into much detail at this time, apologizes for the negative feelings about the released photos. Will take Svee's request into consideration but in honoring the victims and serving justice, could identify people with information who would see the pictures.

Svee: Feels it is owed to community members to look into alternatives.

REVIEW OF AGENCY UPDATES (Written updates provided in packet)

Horne: Pam Radtke, former Clerk of Courts, had retired and has been replaced by Kelly Goyette. Also introduced Tonya Van Tol.

INFORMATIONAL / MISC:

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Continue with discussion and formulating specific ideas for addressing mental health concerns.

Steve Doyle to report on gathered concerns and next steps in process of committee resolution.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, Chair Gruenke adjourned the meeting at 6:22 pm

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

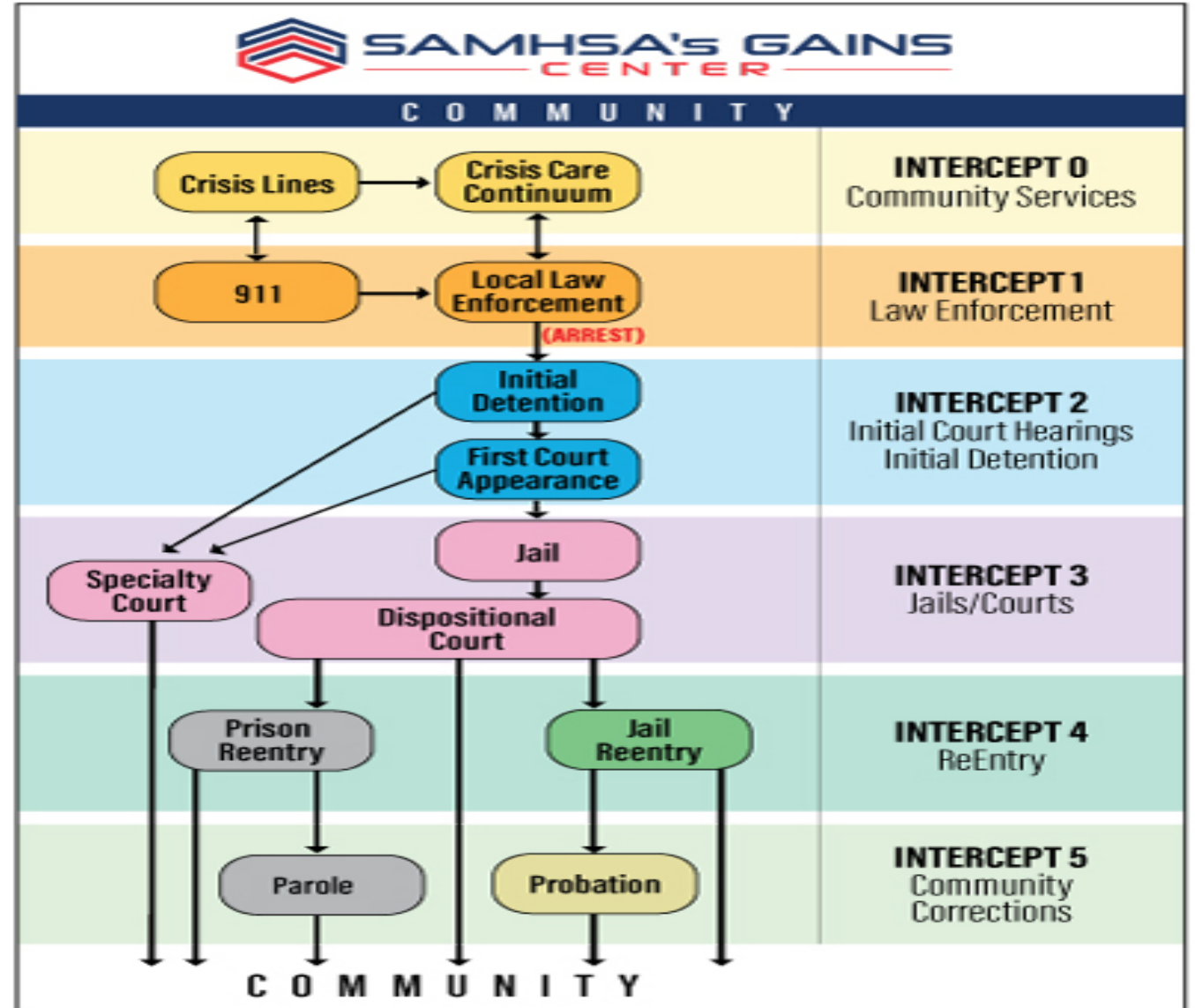
Recorded by Connie Bublitz

Crisis and CJMC

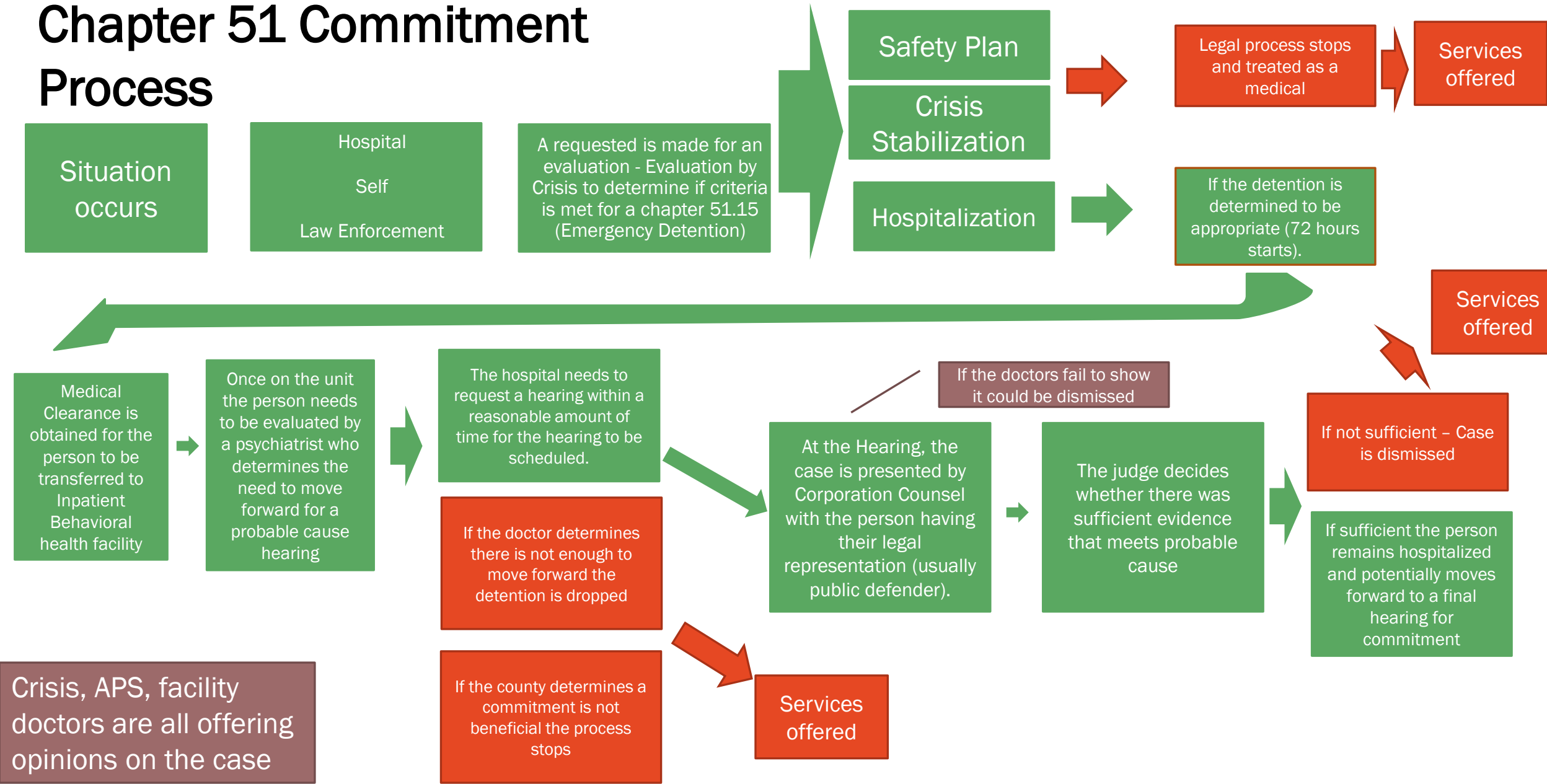
ANGIE SMITH AND SAM SEEFELD



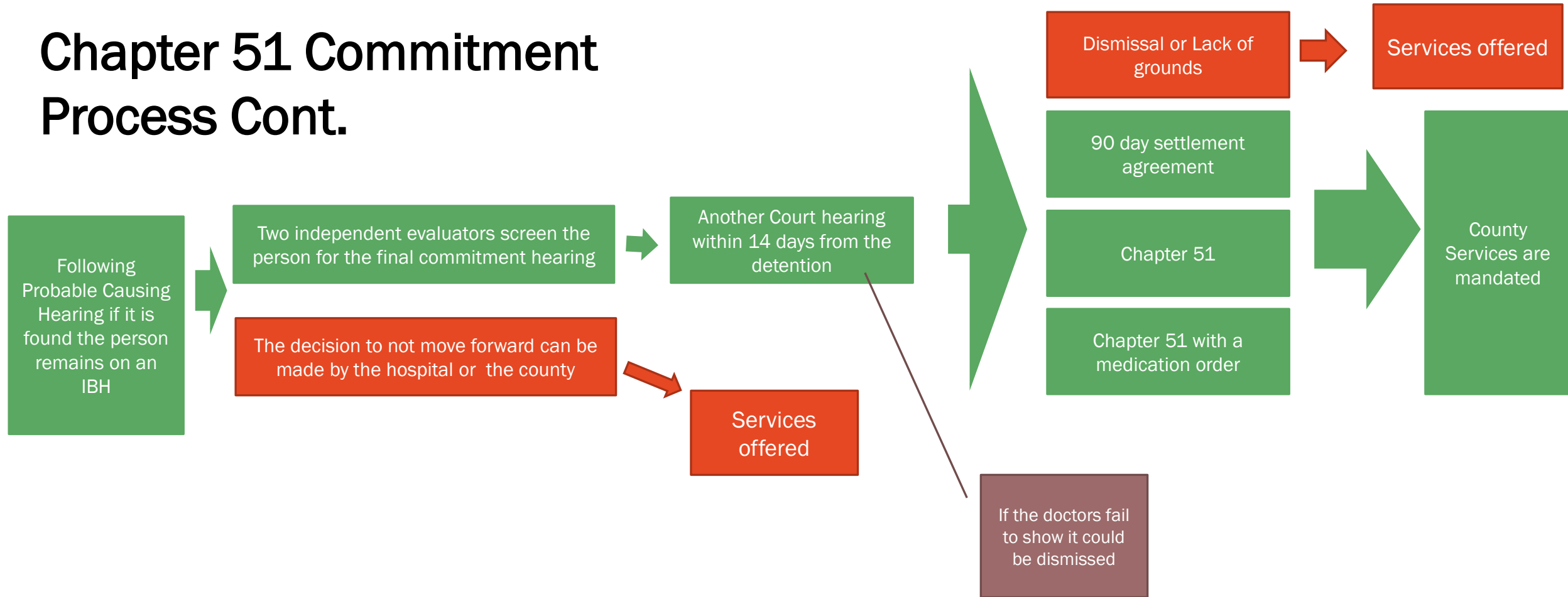
Connection Criminal Justice System



Chapter 51 Commitment Process



Chapter 51 Commitment Process Cont.



Mental Health

Important points

- Mental health is something we all have
- Just because a person has mental health concerns does not mean they do not understand
- A person who has a clinically diagnosed mental illness does not equate to dangerousness
- A dangerous person does not have to have a mental illness

Chapter 51

Benefits

- Some level of court mandated treatment
- Some specific ability to address treatment needs
- Access to services
- Ability to place someone in a safe setting
- Potential for forced medications

Limitations

- Rules (oversight) does not constitute compliance
- Not all treatment that is effective can be mandated / not all mandated treatment is effective
- Access to services does not imply readiness for change
- Limited timeframes to keep someone in a safe setting
- Some medications that are very effective are not able to be prescribed without the person being agreeable
 - We still must make sure they are taking medications (injections – person must still come in to get the medication)

Hospitalization

The hospital is a centralized location for services to be offered

- Once the person has services there is little benefit unless medication changes require monitoring
- Long term behavioral changes do not occur in a hospital setting
- Primarily for an acute presentation and not a chronic underlying condition

Early Interventions

The sooner services can be put into place the more effective they tend to be.

Medication efficacy – with frequent cycles of on and off medication has a negative effect of future efficacy

Services are available if a person chooses to access

- Crisis Social workers have more voluntary clients than involuntary

Criminal Justice

ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Criminal Justice and Mental Health

Chicken or the Egg

- Does the person's mental health cause the behavior or does the person have a behavior, who has mental health concerns.

Two primary means to engage in services

- Competency and NGI

Competency

Wis. Stat. 971.13(1)

- No person who lacks substantial mental capacity to understand the proceedings or assist in his or her own defense may be tried, convicted or sentenced for the commission of an offense so long as the incapacity endures.

Process

1. Defense files competency motion, with specifics if client agrees.
2. Court finds probable cause and orders examination.
3. Evaluator files report with opinion regarding client's competency.
4. State or defense can challenge the evaluator's report.
5. Competency hearing.
6. Disposition

Disposition - Competency

1. Competent.

- Prosecution continues.

2. Not competent, likely to regain.

- Commitment of up to 12 months or statutory maximum, whichever is less.
- If defendant regains competency, prosecution continues; possibility of re-commitment for cumulative 18 months.
 - Court can order medications if client not competent to refuse.
 - If defendant does not regain, defense should move for dismissal.

3. Not competent, not likely to regain.

- Can convert to Chapter 51 or 54/55.
- Case is suspended.
- Defense should move for a dismissal or administratively close.

Competency Restoration

Multiple Settings

- Community based
- Jail based
- Institution based

Taught the legal system to aid in their defense

Mental Responsibility of Defendant

Wis. Stat. 971.15(1)

- A person is not responsible for criminal conduct if at the time of such conduct as a result of mental disease or defect the person lacked substantial capacity either to appreciate the wrongfulness of his or her conduct or conform his or her conduct to the requirements of law.'

Wis. Stat. 971.15(2)

- As used in this chapter, the terms "mental disease or defect" do not include an abnormality manifested only by repeated criminal or otherwise antisocial conduct.

Repeated Antisocial Acts / Criminal Behavior

Personality Disorder (Cluster B)

- Antisocial Personality disorder
- Borderline Personality
- Histrionic Personality disorder
- Narcissistic Personality disorder

Many personality disorders stem from a historical trauma perspective (does not have to be)

- Can be any historical/intergenerational trauma
 - Racism
 - Genderism
- Single incidents (car accidents)
- Multiple major traumas (Combat)

Addictions

- Alcohol
- Stimulants
- Opioids
- Prescriptions
- Other

Addiction often used to numb the pain of an internal states.

Strong correlations of incidents of addictions, trauma, and personality disorder

Treatment

PERSONALITY DISORDERS

Generally treated with psychotherapy

- Forced therapy is rarely effective
- No FDA medication to treat the disorders
 - Medications sometime offered to manage symptoms

Generally long-lasting chronic states

It is their developed ability to interact with the world around them to get their real or perceived needs met

ADDICTIONS

Substance abuse counseling

Forced sobriety (Need 1 year plus and not effective)

Medication assisted treatment (Cannot be forced)

- Suboxone
- Methadone
- Vivitrol
- Antabuse

Treatment Cont.

Fear and punishment rarely create lasting change

Both disorders are often relationship driven

With both disorders we are truly asking individuals to become vulnerable, lonely (at times), changes support systems (sometimes), and re-learn a world in which has seen them as less than and a “problem”.

Substance Use and Personality Disorders do not fit the medical model of a prescribed treatment to change a condition and more focus on the relationships between the person and their world



Questions

THANK YOU!



Cia Siab, Inc.

1825 Sunset Ln., La Crosse, WI 54601

Office: (608) 615-7117, M-F 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

24/7 WI Hmong Family Strengthening Helpline (877) 740-4292

To: Members of the Criminal Justice Management Council

Cc: La Crosse County Board

Date: August 17, 2021

On Monday, July 26th, the La Crosse County Sheriff's office issued a press release with further information about the triple homicide committed at the Romskog Quarry. Our agency and the Hmoob community had been following this case closely, as two of the victims were young Hmoob men with many personal and family connections in the area. We were shocked to see the Sheriff's office include unrelated mug shots of the three victims in the press release, which were subsequently used by multiple local and regional media sources.

As a result of public outcry, the Sheriff's office and several news outlets later removed the photos, but the damage had already been done. Those young men—sons, brothers, uncles, friends and, in one case, a father—have been reduced to dead criminals in the minds of many in our community. Yes, they were troubled young men with criminal histories, but the public maligning of them after their violent deaths was initiated by the same people charged with investigating their murders. How is this acceptable?

On Tuesday, July 27th, the Sheriff's office issued a new press release without the photos. Also absent were other publicly available photos, as was any sort of public apology, commitment to do better, or hint at accountability to the families of the slain men or the larger communities to which they are connected. Our county, like most of the country, is currently embroiled in a long and complicated discussion about the need for civilian police oversight. Sheriff Wolf himself recently spoke against the need for further oversight at a county board meeting. This press release fiasco is just another in a long line of examples of ways in which ordinary people suffer when police are not accountable to the larger community.

We have been told over and over by law enforcement agents that adequate oversight already exists...but it does not exist for the Town of Campbell whose Police and Fire Commission was dissolved in 2013. It did not exist when a citizen member of the CJMC had her privacy violated by active duty police officers who posted private photos of her

on the police union facebook page. It did not exist when another citizen member of the CJMC had a salacious citation leaked to the press before the conclusion of the case, resulting in the loss of his job. And it surely did not exist when the Sheriff's office published the mugshots of these violently murdered young men, then retracted them without acknowledging the insensitivity or harm committed against the memory of these victims and, by extension, their loved ones and their community. The Sheriff's office also posted an insensitive video as part of a Facebook lip sync video 3.challenge in 2018 and removed it without public acknowledgement or apology, so it's fair to imagine that something like this may happen again in the future.

Our young people, especially young people of color, deserve to live in communities where accountability is expected of everyone. They deserve compassion even if they have lived imperfect lives, and especially when they are the victims of crime. Young Hmoob people in particular are vulnerable to victimization and drug addiction (and therefore interaction with law enforcement) due to their traumatic personal and family histories of war, forced relocation, alienation, and poverty. Treating them as nothing more than criminals, failing to see their humanity and to recognize the complex and unjust racial, socioeconomic, and international political systems that work against them is indicative of a bias that is deep and difficult to eradicate. Hmoob people and the broader community deserve accessible, confidential mechanisms to report when they experience this bias.

We call upon the county board and the Criminal Justice Management Council to move with urgency to establish a civilian police oversight committee using the [National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement](#) guidelines. In particular, we support the work already completed by the subcommittee studying this issue locally, on which a former member of our staff served. We hope that their recommendations will be given serious consideration as the conversation moves forward.

From: [Tim Gruenke](#)
To: [Tiffany Cornell](#); [Andrew Alvaro Rasmussen](#); [Simpson, Araysa - OSPD](#); [Chief Scott Alo](#); [Dr. Heidi Allred](#); [Dr. Suthakaran Veerasamy](#); [Dr. Troy Harcey](#); [Heidi Svec](#); [Jason Witt](#); [Jayne Rifenberg](#); [Jeff Wolf](#); [Rose, Jenna M - DOC](#); [Jim Verse](#); [Packard, Joseph L - DOC](#); [Ramona Gonzalez](#); [Keonte Turner](#); [Kristi Arenz](#); [Mandy Bisek](#); [Margaret Larson](#); [Michael Sersch](#); [Monica L. Kruse](#); [Monica Kruse](#); [Scott Horne](#); [Shawn Kudron](#); [Steve O'Malley](#); [Thomas Jacobs](#); [Tina Tryggstad](#); [Vincent Loera](#)
Subject: RE: CJMC Agenda Packet
Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 4:59:53 PM

Hello,

I want to submit the following written statement with regard to Agenda Item #5 of today's CJMC meeting (8/18/21).

Hello, thank you for the space to submit a written comment for today's meeting and I appreciate all of your work and time spent in this committee. My name is Laura Abellera, and I served in a community member capacity on the recent subcommittee tasked with initial research and recommendations for policing oversight in our community.

I am disappointed and frustrated by the trajectory this process has taken. This is a pattern that I am all too familiar with both in my personal and professional life - once again, people of color and people from marginalized communities have been asked to provide hours of emotional and intellectual labor related to our lived experiences, and areas of study with no follow-through and blatant disregard for well-informed perspectives. Not only has this been a completely placating experience, but proposing that this issue once again moves back and forth from body to body to appease the very entity that we are looking to hold accountable is frankly absurd.

There are many organizations and groups in this community doing the difficult work and making structural improvements to address the pervasive racial inequities that harm our most historically marginalized community members, so there is no excuse for the lack of urgency around this issue.

I care deeply about this community and ensuring that we move toward justice in every aspect that we are able, and it has become painfully clear to me that there are many groups of people within this community that does not care about me. I'm quite honestly tired of making these comments and taking time away from my loved ones to say the same things over and over again with no movement.

This simple ask to move us collectively toward safety in a way that centers racially minoritized communities continues to turn into games of power, resource hoarding, gatekeeping, and ridiculous coddling of egos. The little faith that I had in this process, has been completely eliminated by the backpedaling of the past several weeks, but I'm going to ask one last time for this community to be better. Do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Laura Abellera

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Laura Abellera, J.D., M.S.Ed.

Pronouns: she/her

Phone: (630) 730-4812

Email: laura.abellera@gmail.com

Schedule: <https://calendly.com/laura-abellera>

GARY TYLER

7 p.m. in
Fine Arts Center
Main Theatre at
Viterbo University



THURSDAY, SEPT. 16

Gary Tyler was wrongly convicted of first-degree murder at the age of 17 and spent 41 years in Louisiana State Penitentiary, better known as Angola. In 1974 he was charged with the murder of a fellow student, who was white.

He was quickly tried and convicted under dubious circumstances and became the youngest inmate in history to be incarcerated on death row. Louisiana's death penalty was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976, and Tyler's sentence was changed to life in prison. Tyler gained his freedom in 2016 when the Louisiana St. Charles Parish District Attorney's Office overturned his murder conviction. Throughout it all, he maintained his innocence. Today, Tyler lives in Venice, Calif. where he works at Safe Place for Youth helping homeless youth get off the streets. He is not bitter and concentrates every day on enjoying his freedom.

"I left prison rich in spirit and ready to embrace life. I am happy to have the opportunity to live a life that was denied me for four decades."

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

A mask requirement is in effect at Viterbo and all audience members must wear a mask.



VITERBOUNIVERSITY

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
AGENCY UPDATE

6

DATE: 9/3/21

AGENCY: Human Services

SUBMITTED BY: Jason Witt

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

Thanks to a unique funding opportunity from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Office of the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP), the La Crosse County Youth System of Care (SOC) will be adding two part-time cultural liaisons. These positions, which will be provided through a contract with Hope Restores, will be a great asset as over 50 percent of youth referred to SOC are racially diverse. The positions come at an important time as the impacts of COVID have contributed to a higher need for service to youth in the area of social and emotional health, as reported by SOC and its youth serving partners.

Relevant service data:

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

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
AGENCY UPDATE

7

DATE: September 7, 2021

AGENCY: Public Defender

SUBMITTED BY: Araysa M. Simpson

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

Relevant service data:

Reminder that our office is moving locations. Starting October 1, 2021 our office will be located at 149 6th Street S., La Crosse, WI 54601. We anticipate a disruption in service on September 23, 2021 due our internet and phone being down, as well as the attorneys . There may be other slight disruptions so please be understanding during this time.

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

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
AGENCY UPDATE

8

DATE: September 7, 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, September 7 - 118
Males - 105
Females - 13

Monday, September 6 - 112
Males - 100
Females - 12

Monthly Average (Aug. 2021) - 107
Monthly Average (July 2021) - 109
Monthly Average (June 2021) - 102
Monthly Average (May 2021) - 111
Monthly Average (April 2021) -98

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