

LA CROSSE COUNTY NOTICE OF MEETING

COMMITTEE OR BOARD:	CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
DATE OF MEETING:	9/17/2025
MEETING PLACE:	Law Enforcement Center Room 1615
TIME OF MEETING:	5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
PURPOSE OF MEETING:	Monthly Meeting

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.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the August 20, 2025 Minutes
3. Public Comment
4. Civilian Review Board Update-Allan Beatty and Amanda Goodenough
5. TAD Grant Application Approval
6. 2025 CJMC Goal Action Plan- Panel Presentation-
Guest Panelists Jail and Court Services Staff- Ryan Schlicht, Katie Ritter, Sam Leinfelder and Brandon Penzkover
Goal: December 31, 2025, integrate data analysis and stakeholder feedback to identify key characteristics and service gaps for individuals interacting with the criminal legal system at a high frequency, producing 3-5 actionable policy recommendations for the CJMC to present to the Judiciary and Law Committee by January 31, 2026.
7. Informational/Misc. Items
8. Future Agenda Items
9. Adjourn

NEWS MEDIA	OTHER	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
La Crosse Tribune	Jim Verse	Tim Gruenke – Chair
WIZM/WKTY	Judges Huesmann, Levine, Doyle, Veenstra	Araysa Simpson – Vice Chair
WKBH & WLFN	Keith Belzer	Chief Kudron/Captain Avrie Schott
WKBH – TV 8	Mark Clements	Chief Trisha Stratman
WLSU/WHLA	Mayor Shaundel Spivey	Ryan Anderson
WSM News	Megan DeVore	Dr. Suthakaran Veerasamy
WXOW-TV 19	Peter Kitzynger	Jason Witt
WEAU	Ryan Westpfahl	Becky Koske
WPR	Shane Collins	Jenna Theler
Magnum Broadcasting	Tonya Van Tol	Judge Levine
COUNTY DEPARTMENTS	Serena Peloza	Dawn Wacek
County Administrator		Margaret Larson
County Clerk		Michael Sersch
Facilities		Mike Baroni
Justice Support Services		Sheriff John Siegal
Corp Counsel		Tina Tryggestad
		Jessica Beck
		Curt Teff

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

MEMBERS: If unable to attend, call Tonya Van Tol 608-785-5815.

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 Tonya Van Tol at

(608) 785-5815 or tvantol@lacrossecounty.org as soon as possible.

DATE NOTICE FAXED/MAILED/EMAILED AND POSTED: September 10, 2025.

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

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Wednesday August 20, 2025
Law Enforcement Center Room 1615**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Jenna Theler, Becky Koske, Tina Tryggestad, Jason Witt, Mike Baroni, Dawn Wacek, Tim Gruenke, Araysa Simpson, Elliott Levine, Jess Beck, Margaret Larson
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Dr. Suthakaran Veerasamy, Trish Stratman, John Siegal, Avrie Schott, Curt Teff, Michael Sersch, Ryan Anderson
OTHERS PRESENT:	Paul Miller, Carissa Meyer, Jai Mather, Cyndi Gorsett, Marissa Miller, Jodie Muth, Colin Walsh, Tonya Van Tol

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tim Gruenke called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

APPROVAL of July 16, 2025 MINUTES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL:

MOTION by ((Wacek/Larson)) to approve the July 16, 2025 minutes of the Criminal Justice Management Council.

Motion carried unanimously: Veerasamy, Siegal, Stratman, Schott, Teff, Sersch excused.

Reentry Panel Presentation: A guest panel with representatives from Justice Support Services (Cyndi Gorsett, Marissa Miller, and Jodie Muth); Project PROVEN from Western Technical College (Jai Mather, Colin Walsh), and Department of Corrections (Paul Miller and Carissa Meyer) addressed questions developed by the CJMC committee members to help get a better understanding and perspective of needs, barriers and successes from those who are engaged with individuals who are formerly incarcerated in the county jail or prison. Panelists shared perspectives on the barriers faced by individuals returning to the community after incarceration, highlighting housing, employment, stigma, and strained family and peer relationships as major challenges. They noted limited access to detox, crisis stabilization, and longer-term treatment, with long waitlists and distance from family supports compounding the problem. Individuals with significant mental health needs often struggle to access or maintain services, and many remain in jail while awaiting appropriate placement.

Panelists emphasized that success in reentry depends on consistent relationships, trust-building, and coordinated support, rather than short-term compliance measures. They identified gaps created by duplication of services and reliance on temporary grant funding, along with community resistance to housing options despite their lower cost than incarceration. Suggestions included improving system coordination, expanding supportive housing, and increasing public education to shift perceptions away from fear and stigma. Overall, panelists underscored the importance of sustained, long-term person-centered support and a welcoming community environment to help reduce recidivism and promote stability.

Informational/Misc.: None

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

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

Recorded by Tonya Van Tol

September 17, 2025

Chair: Tim Gruenke, District Attorney

Vice Chair:

Araysa Simpson, State Public
Defender's Office

Administrative Members:

Tina Tryggstad – Chair, County Board
Hon. Elliott Levine
Dawn Wacek – County Board
Supervisor
John Siegel – La Crosse County Sheriff
Michael Baroni- County Board
Supervisor
Margaret Larson – County Board
Supervisor
Avrie Schott - Captain, La Crosse Police
Dept.
Jason Witt – Human Services Director
Jenna Theler– Supervisor, Department
of Corrections
Curt Teff – Associate Superintendent
of Instruction, School District of La
Crosse

Citizen Members

Michael Sersch
Dr. Suthakaran Veerasamy
Jessica Beck
Ryan Anderson
Becky Koske

Coordinator –Tonya von Tol
(608)785-6216

State of Wisconsin
Department of Justice
Justice Programs
Section 17 W. Main St.
Madison, WI 53707

To Whom It May Concern,

The La Crosse County Criminal Justice Management Council (CJMC) endorses the grant application being submitted by Justice Support Services for TAD Funding for 2026. We support the application for continued baseline funding, as requested.

The La Crosse CJMC is comprised of members from the County Administrator's Office, Circuit Court Judges, community members, County Board of Supervisors, the CJMC Coordinator (the JSS Manager), the District Court Administrator, the District Attorney's Office, the La Crosse Police Department, the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department. The State Public Defender/Local Criminal Defense Bar, victim services providers and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. The CJMC meets monthly and provides oversight to many areas of practice in La Crosse County's criminal justice system.

Over the last two decades La Crosse County has successfully implemented bail monitoring, gender-specific programming and multiple treatment courts to reduce the jail population and recidivism. TAD funding has assisted in implementing a comprehensive pretrial system as well as enhancing our pre and post charge diversion programs. This is done with the support of the CJMC and with several members directly collaborating with our diversion programs.

Mission Statement

The Criminal Justice Management Council, utilizing current research, 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.

TAD funding has greatly increased our ability to implement evidence-based programs and practices into the work of our local criminal justice system. We look forward to continued collaboration with TAD.

Sincerely,

Tim Gruenke
La Crosse County District Attorney
Chair, Criminal Justice Management Council