

MEETING MINUTES

VERNON COUNTY COURT & COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MARCH 14, 2019 @ 12:00 P.M. VERNON COUNTY COURTHOUSE – JURY ROOM

Members in attendance:

Darcy J. Rood, Circuit Court Judge
Sheila Olson, Clerk of Court
Jess Leinberger, Vernon County Prevention Coordinator
Chuck Mulvaney-Kemp, Teen Court
Rebecca Salmon, Passages
Crystal Knoll, Veterans Service Office
Cindy Ellefson, Recovery Court Coordinator
Lisa Fieck, Dept. of Corrections
Jessie Fortuna, YWCA/CASA
Mackenzie Mindel, YWCA/CASA
Kelley Waddell, YWCA/CASA
Tricia Clements, ADRC
Jill Bender, Vernon County Dept. Human Services
Peter Daniels, Vernon County Dept. Human Services
Dennis Brault, County Board Chair
Stephanie Hopkins, FCC/Attorney
Kim Ward, Attorney
Austann Abbott, Intern at Vernon County Dept of Human Services
Kristi Peterson, Judicial Assistant

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Judge Darcy Rood.

Introductions were given

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Becky Salmon and seconded by Crystal Knoll to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2018. Motion carried.

Updates:

- **Recovery Courts:** Cindy Ellefson shared that Drug Court was up and running as of March 1, 2019. There are currently 3 participants with the possibility of a 4th. The Sheriff's Department and Probation and Parole were instrumental in getting the drug testing organized which is a key component to the program. There are currently 7 participants in Sobriety Court all of which are in the last few phases of the program and will be preparing to graduate in the upcoming months.

- **Prevention/Partnership:** Jess Leinberger is the prevention coordinator for both Vernon and Crawford Counties. She is in the process of planning a fall event in collaboration with the LaFarge Methodist Church and the LaFarge School District. The event will be a family day workshop to work with both children and parents on alcohol and drug prevention.
- **Teen Court:** Chuck Mulvaney-Kemp shared that 3 new adult and 3 teen volunteers have been trained and are actively participating in Teen Court. So far in 2019, eleven out of twelve teens (92%) have successfully completed their sanctions. This percentage is consistent with historical norms. Six cases involved motor vehicle violations and five cases involved alcohol. Six teens are in the process of completing their sanctions.
- **Domestic Abuse Issues:** Rebecca Salmon shared that Passages continues to see high numbers of individuals seeking their services. She spoke with Lisa Hynek who is also seeing a high number of individuals. A discussion was held on how domestic violence is prevalent in many of the court's cases and the need for an abusers group in our area. Lisa Hynek plans to attend the next meeting to talk about domestic violence issues.
- **Elder Abuse Issues:** Jill Bender shared that their referrals usually come in waves and are mostly related to financial exploitation which can be through lottery scams, phone scams or by people the individual knows who are trying to take advantage. Her cases become more complicated when there are medical needs and working with doctors when a person is competent and rejects treatment.
- **Aging & Disability Center of Vernon County:** Trisha Clements shared that the Living Well Workshop started yesterday and runs through April 17. It is from 4:00-6:30 pm at the Other Door located inside the Family & Children's Center. This workshop is for adults with ongoing health conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, heart disease, chronic pain or anxiety. The workshops provide support and ways to incorporate better nutrition, pain management, and can also help with better ways to communicate with doctors and caregivers about their health. They will also be offering a Healthy Living with Diabetes workshop starting in April.
- **Health Department:** No report at the meeting. Judge Rood shared two articles, one about Wisconsin being the number one state for falls and the other about groups that are trying to help, similar to our Stepping On class offered here in Vernon County.

Betty Nigh sent the following update after the meeting:

As part of our Community Improvement Plan, the Vernon County Health Department would like to strengthen current efforts directed at opioid and substance use in Vernon County. They would like to explore options of developing more community education regarding drug and substance use in particular with school aged children and families. Anyone interested in joining this new taskforce can contact Amy Kleiber at 608-637-5253 or amy.kleiber@vernoncounty.org. They will also be exploring options for funding projects, such as possible grant monies available towards this cause.

- **Trauma Informed Care Task Force:** No one was there to report. Austann Abbot is the newest intern at Human Services and she reminded the committee that next month is Child Abuse Prevention month.
- **YWCA/CASA:** Jessie Fortuna is the program director at CASA and gave a brief overview of who CASA is and what their role is in court cases. She shared that it has always been difficult to get volunteers in this area and that cases have seemingly gone down according to her conversations with Jim Lee and Theresa Berger at Human Services. CASA applied and received a 3 year grant to provide a part-time case manager in Monroe County. They will be re-applying for a 5 year grant and they would like to write in dollars that could be used in Vernon County for a part time CASA case manager who would also help with volunteer recruitment and the advertising necessary to expand.
- **Veterans:** Crystal Knoll shared that she has now implemented a Veteran notification screening tool with the Vernon County Sheriff's Dept. This tool will provide a list of veterans currently housed in the Vernon County jail so they can work towards helping them apply for benefits. Crystal Strand of Workforce Development can also work with them to find employment once they are released from jail. The VA has developed a new program for classifying discharges that will help get medical benefits to veterans regardless of their discharge status. They are also currently looking for Veteran Mentors in Vernon County and their office may also be used for community service hours, if eligible.

- **Other Business:**

-Peter Daniels has been hired as the Children's Justice Support Coordinator for Vernon and Crawford Counties. His role is to bring change to schools in how to approach behavioral problems and the effects of learning on children with trauma. He has started ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and TSS (Trauma Sensitive Schools) trainings in schools and with county employees,

police departments and human services. The training will help staff and administration identify what behaviors should or should not be referred for services. This would help reduce unnecessary police contacts and referrals to human services and the court and hopefully improve attendance, increase safety and success among all students and also the staff's well-being. He is working on drafting MOU's for both counties with the stakeholders being school districts, Circuit Courts, City Police, Sheriff Departments and Human Services.

- Judge Rood shared that she has implemented "pay or appear" orders in child support cases. This order requires a payor of child support to either pay their monthly obligation by a certain date or show up in court and explain to the Judge why they cannot pay. This helps payors who may be behind in payments avoid possible felony criminal charges.

-County Board Chair Dennis Brault questioned some of the committee members on their funding sources. He suggested that HoChunk monies may be available to help with programs needed in Vernon County. The committee discussed that homelessness and transitional housing is at issue in Vernon County.

Next Meeting: June 6, 2019 at noon.

Meeting Adjourned: A motion was made by Crystal Knoll and seconded by Trish Clements to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.