

AMENDED MEETING MINUTES

VERNON COUNTY COURT & COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL
AUGUST 8, 2019 @ 12:00 P.M.
VERNON COUNTY COURTHOUSE – JURY ROOM

Members in attendance:

Darcy J. Rood, Circuit Court Judge
Sheila Olson, Clerk of Court
Chuck Mulvaney-Kemp, Teen Court
Rebecca Salmon, Passages
Cindy Ellefson, Recovery Courts
Tom Rhorer, YWCA/CASA
Peter Daniels, Vernon County Dept. Human Services
Theresa Berger, Vernon County Dept. Human Services
Cathrina Dunnum, Vernon County Dept. Human Services
Katelyn Gilman, Intern at Vernon County Dept. of Human Services
Betty Nigh, Vernon County Health Dept.
Kristi Peterson, Judicial Assistant

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Judge Darcy Rood.

Affirmation of Proper Notice of Public Hearing: Proper notice of a public hearing was affirmed.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Becky Salmon and seconded by Cindy Ellefson to approve the March 4, 2019, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Updates:

- **Recovery Courts:** Cindy Ellefson shared that Drug Court started on March 4, 2019, and there are currently 7 participants. These participants are high risk/high need and the program is currently not able to provide the necessary intensive inpatient treatment they need due to lack of funding. She is trying to be creative with the current resources to meet their needs. There are currently 5 participants in Sobriety Court. She has seen a reduction in subsequent offenses for current and graduated sobriety court participants.
- **Prevention/Partnership:** Jeana LeJeune provided the following written update on behalf of the Schmidt Consulting Team:

Our team is doing an awesome collaboration with the Vernon County Public Health Department right now so we invite everyone to come check us out at the night market at Eckhart Park in Viroqua. The next two markets are on

August 14th and September 18th. We are collecting data from the community on what they see as the biggest concerns with AODA in our community. Stop by our booth and fill out a survey- we have great treats to share with everyone who does. We are also offering a FREE community dinner on 8/22/19. Everyone is welcome. It is an event to gather input from the community on hot topics which include vaping, marijuana, the physical effects of drugs, and several other key topics. Come share your thoughts, or just share in the conversation. We will also have great resources and other community partners on hand to talk with community members.

- **Teen Court:** Chuck Mulvaney-Kemp shared the Teen Court Advisory Board met on June 26 and decided the Choices Program would be an automatic sanction for marijuana/THC violations. It was also decided that all case files would be retained until the teen “ages out.” A volunteer teen juror was recently trained. He spoke with Coon Valley Police Officer Phil Welch and other representatives from Vernon County Crime Stoppers at the National Night Out event. Teen Court always welcomes suggestions for potential community service opportunities in the County and requests that any ideas be shared with him.
- **Domestic Abuse Issues:** Rebecca Salmon shared that domestic abuse victims continue to be constant and have a lot varying circumstances surrounding the abuse. A lot of victims refuse to report the abuse and they are not mandatory reporters at Passages. A fundraiser for Passages will be held at the Richland County College on September 21, 2019.
- **Elder Abuse Issues:** No report.
- **Aging & Disability Center of Vernon County:** No report.
- **Health Department:** Betty Nigh handed out a press release and flyer for the Community Conversations Dinner in partnership with the Vernon County Prevention Team to host a free dinner and conversation. They are also partnering with the ADRC to provide a new Stepping on Class in Westby starting September 17, 2019. She provided an update on the Stuff the Bus campaign. There are currently 575 requests for backpacks and school supplies. The community effort in helping with this campaign has been tremendous. They had a car seat booth at the National Night Out and answered a lot of questions about booster seats.
- **Trauma Informed Care Task Force:** Cathrina Dunnum reported that Kaitlyn Gilman has been working on fundraising for the task force as part of her internship with Vernon County. Peter Daniels shared they will be providing trauma informed care training at school in-services all around the county.

- **YWCA/CASA:** Tom Rhorer reported they applied for a VOCA Grant to expand services in Monroe, La Crosse and Vernon Counties. They currently do not have any cases in Vernon County; however, recently attended the Viroqua Farmers Market to recruit volunteers and have some possible candidates interested in taking the training. Judge Rood believes she may have a case where a CASA volunteer would be beneficial.
- **Veterans:** No report.
- **School Justice Program:** Peter Daniels handed out brochures for the first Annual Coulee Region Summit to be held on August 14, 2019, at Westby High School. The deadline for registering has been extended to August 12, 2019. The key note speaking is Judge Steve Teske. The next School Justice Partnership meeting is scheduled for August 15th, 2019, at noon at the courthouse.
- **Other Business:**
 - Cindy Ellefson is part of the Viroqua Housing Authority Coalition and shared information about a 4 bedroom house that may be available in Viroqua and available TABOR money.
 - Judge Rood shared she has implemented “pay or appear” orders in child support cases and it was suggested that middle school aged kids come and observe court as part of health class. A discussion was held if this would be beneficial for this age group or if it would be better for older kids.
 - Peter Daniels would like to compile a mentor directory so if anyone knows of mentors and/or mentoring programs in this area please contact him.

Next Meeting: October 10, 2019 at noon.

Meeting Adjourned: A motion was made by Becky Salmon and seconded by Peter Daniels to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.