



Jail & Huber Utilization Committee Minutes:

Monday, October 16, 2017 – 8:00am
Milwaukee County Courthouse, Rm 609

Attendees: Tom Reed, Mandy Potapenko, Pete Konezny, Angelique Richards, Ron Molnar (on behalf of Ron Malone), Adam Oldenburg, Aaron Dobson, Kerri McKenzie, Sheldyn Himle, Molly Collins, Emilee Hodson

i.) Introductions – meeting called to order at 8:04am by committee chair, Tom Reed.

ii.) Trends – Population, Staffing, etc. – Jail/House of Correction/MSDF/Dept. of Corrections - As a result of this discussion, the issue of staffing shortages will be brought to the CJC Executive Committee for awareness and input.

- **Jail** – Jail Administrator Dobson reports working through a staffing shortage. Hiring is ongoing. MCSO has implemented a new process where new hires are exposed to work in the jail much earlier in their training process, which has helped identify who is or is not fit for work within the jail. Administrator Dobson notes that staff have not received raises in 8 years, which makes retention of staff difficult. Efforts to improve morale and advanced scheduling have been implemented. Jail census is currently at 950, with no trends to report. Lastly, a collaborative partnership for evaluation through the National Institute of Corrections has been requested. They asked for the original request's scope to be narrowed. This partnership will work to evaluate and improve the working relationship between MCSO and Armor Correctional staff.
- **House of Correction** – Kerri McKenzie echoes a staffing shortage. They are currently short 56 CO's, which jeopardizes the viability of positive, restorative programming. She noted four people leaving last week, many of whom are seasoned staff. Kerri also noted that Waukesha County offers \$4 more per hour for new CO's, which is an obstacle to hiring new staff, as well.
- **MSDF** – Ron Molnar provided updates from MSDF. Ron oversees programming at MSDF. He reported over 50 GED completions this year at MSDF. He also noted that MSDF has started offering voluntary, AODA treatment for general population (previously only offered to individuals serving time on ATRs). Ron noted that MSDF is currently running at capacity. 130 individuals have been placed at Racine County Jail, through a partnership for overflow.

iii.) Mental Health in the Jail

- **Armor Correctional** – Mental Health Director, Joel DeWitt, reports 21% of jail population is receiving psychotropic medication (down slightly from previous months/reports). No known reason for this downward trend.
- **DHS/WCS – Treatment to Competency Update(s)** – The Wisconsin Forensic Unit has seen a 30% increase in referrals for competency examinations and a 15% increase in findings of non-competence, YTD. Adam Oldenburg reports that the treatment waitlist is currently at 59 individuals (8 from Milwaukee). Statewide, 25 cases are awaiting disposition/discharge, which causes a delay in admissions. Adam Oldenburg also noted a challenge in expeditiously handing cases in “challenge mode,” cases where the courts are challenging the Doctor's Report.

Individuals in “challenge mode” have consumed nearly 1500 bed days at Winnebago and Mendota so far this year.

- iv.) **MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge – Post Booking Stabilization Updates** – the group was updated on the progress of the Post-Booking Stabilization initiative. A brief jail mental health screen has been implemented at the point of Universal Screening (April 2017); 3 Community Intervention Specialists (CIS) have been hired. The CISs are contracted through Milwaukee County Housing Division, have access to the jail CIU, act as the “warm connection and hand-off to services”; one public defender and one prosecutor have been designated to review appropriate cases for PBS.
- v.) **Municipal Commitment Reform** – Judge White remains committed to reforming front end of system to prevent jail bookings on municipal commitments. As a community and as a system, we need to start with the question of “WHY are there so many defaults in the first place.” No updates to report on from the State committee at this time.
- vi.) **Other Business/Partner Updates** - none to note.
- vii.) **Adjourn**

Next Meeting – Monday, November 20th, 8am, Room 609 of the Courthouse – Members present CONFIRMED the 20th still works, thus the meeting will be held.