



**Waukesha County
Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Evidence-Based Decision Making Victim Rights Workgroup Minutes
Monday, March 20, 2017**

Team Members Present:

Jen Dunn

Hon. Michael Aprahamian

Kelsey Loshaw

Marla Bell

Amy Rendall

Team Members Absent:

Jay Laufenberg

Also Present:

Rebecca Luczaj

Janelle McClain

Bell called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Approve Minutes from February 6, 2017 Meeting

Motion: Aprahamian moved, second by Bell, to approve the minutes from February 6, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on Status of Restitution Memo with State Policy Team

Dunn distributed a copy of the revised memo that was sent to the state EBDM Policy Team, which she will be reviewing with them on Thursday. The state Policy Team has been discussing how they should best receive input from the county teams for review. The state CJCC meets in May, so not much will happen regarding the memo before then.

Dunn stated that the state Policy Team appears to be reluctant to developing a workgroup specifically focusing on victims, citing that the Department of Justice has the Crime Victims Council. However, the Crime Victims Council is only advisory in nature and cannot restrict its focus solely to the EBDM teams.

Dunn has not received substantial feedback from counties who are utilizing the Department of Revenue (DOR) for collection of restitution payments yet. Rendall stated that the DOR interface has been added to CCAP's priorities for the current year.

Dunn will forward the updated memo, with Aprahamian's revisions, to Representative Hutton and this workgroup.

Loshaw arrived at 12:15 p.m.

Discuss E-Filing of Victim Impact Statements

The courts have requested that victim impact statements, initially not included with e-filing, now be included when possible.

The workgroup discussed potential issues that could arise, such as receiving the statement after the judge has reviewed the case prior to the hearing or in-court filings. Loshaw stated that a majority of Public Defender clients bring these statements the day of court.

The workgroup agreed on a new policy: If victim impact statements are submitted within 24 hours of a court hearing, they will be e-filed; however, a hard copy should also be brought to court in case the judge did not see it in the system. Attorneys are to let the judges know when victims are present as well.

Judge Aprahamian commented that he spoke at two recent judges' meetings. He informed the other judges that clerks would put a note in files if victims plan to be present at hearings. In those cases, the judges should make every effort not to call the case early (if victims are not yet present), but when victims are present, they should call those cases first over victimless cases. Victims should also be checking in with the bailiffs.

He also stated that having the Restitution Affidavit early in the case would result in a restitution hearing that the victim does not have to attend, as well as lead to the resolution of cases more quickly.

Lastly, he reminded the judges about prioritizing payment of restitution and that no costs or surcharges are to be collected before restitution is paid in full.

Review Identified Workgroup Logic Model Outcomes to Prioritize Next Steps/Projects

This item has been tabled for a future meeting.

Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Bell stated that the workgroup needs to determine how we can measure outcomes and success. Dunn and Rendall will gather some data on restitution collected before the next meeting.

Bell suggested that the workgroup consider our pilot project to be the creation of a restitution affidavit.

The next workgroup meeting will be April 3, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

The April 17 meeting will be moved to April 19 at 3:00 p.m. to accommodate the NIC Consultant, Mimi Carter's, site visit.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.