



Waukesha County
Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Evidence-Based Decision Making Phase V Policy Team
Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Team Members Present:

Hon. Jennifer Dorow, Presiding Judge & Policy Team Chair
County Board Chair Paul Decker
DOC Regional Chief Sally Tess
DOC Community Corrections Field Supervisor Marla Bell
Town of Brookfield Municipal Judge JoAnn Eiring
State Public Defender Regional Attorney Manager Sam Benedict
County Executive Paul Farrow
Sheriff Eric Severson

CJCC Coordinator Rebecca Luczaj
District Attorney Sue Opper
HHS Director Antwayne Robertson
Clerk of Circuit Court Kathy Madden
District Court Administrator Michael Neimon
Menomonee Falls Police Chief Anna Ruzinski
WCS Administrator Sara Carpenter
Captain Dan Baumann

Team Members Absent:

Victim Witness Coordinator Jen Dunn

Others Present:

NIC Consultant Mimi Carter
State Special Projects Coordinator Tommy Gubbin

Senior Administrative Assistant Janelle McClain

Welcome

Chair Dorow called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Review Goals and Agenda for the Meeting

The goals of this meeting are to:

- Review Phase VI Components & Expectations
- Review Communications Strategy & Scorecard
- Discuss Next Steps

Approve Minutes from June 14, 2016

Motion: Madden moved, second by Robertson, to approve the minutes from June 14, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Welcome to Phase VI!

Summary of Selection Process/Application Feedback

Carter stated that it was anticipated that announcement letters would be out by now, but they are not. NIC has not made a final decision on Phase VI. There is an executive team meeting this week to decide on the recommendations.

NIC received 20 very strong applications from 21 teams. From the beginning, NIC's intention was to select one state and 3 counties from within that state. The review committee has recommended more counties be included, but it leads to a funding issue. For Wisconsin, the review team recommended that the state team and all local sites move forward into Phase VI.

The WI state application was the highest ranked application. In addition to the strength of and the work of the state team, several events have underscored the commitment of the statement to the EBDM work. These include modifications to state funding streams to align and support EBDM, and the state agency policy initiatives brought to the state policy team for input and endorsement (e.g. DOC's consideration of broader implementation of dosage probation).

Ruzinski arrived at 12:22 p.m.

Benedict arrived at 12:23 p.m.

Carter thinks the announcements will be made on Friday or Monday. All chairs in each state will receive the same letters, electronically. The letters will suggest that there are some expectations and requirements to participate in Phase VI, as well as include a roadmap for Phase VI.

Phase VI Expectations

Carter reported that the expectation is that each team will move forward with their change targets, as well as to work deliberately to infuse the work into each agency.

The technical assistance strategy is undefined at this time, as the budget has yet to be finalized.

Carter is confident that NIC consultants will not be conducting monthly site visits; they will most likely be every other month. Another change is that consultants will also be attending workgroup meetings, as NIC wants to ensure it is funding the implementation of sound evidence-based strategies.

Phase VI will officially begin November 1, 2016, and conclude December 31, 2017.

The expectations are that the Policy Team will still meet monthly; however, the meetings may be able to be scaled back, such as to 90 minutes to 2 hours versus 3 hours.

Phase VI will have a stronger emphasis on data collection.

The Policy Team is not limited to the current change targets; more can be added.

Dorow feels that the CJCC and EBDM should somehow be merged; this is something that the CJCC Executive Committee will work on at upcoming meetings.

The committee discussed feedback regarding the Phase VI application components, including the strengths and weaknesses of the application. Carter stated that while the application was not weak, Waukesha County was not one of the top ranked teams.

Workgroup Updates

Pretrial Workgroup

Dorow reported that they have implemented the OWI screening tool and are working through growing pains. The workgroup is determining how to best utilize the tool and data available. She stated that there may not be a full understanding by the commissioners regarding the risk scores that are provided. Are there low-risk

defendants being kept in jail? Are there high-risk defendants being released with no supervision? These are the questions the group will try to answer through data collection.

Carter will send a data collection spreadsheet template that was created in Indiana when they implemented the same process.

Case Processing Workgroup

Opper reported that the Public Defender screening pilot program is still doing very well. Neimon added that the judges are seeing fewer defendants without attorneys. This could be the result of a letter going out with the summonses that includes attorney information, so defendants are obtaining representation before their initial appearance.

There is still an issue with OARs because defendants do not realize it is not just a ticket - it is a criminal violation. So they arrive to court expecting to pay a fine and be done. The workgroup is composing a notice that will be mailed with the OAR summonses to inform them that it is more than "just a ticket."

Beginning in December, the workgroup is going to try pretrial conferences on eligible cases in Judge Ramirez's court, in hopes to move the cases forward more quickly.

Dorow commented that it is important to remember that Waukesha County is unique because there are so many municipal courts, unlike other counties such as Eau Claire County that does not have municipal courts. So while programs, such as diversion, may work for another county, it may not work for Waukesha County since many cases are already being diverted via the municipal courts.

Eiring left at 1:20 p.m.

Carter stated that NIC has a new piece of work launching around diversion that she will keep the committee informed about.

Mental Health Workgroup

Ruzinski reported that the group is currently discussing the medical clearance process for an emergency detention (ED).

The workgroup will be having a meeting with the ER doctors and nurses regarding the ED process, and will include a tour of the Mental Health Center. The HHS Clinical Director, Dr. James Rutherford, is involved and is committed to work closely with all of the ER doctors and nurses to make the process more efficient.

Farrow arrived at 1:29 p.m.

Carter suggested contacting Rock County because they have a mental health workgroup working on similar things. She feels it would be beneficial to trade notes since the goal is to keep people out of the criminal justice system entirely.

Victim Rights Workgroup

Bell reported that more information was requested for a new grant that Dunn applied for to hire a Restitution Specialist, so that is promising. DOC has implemented the new Restitution Bill requirement that restitution be collected before administrative fees.

Review Key Documents from Phase VI Application

Communications Strategy

Luczaj distributed and reviewed the communications strategy, which followed NIC's framework and guidelines. NIC has a sample public survey we can utilize.

The committee discussed the need to come together as a team and to support one another if a judgment is made that backfires. Carter commented that some counties have put together a critical response team to handle those situations when they arise. Dorow stated that we never want to give the impression that the system is broken. Opper is concerned about what will happen when something goes wrong; public officials will take the fall.

The committee discussed the need to educate the public and those utilizing the system, as well as how to work together with the public and media. Farrow commented that the focus should be on educating employees, staff, etc. since we cannot control public opinion. Robertson stated that information could be posted on a dashboard on the internet so that those interested can access it at their leisure. Tess suggested shifting the focus to promoting why Waukesha County is a great place to live and work.

Scorecard

Luczaj distributed and reviewed the scorecard that was submitted as part of the Phase VI application. Luczaj consulted with Niemon regarding the Case Processing goals, and with Rob Mueller regarding the Emergency Detentions goals. It will be difficult to identify cost savings, but an overall system efficiency will be realized.

Baumann left at 2:52 p.m.

Opper and Severson left at 2:59 p.m.

Next Steps

Set Dates for Future Policy Team Meetings

Luczaj will send out a Doodle survey for the October meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.