



Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Evidence-Based Decision Making
Alternative Interventions Workgroup Minutes
Monday, February 27, 2017

Members Present

Sam Benedict – Co-Chair
Duane Paulson
Mary Wittwer

Joan Sternweis
Marla Bell

Members Absent

Hon. Lloyd Carter – Co-Chair
Sue Opper

Hon. Michael Aprahamian

Others Present

Rebecca Luczaj
Kelsey Loshaw

Andrea Will (for Sue Opper)
Janelle McClain

Benedict called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Approve Minutes from February 13, 2017 Meeting

Motion: Paulson moved, second by Bell, to approve the minutes of February 13, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss & Consider Final Workgroup Goal Statement

Luczaj distributed and explained a handout of the updated “Goal Statement Draft.”

The workgroup discussed the need to address those who have a dual diagnosis. Since there is an EBDM Mental Health Workgroup, we may want to work with them on these mutual issues.

Luczaj will update the document to reflect the objective changes made by the group, and will redistribute it at the next meeting for review and adoption.

Will arrived at 12:14 p.m.

Discuss Content for Grant Proposal

After participating in a recent webinar on the Diversion/Alternatives to Incarceration Grant that we are applying for, Luczaj obtained additional information regarding grant awards. There will be 45-55 awards across the 6 categories. In the categories where states are eligible to apply, 2-3 states will be selected, leaving the rest of the awards to county governments or tribes. Luczaj will eventually need letters of commitment from all of the members of this workgroup, as required by the grant. Luczaj will send out a draft letter that everyone can use as a starting point.

Luczaj reported that she met with Opper to discuss the grant application, and Opper is willing to explore diversion of pure possession of narcotics cases that do not involve victims. Often, these start as possession of drug paraphernalia cases and then become narcotics possession cases once the hygiene lab determines there is narcotics residue present. We would also want to hire a Diversion Coordinator who would be a county employee housed in the District Attorney’s Office, and would report to Opper. The Diversion Coordinator could do the front end screening of cases coming in and prep work on the diversion contracts. Luczaj has been requesting job descriptions from other counties to review as examples. In order to be a county position, we would have to use an existing position classification and include a sunset

clause that corresponds to the end of the grant period. The Diversion Coordinator could only perform duties directly related to the grant proposal.

The workgroup discussed various risk assessment tool options and agreed that we must be consistent across programs with whichever tool we select. Luczaj commented that the NIC Consultant, Mimi Carter, recommended looking at the LSI screening and assessment tool that Milwaukee and other counties use. Luczaj will bring copies of a flow chart depicting Milwaukee County's diversion and deferred prosecution protocol to the next meeting.

While there does not need to be a lot of supervision involved in our diversion program other than meetings with the case manager, the group agreed that there should also be a requirement for a status check every 3 months with the judge. Bell likes the fact that low-risk defendants would be diverted so that they don't eventually end up with DOC on probation, which is not a good use of their resources.

Sternweis stated that we need to determine when the treatment assessment would be conducted, and how we would build it into our protocol. The time span for the diversion agreement should coincide with the established treatment protocol. If we are talking about low-risk/low-need individuals, they have most likely completed some treatment on their own. However, low-risk/high-need individuals could be a year into their drug use, and require a much different treatment protocol.

In response to a question about the capacity of the Day Report Center to handle this diversion population, Wittwer stated that WCS is currently at capacity, but are hiring another case manager.

Review Workgroup Change Strategy Draft

Luczaj and Benedict are continuing to work on the Workgroup Change Strategy. Luczaj suggested that, because many of the workgroups have implemented pilot projects, we should consider the grant we are applying for as our workgroup pilot project.

Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting

At a future meeting, Luczaj will bring information on how diversion programs operate in other counties.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.