

## MINUTES OF THE SUPERVISED RELEASE COMMITTEE

April 9, 2019

10 a.m. Room G034

**PRESENT:** Richard Eaton, Corporation Counsel; Nancy Huberty, DHS SW Manager; Matt Rokus, Eau Claire Police Dept; Sherry Deyoe, Lona Sullivan, Amanda McCarthy, Dept of Corrections; David Livingston, Altoona Police Dept; Michael Mayer, Eau Claire County Sheriff's Dept; Michael Chase, State DHS, Tom Wirth, Deputy Director, DHS; Jackie Krumenauer, DHS Admin Specialist II, Committee Clerk

**PUBLIC:** Walter Adamski, Gary Gibson, Todd Meyer, Mike Weiss, Danielle Powers, Mike Mayer, Vicki Littlefair, James Littlefair, Carol Heppert, Shirley Conley, Christena O'Brien, Jade Pinley

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Call meeting to Order by Nancy Huberty, DHS SW Manager at 10 a.m.

### **Call of the Roll**

**Public Input** - Per Committee operating procedures, a period of public input was held. Nancy Huberty limited public input to three minutes per speaker.

Carol Heppert – Fairchild doesn't need any more bad people.

Walter Adamski – Neighbor down the road of proposed land. Does the client need to be gainfully employed? He can drive to Ashley? Weather conditions in the winter may present concerns. He expressed that he really likes the 40 acre parcel by Hwy 53 & 94. Not out in the middle of no where. Only a part time police officer in Fairchild. Ankle bracelet isn't good, try a chip under skin.

Gary Gibson – Concerns for the Amish community with their religious and school activities nearby. Questions about transportation and jobs? No work around here – 30 miles to the nearest work.

Mike Weiss – Looked at DHS website online. He has an orchard within 1,500 ft limit. Client could wander into the woods, who would see him? Read he can't be outside for the first year.

Shirley Conley – On the way here today, she saw Amish taking kids to school (5) kids in a buddy and (10) kids in a buggy.

The Public Input session was closed at this time.

**Approval of April 2, 2019 meeting minutes** – Motion made by Matt Rokus to approve the April 2, 2019 meeting minutes. Second by Lona Sullivan. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

### **Update from Michael Chase, Supervised Release Contract Specialist, State Dept of Health**

**Services** – Mick gave an overview of the history of the program, his experience and territory location (north of Hwy 29). His office is located in Madison. DHS contracts with Attic Correctional Services to provide assistance with daily living skills such as finding employment. For more information please see their website [www.atticcorrectionalservices.org](http://www.atticcorrectionalservices.org)

Mick shared information found on the website about the Supervised Release Program:

The Supervised Release Program supports individuals with histories of sexual offenses returning to community living following time in prison for their crimes and participation in a treatment program. The Supervised Release Program is part of **Wisconsin's sexually violent person law (link is external)** (Wis. Stat. ch. 980). Since 1994, the state has had the ability to ask a court to order a convicted sex offender into inpatient treatment managed by the Department of Health Services. This request comes as the sex offender is completing their prison term and is on the verge of being released to the community. The sex offender is committed if they have been convicted of certain crimes and have a mental disorder that makes them more likely than not to engage in acts of sexual violence.

Committed sex offenders become patients at **Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center** in Mauston. The number of people housed at Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center is a small fraction of the population of convicted sex offenders in the state. The facility's average monthly population is 330. There currently are more than 25,000 convicted sex offenders living in communities all around Wisconsin.

Individuals committed to treatment at Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center have the opportunity to petition their committing court for release every 12 months. If the court determines an individual has reached a point in their treatment in which they are no longer more likely than not to reoffend, the court orders either community living on supervised release or discharge with no supervision from the Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center.

As of April 2, 2019, 59 individuals are living in the community on supervised release throughout the state.

Supervised release is a safer option than discharge to the community directly from Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center. Unlike direct discharge to the community, the Supervised Release Program offers many supports aimed at helping a person make a successful transition back to the community, including housing, employment, medication, and continued treatment.

Individuals on supervised release face much stricter conditions than other released sex offenders, including required chaperones virtually anytime they leave the house for at least the first year; real-time satellite monitoring of their movements; frequent home and work visits; and polygraph tests to ensure they are following program rules. These conditions are designed to become less restrictive over time if there are no violations. Individuals who violate supervised release rules may have their community release revoked by a court.

For more information please see the website: [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov)

**Motion to move to closed session at 10:33 a.m. to Room G024**

Confirmed no action was taken in closed session

**Motion to move into open session at 10:55 a.m. to Room G034**

**Next Steps:** The next meeting is Tuesday, April 16 at 10 a.m. in Room G034. **Note:** No meeting on Tuesday, April 23.

Continue to explore county owned property

Motion to adjourn by Tom Wirth. Second Matt Rokus. The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 16, 2019 10 a.m. in Room G034.**

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Jackie Krumenauer, Committee Clerk