

**Minutes**  
Eau Claire County  
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement  
Thursday, September 05, 2019 – 4:00 PM  
Courthouse – Room 1273

**Members Present:** Sue Miller, Gerald Wilkie, Sandra McKinney, Brandon Buchannan, and Stella Pagonis

**Others Present:** Lt. Dave Riewestahl, Danielle Powers, Becky Stendahl, Representative Jodi Emerson, Julian Emerson, Supervisor Connie Russell, Supervisor Kimberly Cronk, David Carlson, Sarah Ferber, and Eric Huse

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sue Miller at 4:00 PM.

**Confirmation of Public Meeting Notice**

The Clerk confirmed this meeting was properly noticed to the public.

**Public Comment**

- Sarah Ferber, Associate Director of EXPO, made comments in support of File No. 19-20/057
- Representative Jodi Emerson made comments in support of File No. 19-20/057
- David Carlson made comments in support of File No. 19-20/057

**Approve Minutes from August 13, 2019 Meeting**

The Clerk noted the meeting room was incorrectly identified as Room 1273; the correct meeting room was Room 1301/1302. The minutes were updated to reflect that correction. Supervisor Pagonis moved to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2019 meeting, as corrected. The minutes were adopted as corrected via 5-0 voice vote.

**CJCC Dashboard Update**

A link to the dashboard website was included in the meeting materials. The data is completely refreshed monthly on the website with additional data being added periodically. The committee reviewed the information.

**Circuit Court/Clerk of Court 2020 Budget Request**

The committee reviewed the information and explanation that was included in the meeting materials. No action was needed nor taken by the committee. The material was provided as information only.

**Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office**

- Jail Population
  - Lt. Riewestahl reported as of the date of this meeting, the jail was at 80% capacity. Currently, no inmates are being housed out-of-county. Through July, out-of-county housing expenses are \$50,000.
- Transition Planning with Inmates
  - Becky Stendahl, Social Worker in the Eau Claire County Jail, was present to discuss and explain her role. Ms. Stendahl has been with Eau Claire County for approximately one year. Currently, inmates self-refer for the services Ms. Stendahl can provide. An information handout was provided and is included in these minutes. The committee engaged in general questions and comments related to affordable housing and options/resources available for inmates.

**File No. 19-20/057 – Resolution in Support of Wisconsin Draft Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) Bill 1522/P1**

Supervisor Cronk was present to discuss the resolution. Supervisor Buchanan moved to approve the resolution, with the addition of language directing the resolution be forwarded to all state legislators, Governor, and WCA and forward to full county board. The committee engaged in discussion regarding the resolution. **Approved** 5-0 via voice vote.

**Future Meeting Date**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 03, 2019 at 4:00 PM.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Sheriff's Office
  - Protective Status Legislation
  - ECCJ Population Update
  - 2020 Budget Request
- Marijuana/THC Forfeiture
- Weekend Court/Night Court Availability
- Resolution Relating to Gun Violence
- Community Transition Center Staff & Program Introduction

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Miller at 5:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Eric Huse*

Eric Huse  
Committee Clerk

# JAIL RE-ENTRY DIVERSION SERVICES

Eau-Claire County

Totals for Referrals:

Total- 93 referrals

Age Range: 18-61 yrs

2018



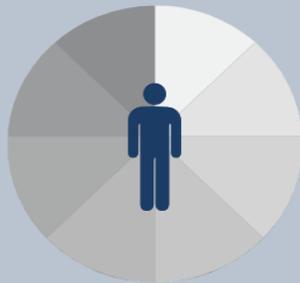
Top Three Reported Needs:

#1- Housing

#2- AODA

#3- Mental Health

2019



AS OF JULY 31ST:

182 Referrals

Housing: 109

AODA: 63

Employment: 63

FoodShare: 61

Mental Health: 51

No Support: 43

Transportation: 44

Medical/insurance: 44

Clothing: 30

## COORDINATION OF CARE

From January to July 31st of 2019- 169 Clients have been assisted through community linkage, resource referrals, enrolling in benefits, housing and employment assistance, and navigating the community.



## SERVICE BARRIERS

Lack of Housing  
Medical Insurance  
Program Qualifications  
Employment  
Wait time for Services  
Transportation Options

In revocation status, accepted to treatment court, received prison sentence, in another jail, or released prior to the Social worker being able to meet with each client

Becky Stendahl  
p:715-492-0794  
f:715-831-5658

becky.stendahl@co.eau-claire.wi.us

## GOALS:

- Community engagement
- Civic participation
- Advocacy
- Addiction Recovery
- Finding purpose, meaning, and change
- Finding a sense of self-worth

## Cause for Eviction:

- Dealing/using drugs/alcohol
- Violence or threat of violence
- Overnight guest
- Failure to pay rent

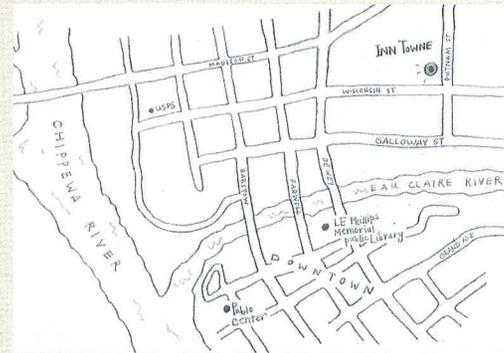
“Thank you so much for the safe, sober environment all these months. This is a huge step forward for me, something I never imagined would happen again. I am incredibly grateful for the Inn Towne and everything I achieved while there.”

## HOW TO APPLY



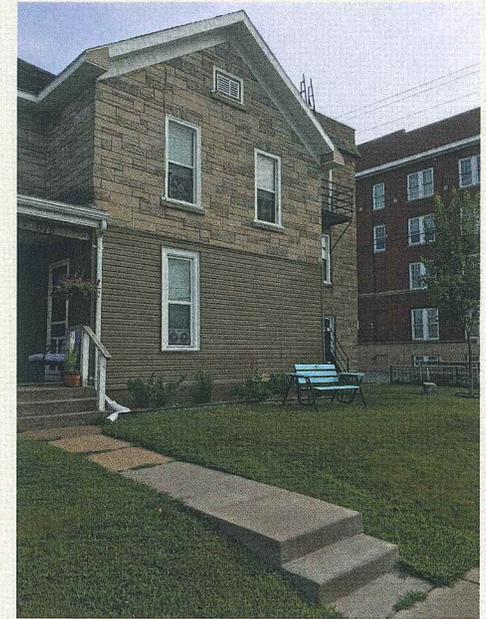
Send a letter outlining your plans, goals, hopes, dreams, priorities, personal accountability to:

Butler's Inn Towne Hotel, LLC  
678 Wisconsin Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715-833-8769



ALL LETTERS WILL BE ANSWERED

## INN TOWNE



Housing and Reentry  
for formerly  
incarcerated men

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Mission Statement:

Provide safe, sober, affordable housing with Certified Peer Support Specialists for men reintegrating into the community after incarceration.

Core Values:

1. Treat each resident with compassion, dignity, and respect regardless of the individual's age, cultural differences, past offenses, or religious beliefs.
2. Assist each resident in connecting with our community-based resource partners for employment, mental and medical healthcare, and social services.
3. Provide Certified Peer Support Specialists.
4. Foster an environment that supports growth and development for the future, so that the resident may embrace his second chance at becoming a productive and responsible member of the community.

## THE BASICS

The Inn Towne has 25 single occupancy rooms. Residents share a kitchen, dining room, and living room. Rent is paid weekly and includes food, utilities, garbage, Wi-Fi, free washer/dryer, and peer support specialists. We are on a bus line and close to downtown.

### REENTRY PROGRAM

Work with a Certified Peer Support Specialist to create, maintain, and upgrade a plan for:

- Employment
- Education
- Transportation
- Healthcare
- Mental Health & Substance Use Program



bedroom



bedroom



Living Room



Kitchen

### FINAL CORE VALUE:

Constantly increase our knowledge in the ever-changing areas of criminal justice reform that affects our residents' daily lives, constitutional rights, and well-being, in order that we may more effectively accomplish our overall goals to reduce recidivism.



The Inn Towne



The Eau Claire River, one block away.

2  
3 -IN SUPPORT OF WISCONSIN DRAFT LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU (LRB)  
4 BILL 1522/P1 THAT SEEKS TO RESTORE VOTING RIGHTS TO PEOPLE ON  
5 PROBATION AND PAROLE AND DECREASE FELONY DISENFRANCHISEMENT IN  
6 THE STATE OF WISCONSIN  
7

8 WHEREAS, felony disenfranchisement is defined as the loss of a person's voting rights  
9 due to a felony conviction; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, in the state of Wisconsin a person is not eligible to vote if they have been  
12 convicted of a felony and currently serving any portion of their sentence including extended  
13 supervision, probation and or parole; and  
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15 WHEREAS, rates of disenfranchisement vary drastically by state due to broad variations  
16 in voting prohibitions; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, as reported by The Sentencing Project, 30 states deny voting rights to felony  
19 probationers, 34 states disenfranchise parolees, and 12 states deny voting rights to some or all  
20 individuals who have successfully fulfilled their prison, parole or probation sentence; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, Maine and Vermont are the only two states that do not disenfranchise  
23 felons; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, as of December 2016, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported there were an  
26 estimated 4.5 million adults in the U.S. under community supervision, probation or parole and,  
27 of that amount, 64,900 were residents of the state of Wisconsin; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, the Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing (EXPO) group reports in 2016 that  
30 the average length of stay for parole in Wisconsin was estimated to be 38 months or a little over  
31 three years, that makes Wisconsin third nationally for probation and parole sentences as reported  
32 by the EXPO group; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, the EXPO group further reports that the average duration for parole across  
35 all states is estimated to be 22 months; and

36 WHEREAS, a report by the Advancement Project titled *Democracy Disappeared How*  
37 *Florida Silences the Black Vote through Felony Disenfranchisement* published October 2018,  
38 suggests that the consequences of felony disenfranchisement disproportionately impact poor  
39 communities and communities of color, which are likely to have high concentrations of returning  
40 citizens who are disenfranchised; and  
41

42 WHEREAS, the report further indicates that losing the right to vote is linked to socio-  
43 economic conditions; felony disenfranchisement converges with low income, poverty, limited  
44 education and employment opportunities to disempower entire communities; and  
45

1           WHEREAS, the inability for disenfranchised people convicted of a felony to participate  
2 in the political process limits their power to overcome inequality and systemic injustice and  
3 isolates them from society; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Advancement Project reports that when large number citizens are not  
6 allowed to vote, entire constituencies may go unrepresented in the democratic institutions that  
7 govern them; and  
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9           WHEREAS, under Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) draft legislation  
10 1522/P1 a person would lose his or her right to vote based on a disqualifying offense only while  
11 he or she is incarcerated for that offense and a person that is released to extended supervision or  
12 parole may resume voting; and  
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14           WHEREAS, additionally, LRB 1522/P1 would allow a person convicted of a  
15 disqualifying offense and on probation retain his or her right to vote unless he or she is confined  
16 as a condition of probation; and  
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18           WHEREAS, EXPO, Wisconsin Affiliate of the Gamaliel Foundation (WISDOM), the  
19 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Project Return, Wisconsin Voices, League of Women  
20 Voters and Just Leadership USA plans to launch the “Unlock the Vote” Campaign seeking to  
21 reengage 64,900 disenfranchised voters; and  
22

23           WHEREAS, felony disenfranchisement is major social issue across the United States the  
24 adversely affects more than 4 million people, including 64,900 people in the state of Wisconsin,  
25 as it is a constitutional right that every citizen should be allowed the right to vote; now, therefore,

26           NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of  
27 Supervisors supports Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) draft legislation 1522/P1  
28 that seeks to restore voting rights to disenfranchised felons and efforts to reduce felony  
29 disenfranchisement and reform practices that disproportionately impacts communities of color in  
30 Wisconsin and the United States; and  
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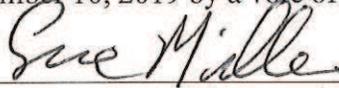
32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors  
33 supports a comprehensive review and revision of Wisconsin’s sentencing guidelines, parole  
34 processes, and revocation processes to ensure that best practices are being followed; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors  
2 supports LRB 1522/P1 which is anticipated to be introduced soon, and requests Government  
3 Affairs staff to communicate this position to the Wisconsin State Legislature and the Governor in  
4 support of its passage.

5  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors are  
7 requesting the support of all Wisconsin State Legislators, the Governor, and the Wisconsin  
8 Counties association. The County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the  
9 Legislature for the State of Wisconsin, the office of the Governor and the Wisconsin Counties  
10 Association.

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13 ADOPTED:  
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17 I hereby certify that the foregoing correctly represents  
18 the action taken by the undersigned Committee on  
19 September 10, 2019 by a vote of 5 for, 0 against

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22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement,  
24 Chairperson

25 SC  
26  
27

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29 Resolution/19-20/057