

Minutes
Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement
Wednesday, September 23, 2020 – 3:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

Members Present: Melissa Janssen, Sandra McKinney, Zoe Roberts, Connie Russell, and Gerald Wilkie.

Others Present: Dr. Susan Wolfgram, Kimberly Cronk, David Carlson, Ron Cramer, Danielle Powers, Dave Riewestahl, Joel Brettingen, Janet Loomis, Gary King, Janis Harper, Tiana Glenna, Jonathan Fortier, and Eric Huse.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wilkie at 3:00 PM.

Call of the Roll

The Clerk called the roll. Attendance was noted above.

Confirmation of Public Meeting Notice

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

Public Comment

David Carlson made comments in opposition to High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funding. A transcript of the comments are included in these minutes.

Kimberly Cronk made comments requesting additional information regarding HIDTA grant funding.

Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

Supervisor McKinney moved to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2020; August 26, 2020; and September 02, 2020 meetings. The meeting minutes were adopted as published in the meeting materials via 5-0 voice vote.

Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Dashboard Update

- Dashboard
 - 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 with Director Tiana Glenna.
- Report from Supervisor Russell
 - Supervisor Russell gave a brief overview of what occurred at the August 19, 2020 meeting. The CJCC reviewed the CJCC and Treatment Court budgets. The CJCC also appointed LaRue Pierce to the vacant citizen member position.

Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office Updates

- **Jail Population, Staffing, & COVID-19 Response**
 - Since COVID-19, the jail population has been around 130-150 inmates. Bookings are also down significantly but there has been an increase as of late.
 - Captain Dan Bresina has retired. Dave Riewestahl has been promoted to Captain filling the spot vacated by Bresina. There are a number of other retirements and resignations in the next month across all divisions. The fingerprint/DNA room is open again though there are staffing concerns with the Special Deputies that staff that room.
 - Captain Riewestahl recapped the August 11, 2020 National Guard COVID-19 testing event at the jail. He noted he could not force staff and inmates to be tested. Each person had a right to choose whether they were tested or not. Captain Riewestahl consulted with Corporation Counsel, Human Resources, and the Health Department throughout the planning of the event. Testing was open to all inmates, jail staff, and any other individuals who frequent the jail (maintenance staff, chaplains, etc.). 49 out of 138 total inmates were

tested. 31 staff were tested. Test results as of Monday, September 21, 2020: 144 tested, 8 positive, 8 recovered, no hospitalizations, no deaths.

- **Inmate Voting**

- Captain Riewestahl said he has been collaborating with County Clerk Janet Loomis. They updated the Jail Kiosk to add resources including voting websites and information, however, due to system vulnerabilities that has had to be scaled back. The jail is following the ACLU Ballots for All checklist.

Transferring \$100,000 from Sheriff's Department Overtime Account to Investigative Services Account

The Sheriff's Office currently has \$100,000 in overtime budget that will not be spent. The Sheriff's Office is asking to move that money to perform a forensic audit of the Department of Human Services. Supervisor Roberts moved to support the transfer of \$100,000 from the Sheriff's Department Overtime Account to Investigative Services Account and recommends this course of action be taken by the Committee on Finance and Budget. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion: JANSSEN no; MCKINNEY no; ROBERTS aye; RUSSELL no; WILKIE aye. The motion **failed** 2-3.

Future Meeting Date

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2020.

Future Agenda Items

- 3rd Quarter Fiscal Updates
- 2021 Budget Recommendations Update
- 2021 2nd Floor Security Screening
- ECSO Response to Supervisor Cronk

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Wilkie at 5:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Eric Huse

Eric Huse
Committee Clerk

My name is David Carlson and I live at 2212 Altoona Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

I have provided the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement, the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council, and the Eau Claire public with factual information pertaining to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Designation placed on Eau Claire County, and general data showing the failure of the war on drugs, both in human cost and economically.

I will now pay recognition to the names of the people of color killed by police in HIDTA Designated counties. Breonna Taylor. She was shot to death by Louisville Police in front of her boyfriend Kenneth Walker. Louisville is in Jefferson County Kentucky, a HIDTA designated County.

George Floyd. He was killed on the street in South Minneapolis by Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. Most of the world has seen the footage of Chauvin's knee on Floyd's neck. Minneapolis is in Hennepin County, Minnesota. Hennepin County is a HIDTA designated county.

Philando Castile. Pulled over in his car with his partner Diamond Reynolds and her four-year-old daughter in the back seat, Castile was shot to death through the driver side window by a Minneapolis Police Officer. Once again, Minneapolis is in Hennepin County, a HIDTA designated county.

Michael Brown. Shot to death by law enforcement in front of his friend Dorian Johnson in St. Louis County, Missouri. St. Louis County is a HIDTA designated county. Eric Garner. Died from being placed in a chokehold by New York City Police Officer Daniel Pantaleo. Once again filmed for the world to see. New York City is part of the New York/New Jersey HIDTA designation. John Crawford III. Shot to death by law enforcement in a Walmart in Beaver Creek, Ohio. The surveillance cameras recorded the shooting. Beaver Creek is in Greene County Ohio. Greene County, Ohio, is a HIDTA designated county.

Ezell Ford, Dante Parker, Michelle Cusseaux, Rayshard Brooks, Daniel Prude, Atatiana Jefferson, Aura Rosser—all killed by law enforcement in HIDTA designated counties.

These names belong to human beings, American citizens. I have given public comment after public comment detailing the factual basis of my arguments. So now I am appealing to every listener's humanity. The law enforcement infrastructure of our area is choosing to model the actions and practices of the counties in which these human beings of color were violently killed at the hands of police. If we continue down the same road these other counties have, we will produce the same outcomes. And just because it has not happened yet, does not mean it will not happen.

The actions of police departments, sheriff's departments, district attorney's offices, criminal courts, departments of corrections—these are the institutions that are traumatizing our Black and Brown brothers and sisters. These institutions are partly responsible for the perpetuation of violence, addiction, incarceration, and suffering witnessed in populations of color. I say

partly, because the United States as a collective has reinforced discriminatory practices in housing, education, and employment, that push Black and Brown people into contact with law enforcement officers.

If we are to find sustainable solutions to these issues, we need the Eau Claire County law enforcement infrastructure to cease undercutting our efforts at progress. Pull out of this HITDA designation. Give back the federal money if it has already been received. Thank you.

David Carlson

Rights for All-Eau Claire County Regional Organizer

ACLU of Wisconsin

9/23/20

Good afternoon Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee Members,

My name is Kim Cronk and I am a long-time resident of Eau Claire County. I appreciate the opportunity to make some brief comments today for your consideration.

When the Eau Claire Co. Board recently approved the grants for the West Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force, I questioned and will continue to question the need for ongoing militarized equipment. It is not a question of monetary cost per se, as clearly these items are funded, but a question of need in our community, human cost, and the inequitable outcomes that have and can continue to be created.

As all departments have been showing their performance measures and the County Board unanimously approved the Resolution Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis in July, it is important that we establish metrics and data (both qualitative and quantitative) with each area and their outcomes. While the public is able to view some simple metrics of the West Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force, there is not much information on the demographics of who they interact with, use of force data, no knock warrant data, what they actually seize, and how those funds or items are tracked and utilized. Those are all some examples of indicators of performance, though additional metrics may be needed as well. In a conversation with Corporation Counsel, it seems that the Sheriff's Department can keep up to 50% of the forfeitures, if their receipts of work, staff time, etc. is documented on the Wisconsin Department of Administration's Forfeitures website, while the other 50% goes to the School Fund. I am trying to understand the way the public can view the tracking of these funds as there is nothing listed for our County's department/Drug Task Force for the years of 2018, 2019, or 2020, yet the County Board approved (though not unanimously) on Sept. 15th, 2020 the West Central Drug Task Force's Forfeiture Funds in the amount of \$13,794. I still do not understand what that entails, not from this year nor previous years, so I am looking for some more in-depth education in this area to ensure not only I, but the public understands. Since this Committee has oversight, I am looking to you to assist in that understanding.

Along the same lines of concern and need for communication/explanation is the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Designation (HIDTA). This designation has been a source of community concern, conversation, public comments, at least one public forum, and the need for more information. It has been an item on at least three different committee or council agendas so far with no more information nor understanding than when the designation was initially granted months ago. At one of the recent CJCC Exec meetings there was an ask by County Board Chair Smiar to have the grant application be brought to the next full CJCC meeting as the HIDTA was going to be on their agenda. The grant was not available at the time to the public, nor was there much, if any discussion or information. It would be important to have this again on an agenda for education, along with the aforementioned original grant application, not only for this Committee, but for a potential presentation to the full County Board.

As we work to move forward in our community to collaborate, provide transparency, and center community on how people view public safety and desire to be protected, it is important that we have the information we need to ensure we are committing to creating equitable budgets, policies, and outcomes. Having accurate information and centering community are critical. I am hopeful you will look to add agenda items on both the West Central Drug Task Force detailed performance metrics, including forfeiture explanations, and the HIDTA grant with an in-depth explanation and the previously requested grant application for your next Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration-

Kim Cronk