

Minutes
Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement
Wednesday, October 27, 2021 – 3:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

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

Ex-Officio Member Present: Nick Smiar.

Others Present: Captain Dave Riewestahl, Lieutenant Travis Holbrook, Lieutenant Dustin Walters, Admin. Division Manager Katrina Ranallo, Sergeant Andy Falk, District Attorney Peter Rindal, County Administrator Kathryn Schauf, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Coordinator Jeneise Briggs, Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court Susan Warner, Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer, Criminal Justice Director Tiana Glenna, David Carlson, Kimberly Cronk, Dr. Susan Wolfram, Ryan Patterson, 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

No public comment was made.

Approve Minutes from September 22, 2021 Meeting

Supervisor Janssen moved to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2021 meeting. The minutes were adopted as published in the meeting materials via 5-0 voice vote.

C.C. We Adapt Presentation

David Carlson, Co-Founder of C.C. We Adapt, provided overview of C.C. We Adapt. C.C. We Adapt offers peer support & mentorship, creates public awareness & education, and provides organizational wellness consultation. They are a growing organization looking to expand their programming and opportunities to collaborate with other organizations.

Dr. Susan Wolfram, Clinical Supervisor of Peer Support Specialists for C.C. We Adapt spoke about “de-carceration” and alternatives to incarceration.

Kimberly Cronk spoke about the consequences of incarceration and need for services in lieu of incarceration. She additionally discussed the need for release services. A written transcript of her presentation is included with these minutes.

*Supervisor Janssen left the meeting at this time.

3rd Quarter Fiscal Updates

• **TRY Mediation**

- Director Todd Johnson provided an update for TRY Mediation. He reports no fiscal concerns.

• **Clerk of Court**

- Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer provided an update. Clerk Schaffer discussed pending legislation at the state level that could impact operations. She noted fines & forfeitures revenue is down but expenses are also down which generally offset each other.

- **Circuit Court**
 - Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer provided an update. Clerk Schaffer noted that revenue is up and expenses are down. She expects to see increase an increase in the revenue next year from the Circuit Court State Grant due to the addition of Branch 6 and a change in the formula for interpreter reimbursement.
- **Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court**
 - Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court Susan Warner provided an update. Clerk Warner recently attended statewide conferences to expand networking and join statewide committees. Department staff have begun cross-training and converting microfilm to scanned PDFs. She reports no significant concerns budget-wise.
- **District Attorney**
 - District Attorney Peter Rindal introduced himself and provided an update on department happenings. Office Manager Eric Huse provided the fiscal update. Huse noted that victim service grant funds are likely to decrease over the next several years due to decreased collections at the state and federal levels. Huse reports he is monitoring the situation closely and will apprise the Committee if the reductions will result in substantial impacts to operations.

Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Updates

- **3rd Quarter Fiscal Update**
 - Criminal Justice Director Tiana Glenna provided an update. Data Analyst Dana Swanstrom has resigned; recruitment to fill his now vacant position is on-going. As a result, the dashboard and other data information will lag and not be updated.
 - The department name has been changed to Criminal Justice Services Department. On target for budget. Community Service fees are up significantly through the 3rd quarter. Updating service delivery model for treatment, working with DA's Office to implement into DAGP program.
- **Dashboard Review**
 - A link to the dashboard website was included in the meeting materials. Due to the data analyst position vacancy, the dashboard information will not be updated until the replacement is hired and on-boarded. The committee did not specifically review the dashboard.

Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office Updates

- **3rd Quarter Fiscal Update**
 - Administrative Services Division Manager Katrina Ranallo provided an update. Ranallo reports over the last quarter, the department has hired and on-boarded a new deputy; there have been substantial changes in command staff; and there are issues with fleet vehicle procurement due to production shortages. Ranallo reports the department is on target for budget. It was noted that grant revenue is up due to additional, unanticipated grant awards.
- **Jail Population, Staffing, & COVID-19 Response**
 - Captain Dave Riewestahl provided an update. Average daily population & bookings are steady. Captain Riewestahl notes that the jail has stopped accepting certain probation holds after discussion with the Department of Corrections in order to ensure adequate bed space for those booked in on new criminal charges.
 - The Sheriff's Office is in the middle of its fourth recruitment process for correctional officers. There are currently six correctional officer vacancies with one new staff member starting next week.
 - Captain Riewestahl reports no new or significant changes regarding COVID-19 since the previous update.
- **American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fund Requests**
 - Captain Riewestahl presented the requests for America Rescue Plan funds that were provided in the meeting materials. The Committee engaged in discussion and asked questions. The next step in the process is to have the request presented to the County Administrator who may then present this to the Committee on Administration and to the full County Board for approval.

Resolution 21-22/065 – Authorizing to Create One Part-Time (.50 FTE) Fiscal Associate IV Position in the Sheriff's Office

Administrative Services Division Manager Katrina Ranallo presented the resolution. The requested position will assist with writing, reporting, and all aspects of grants applied for and received by the West Central Drug Task Force. No tax levy funds will be used to fund the position; it will be entirely funded by grant awards. Supervisor Russell moved to approve the resolution and present to the full County Board for consideration. Supervisor McKinney seconded the motion. Approved via voice vote 4-0.

Future Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled committee meeting is Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 3:00 PM.

Future Agenda Items

- Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office
 - Jail Population, Staffing, & COVID-19 Response
 - Training Opportunities for Staff
 - Training & Standards Legislation at State Level
 - Protective Status Legislation
- Procedures/Policies for the Proper Execution of Search Warrants
- Procedures/Policies for Officer Involved Critical Incidents

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Wilkie at 4:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Eric Huse
Committee Clerk

Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee Meeting 10/27/21

We Adapt Presentation-The Story of Artie Gonzales by Kim Cronk

Artie Gonzales is a person who was sentenced to life in prison, tried as an adult at the age of 16, and spent 21 years of a life sentence in the California prison system, eight of which included housing with Pelican Bay's notorious super-max Solitary Confinement Unit. It was here that he evolved past the brutality of his surroundings, as well as the highly political stature he held as a gang leader, committing himself to rehabilitation and non-violence. He has been free for the last five years and works in the film industry as a location scout, among many other accomplishments, including being the creator and executive producer of a developing series, "Lessons from a Lifer", which seeks to shift the culture between the system-impacted and society by highlighting the universal wisdom and commonality.

Artie wrote this poignant message on the most recent World Mental Health Day, and I share this with you with his permission:

"One of the things I often say during a talk or on podcasts is that I am not here today because of the justice system, I am here DESPITE it! 99% of my rehabilitation was guided by other incarcerated humans. The justice system, currently in place, is entirely punitive, punishment and revenge-based, and dehumanizing.

I spent 8 of my 21 years in solitary confinement fighting for my sanity on a daily basis. The sensory deprivation I experienced there (no access to direct sunlight; no physical contact with other humans, 23 ½ hours per day confined in my cell) has clearly been defined as torture by the Human Rights Watch and other Orgs. That place was meant to shatter the minds of human beings. I had to literally rebuild myself when I finally left that place.

Rebuilt, but not entirely restored to wholeness. As much deep inner work as I have done, when I came home, freedom hit me like a ton of bricks. It was paralyzing, the fear, the panic attacks. I was not expecting PTSD, and the system never prepared or warned me about it. I simply couldn't explain just how deeply the years of traumatic experiences would live in me. I carried them home, and still do, on some level.

Most of you know me as my acclimated self. Outgoing, hardworking, always with a smile. I give to a fault. My foundation is rooted in compassion and kindness. I am a loving being. But I suffer. In small ways and not as before. This is why my mental health is so vital to me. I am constantly checking with myself to assess my feelings and thoughts. I have a few people in my life I vent to and seek guidance from. I see a therapist once a week. Society can be tougher than a prison ever was. So I remain open to self-discovery and growth, always willing to explore new means of coping.

I am not unique. There are thousands of us in the same fragile balance, however well we mask ourselves. I want you to see ALL of me, so that you will see all of US. “

I share this message with you because incarceration does not do what we think it does. By depriving people of basic human rights and investing in an environment that fosters human rights violations, PTSD, disconnection from families and other supports, and creates an economy based off people who are most often Black, Brown, Indigenous, and/or experiencing poverty and mental health challenges due to their environments, we are not improving public safety nor investing in solutions. Often, people who have been sentenced to this “rehabilitation” sit on waitlists for services and are reliant on family or other support persons to provide classes, books, or whatever other makeshift learning they can provide at unjustifiable costs, and yet we as taxpayers and many, many survivors doubly pay for this said rehabilitation that does not truly occur.

Entities and solutions such as the services and creativity of We Adapt fosters connection, healing, repair, and an opportunity for growth and true accountability for the participants and is rooted in deep love for our communities. We need investments in more services such as these providing peer supports, not less. As Artie stated, 99% of his true rehabilitation was provided by other incarcerated humans, yet we as a County seem to block or not value people with lived experience who could be working in every facet to improve the public safety, we all claim and agree we are working toward. These services should not be dependent on one’s degree of education, as we cannot quantify lived experience and the power it holds. This is not devaluing education, but the ability to provide services should not be dependent on it and we need people with lived experience and those directly impacted at every decision-making table within this County and community.

Our County has committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice, yet we still hear talk about expanding incarceration and the building of more cages. With a 50% reduction in our jail population and an 80+% reduction in bookings during COVID, as well as a commitment to understanding and alleviating the disparities we cannot deny-such as an approximate 16-21+% incarceration rate of Black people in our jail and an approximate 28% incarceration rate of Black youth in our juvenile detention center as initial examples, despite these reductions, we clearly have a lot of deep work to do. These reductions in incarceration and bookings did not prove to increase rampant crime within our community and in fact, created a very critical opportunity to look at current practices if we can honestly confront them. This work cannot rely on the lazy and costly practices of our past like building more jail space or creating more positions that focus on incarceration and the systems that feed it. Nor can we continue to say that

we have invested in alternative subgroups such as Stepping Up that has not to my knowledge met for over a year, nor publicly, or the EBDM initiative that had their first public meeting after meeting in private for approximately 10 years. I know as a community, we can and will do better than that by addressing and investing in the issues we face that promote true public safety, such as affordable and accessible housing, access to employment that pays a living wage, access and creation of entrepreneurship opportunities- including for at risk youth and people currently for formerly incarcerated, ensuring restorative and transformative practices within our schools, neighborhoods, families, and criminal legal system and ensuring that these practices are not just a sampling, but the central focus offered in our community. It is critical that we look to utilize restorative practices with our adults involved in our criminal legal system (remember from our jail population study that over a three year period, less than 25 adult cases were referred to restorative justice despite approximately 4,000 annual felony filings) and for youth within our schools and courts; expand our treatment courts to people who have committed violent harms, utilize entities that provide culturally relevant services such as We Adapt that are so lacking in our other treatment or reentry services such as those provided by the DOC, Community Transitions Center, our school system, and other diversion options. Just as we expect our youth and people involved in our criminal legal system to change and evolve, it is an expectation that we who uphold the policies and practices within our county and community systems evolve as well.

We Adapt and the services provided aims to not only assist youth and families currently receiving services, but the providers also understand the ability to change the trajectory of generations. We have had serious harms made by leadership in various forms in our community. I do not say that to demonize anyone, however the issue has always been the missed opportunity for healing as after these harms have been committed there typically is the omission of the deep intentional work of honesty and repair. Our youth see this and are affected. Youth and families need to be assured they are provided the humanization, connection, and care within our community vs. punishment. We adapt has evolved quickly, but intentionally due to the nature of and critical need for the deeply connective and transformative services provided, relationships built and we, as a County could improve our services in so many areas by following this example and blueprint.

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 21-22/065

Background

The Fiscal Associate IV position within the Sheriff’s Office is being created to perform fiscal and administrative support duties including the increased amount and changes in grant writing. This position will take on tasks and fiscal responsibilities currently being performed and analyzed by the Task Force Supervisor. This will allow for improved focus, time, engagement and leadership for the supervisor out in the field and within his role. Due to the increase in number of grants this position will be responsible for maximizing the value of the grants and other allocated funds, manage the timelines/due dates, ensure we are in compliance of all audits/policies and perform extensive reporting among other administrative duties. This position will be fully funded by grant funds with plans to combine both part-time positions in this office to one (1) full-time position in the future. This position will NOT be funded by levy dollars. The Fiscal Associate IV job description was also reviewed and updated to reflect essential functions being performed.

Request

Sheriff’s Department is requesting the following position modifications:

- 1. Create a .5 FTE Fiscal Associate IV-Grade H, Step 3

Fiscal Impact:

Paygrade and Step: H-3

Note: Grant dollars cover the expenditure, so there is no impact to the levy

Effective Dates Action Taken	1/1/2022	
	2021 - Q4	2022 - Full Year
Position Title	FTE - Position Title - Pay Grade I	FTE - Position Title - Pay Grade
Salary for FY 2020 (Hours/year * pay rate)	\$ 5,435	\$ 22,287
FICA (7.65%)	416	1,705
WRS Employer (6.75%)	367	1,504
TOTAL COST	\$ 6,218	\$ 25,497

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Ranallo
Administrative Services Division Manager

4 AUTHORIZING TO CREATE ONE PART-TIME (.50 FTE) FISCAL ASSOCIATE IV POSITION IN
5 THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

6 WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County Code of General Ordinances requires that all regular positions or
7 changes therein be submitted to the Board for authorization; and


8
9 WHEREAS, at its regularly scheduled meetings, the Committee on Judiciary and Law and the
10 Committee on Human Resources respectively approved the request from the Sheriff's Department to create
11 one part time .50 PTE Fiscal Associate IV in the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office; and

12
13 WHEREAS, this position has immediate impact in the final quarter of the year of \$6218 and for 2022
14 and annual cost of \$25,497;

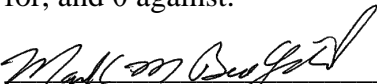
15
16 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors hereby
17 approves to create one part-time (.50 FTE) Fiscal Associate IV (Grade H) position in the Sheriff's Office.

18
19 ADOPTED:

20 I hereby certify that the foregoing correctly
21 represents the action taken by the
22 undersigned Committee on
23 October 27, 2021 by a vote of 4
24 for, and 0 against.

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26 
27 _____
28 Gerald Wilkie, Chair
29 Committee on Judiciary & Law
30 Enforcement

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34 I hereby certify that the foregoing correctly
35 represents the action taken by the
36 undersigned Committee on
37 October 15, 2021 by a vote of 5
38 for, and 0 against.

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41 _____
42 Mark Beckfield, Chair
43 Committee on Human Resources
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