

Agenda
Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement
Wednesday, May 04, 2022 – 4:00 PM
County Courthouse, Room 1273
721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703

1. Call to Order
2. Confirmation of Public Meeting Notice
3. Public Comment
4. Election of Committee Officers – discussion/action
5. Appointment of Committee Clerk – discussion/action
6. Appointment of Committee Representative to Criminal Justice Collaborating Council – discussion/action
7. Approve Minutes from March 23, 2022 Meeting – discussion/action pg. 2
8. Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Report from Supervisor Russell - discussion
9. Department Introductions and Presentations – discussion
 - a. Clerk of Court pg. 4
 - b. Circuit Court
 - c. District Attorney pg. 16
10. Set Future Meeting Date(s) – discussion/action
 - a. March 18, 2022 at 3:00 or 4:00 PM
11. Set Future Agenda Item(s) – discussion/action
 - a. Department Introductions and Presentations
 - i. Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court
 - ii. Criminal Justice Services
 - iii. Sheriff's Office
 - iv. TRY Mediation
 - b. Sheriff's Office
 - i. Update on DHS Investigation
12. Adjourn

Posted: 05/02/2022

Note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters, remote access, or other auxiliary aids. Contact the clerk of the committee or County Administration for assistance (715-839-5106). For additional information on ADA requests, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 715-839-6945, (FAX) 715-839-1669, or 715-839-4735, TTY: use Relay (711) or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703

Minutes
Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 – 3:00 PM
County Courthouse, Room 1273
721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703

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

Members Absent: Zoe Roberts.

Ex-Officio Member Present: Nick Smiar.

Others Present: Corporation Counsel Sharon McIlquham, Sheriff Ron Cramer, Lieutenant Dustin Walters, Admin. Services Division Manager Katrina Ranallo, Criminal Justice Services Director Tiana Glenna, Ryan Patterson, and Eric Huse.

Call to Order

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

Confirmation of Public Meeting Notice

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

Call of the Roll

The Clerk called the roll. Attendance was noted above.

Public Comment

Brief introductions were made by all those present.

Approve Minutes

Supervisor McKinney moved to approve the minutes from the December 22, 2021 and March 10 2022 meetings. Approved by voice vote 3-0.

Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC) Updates

- **Dashboard Review**
 - A link to the dashboard website was included in the meeting materials. Crystal Ruzicka has been hired as the new Criminal Justice Services department data analyst. Dashboard data has been periodically updated with help from other departments and will be refreshed as Ms. Ruzicka transitions into her role.
- **Report from Supervisor Russell**
 - Supervisor Russell provided a brief overview of CJCC activities. CJCC received updates from the Evidence Based Decision Making policy team and the Juvenile Justice Collaborating Council, including presentation from the Department of Human Services Youth Services division, treatment courts, and Community Transition Center/Lutheran Social Services programs.

*Supervisor Janssen arrived at this time.

Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office Updates

- **2021 Annual Jail Inspection**
 - Sheriff Cramer provided a brief explanation of the Wisconsin Department of Justice annual inspection report that were provided in the meeting materials. The Committee engaged in general discussion regarding the report.

- **Jail Population, Staffing, & COVID-19 Response**

- Sheriff Cramer provided a brief update. The State legislative session has concluded so there is no new movement regarding Protective Status. Sheriff Cramer advised that there would advocacy would continue in the next session. There are currently six jail staff vacancies. COVID-19 is under control in the jail. Sheriff Cramer expressed appreciation for his staff's hard work to keep jail operations moving and keep everyone safe in the jail.

Future Meeting Date

The Committee did not set a future meeting date. The next meeting will occur after the County Board Organizational meeting.

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
 - Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program
- 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 3:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Eric Huse
Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN
Clerks OF
Circuit Court
Your Access to the Courts

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

SUSAN SCHAFFER, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

AGENDA

Who we are

What we do

How we serve the community

WHO WE ARE

- Elected every four years in each of Wisconsin's 72 counties
- Statutorily responsible for a variety of recordkeeping functions of the courts
 - Play a significant role in Wisconsin's judicial system





WHAT WE DO

MANAGE RECORDS

**Create and maintain
court records**

**Record liens and
monetary judgments**

**Provide access
to court records**

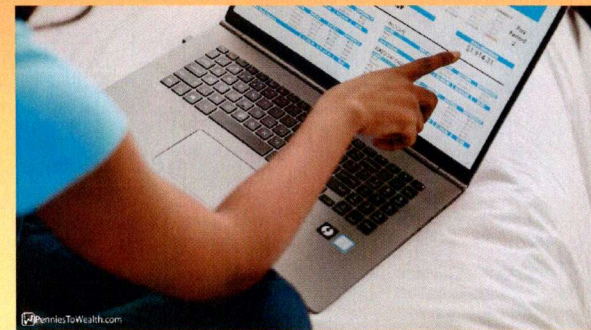


MANAGE COURT FINANCES

Collect Court-Ordered
Financial Obligations



Produce Detailed Reports



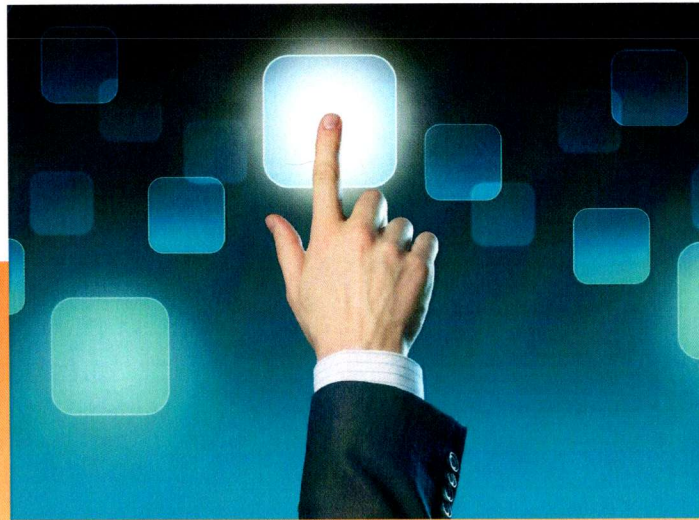
MANAGE JURIES

Select, Notify, & Orient



Ensure Safety & Comfort



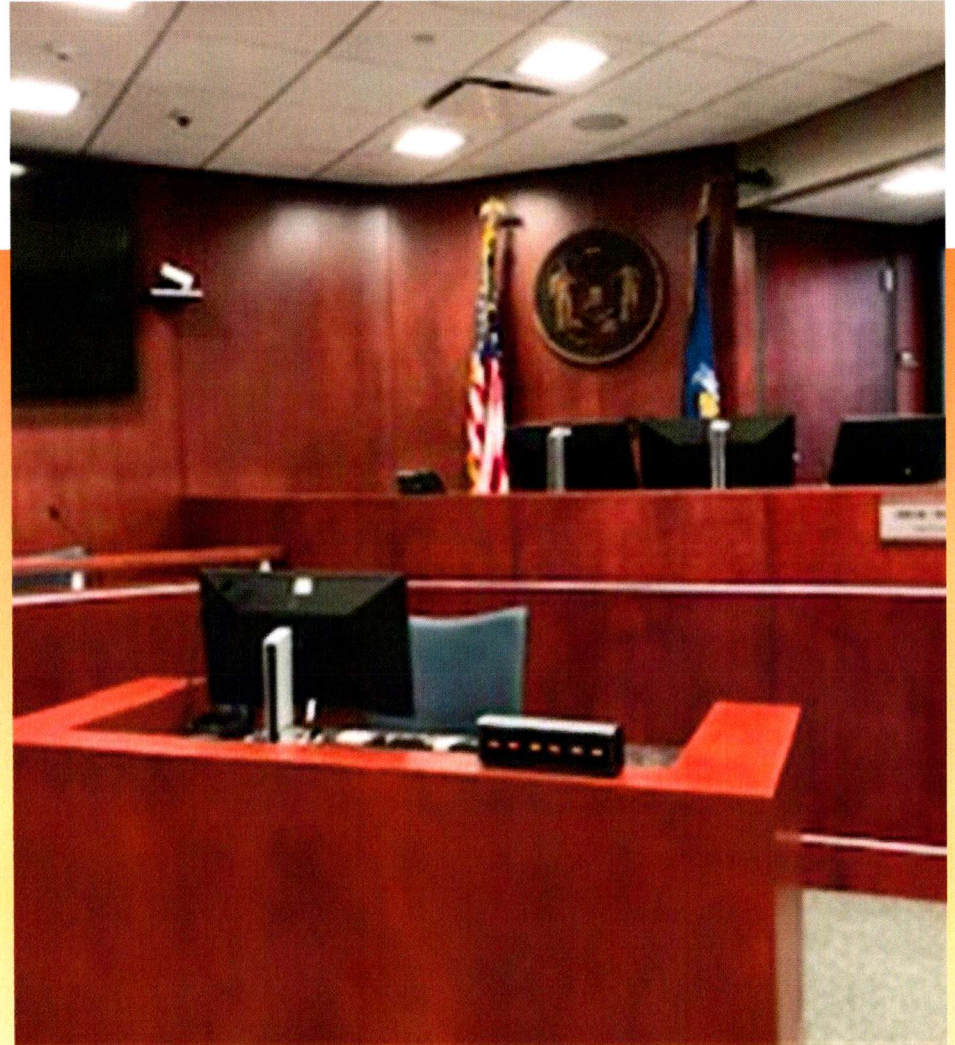


IMPLEMENT AUTOMATION

Apply the latest technology to records management for office efficiency and public access

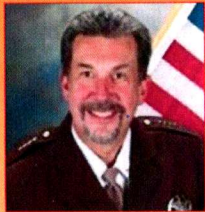
ADMINISTER COUNTY COURT SYSTEMS

- **Manage budgets and trial court resources**
- **Develop policies and procedures**
- **Recruit, train, and oversee staff**



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CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY



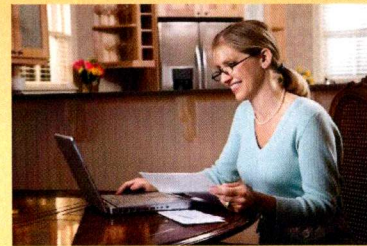
**Law
Enforcement
& Legal
Community**



**Local, State, &
Federal Agencies**



Businesses



Public

“EVERY DAY, IN EVERY WISCONSIN COUNTY, CLERKS OF CIRCUIT COURT DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO KEEP OUR COURT SYSTEM RUNNING AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO ALL.

THEY ARE THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES, UNSUNG HEROES OF OUR COURTS.”



*Judge Randy R. Koschnick
Director of State Courts*



WISCONSIN 
Clerks OF
Circuit Court
Your Access to the Courts

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

SUSAN SCHAFFER, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

District Attorney

Mission Statement: *To skillfully and fairly seek truth and justice, protect and support victims and the community, and hold offenders accountable.*

The primary responsibility of the District Attorney's Office is to represent the people of the State of Wisconsin in the prosecution of all adult criminal and juvenile delinquent acts that occur within Eau Claire County. The District Attorney's Office also prosecutes non-criminal citations issued by the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office, UW-Eau Claire Police Department, Wisconsin State Patrol, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. As a 24-hour operation, the District Attorney's Office provides in-the-moment advice and counsel to law enforcement agencies throughout the county. The District Attorney's Office also provides regular legal updates and trainings to county law enforcement agencies.

Within the District Attorney's Office is the Office of Victim Services, a specialized unit with the primary responsibility of ensuring compliance with and enforcing the rights of victims of crimes. Victim Services staff provide information, support, and advocacy to all crime victims, witness, and their family members of adult and juvenile offenders.

The District Attorney's Office is proud to support treatment and diversion alternatives to traditional prosecution through its pre-charge and post-charge diversion programs and participation with treatment courts. As an evidence-based decision making organization, the District Attorney's Office uses data, statistics, and existing empirical research to inform its direction and evaluate existing programs and policies.

Authority for and additional responsibilities of the District Attorney's Office can be found in Chapter 978 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

2021 Accomplishments

General Prosecution

- The District Attorney's Office filed 2,860 criminal cases in 2021.
- Cases continue to be resolved efficiently as the office maintained the highest case closure rate (99% in 2021) since 2016.
- Jury trials resumed in earnest in 2021 with 17 trials taking place. While the increase from 2020 is a welcome trend, it still falls well below the 15 year average (31) number of jury trials conducted.

Victim Witness & Crisis Response

- Victim Witness and Crisis Response provided support, resources, and services to more than 3,000 crime victims and witnesses 2021.
- Added additional forms and informational literature in Spanish and Hmong languages including providing law enforcement agencies with crime victims' rights forms in those languages to provide to crime victims during their contact.
- Increased involvement with Statewide victim witness service initiatives; Victim Witness Coordinator Jessica Bryan was elected to serve as Vice President of the Wisconsin Victim Witness Professionals Board.

Deferred Acceptance of Guilty Plea Program (DAGP)

- The DAGP program was reviewed and revised throughout the latter part of 2021. An updated DAGP agreement was completed with implementation at the start of 2022.
- The groundwork for a complementary, comprehensive substance use disorder treatment program—Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR)—was also set with incorporation into the DAGP program expected in the first quarter of 2022.
- Through the diligent work of the DAGP Coordinator Steve Judd, \$113,233 in restitution was collected from DAGP participants.

Diversion Program

- Year 10 of Diversion program; 191 participants successfully completed the program.
- Now with a full decade of programming and experience behind us, we are looking to identify areas where we can improve and potentially expand in 2022.
- Through the hard work of Diversion Coordinator Angie Braaten, nearly \$9,000 in restitution was collected from Diversion participants.

Worthless Checks/Financial Program

- Total restitution collected in 2021: \$168,734
- Implemented, for the first time in office history, a credit and debit card payment option both online and in-office through partnership with AllPaid payment solutions.
- In just the first two months of accepting credit and debit card payment, nearly 25% of all payments to the District Attorney’s Office were by credit or debit card. It is expected that the share of credit and debit card payments will expand in 2022.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

Stabilize County Finance & Operations	Enhance Communities & the Quality & Equity of Citizens’ Lives	Position the County for Economic Development
Created and adhered to realistic annual budget projections	Collaborated with County law enforcement agencies to ensure the health and safety of the public and others involved in the criminal justice system	Worked to foster a safe and healthy community that is desirable to prospective residents and businesses
Mitigated expenses while maintaining high quality services and fulfilling statutory requirements	Continued to use existing and implemented new COVID-19 mitigation strategies to keep employees and the public safe	
	Actively participated in treatment courts, review team meetings, and other multi-disciplinary groups for a cross-systems approach to mental health, substance abuse, and related services	

2022 Future Opportunities

2021 was a year of transition for the District Attorney's Office. Peter Rindal was appointed District Attorney in August by Governor Tony Evers after the resignation of former DA Gary King. During the first four months of DA Rindal's administration, a high-level review of all operations took place resulting in a number of priority areas to address in 2022 and beyond.

Specific focus areas for 2022:

- Review, Revise, and Create Policies & Procedures
 - Domestic Violence Prosecution Policy
 - All District Attorney Offices are required by statute to “develop, adopt and implement written policies encouraging the prosecution of domestic abuse offenses.” No such policy specific to the Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office is currently in place. Creation and implementation of such policy is of paramount importance in 2022.
 - Restitution Policy & Procedure
 - To better serve victims of crime and to ensure uniform handling of restitution requests, a restitution policy and procedure, setting clear expectations and outlining roles and responsibilities for processing restitution requests, will be developed in 2022.
- Review and Expand Pre-Charge Diversion Program
 - Having completed review of the Deferred Acceptance of a Guilty Plea program in late 2021, focus will shift in 2022 to the pre-charge Diversion program. After a decade of programming, a retrospective, holistic review will take place to determine the program's future trajectory.
 - Two primary areas of improvement will be explored: 1) expansion of program offering and 2) expansion of the eligibility criteria for participants to include additional, appropriate participants.
- Workload Evaluation & Reorganization
 - Over the course of 2022, the District Attorney's Office will analyze the office structure and workload distribution. It is expected that workload will be redistributed in a more equitable manner through a reorganization of office structure, roles, and responsibilities. Change is necessary as processes and procedures continue to evolve within the office and the justice system as a whole.
 - The most substantial change to workload and procedures is in the realm of discovery practice. Two of the larger county law enforcement agencies have converted to a digital evidence storage and distribution method. As a result, the District Attorney's Office will need to adapt to the this new system and adopt new policies and procedures.
- Training & Community Engagement
 - Provide relevant and updated training and advice to law enforcement partners.
 - Identify and participate in community engagement events to educate the community about the function and role of District Attorney's Office.

General Prosecution

In carrying out the duties of the General Prosecution Program, attorneys and support staff provide investigative support to Eau Claire County Law Enforcement agencies, review law enforcement referrals, make criminal charging decisions and complete a wide array of case prosecution activities. As part of this program, attorneys and support staff are responsible for the enforcement of criminal, juvenile, conservation and traffic matters within Eau Claire County.

OUTPUTS		<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Cases Filed:	Felony	1,476	1,533	1,926	1,850	1,589	1,400
	Misdemeanor	1,537	1,411	1,504	1,407	1,223	1,047
	Criminal Traffic	431	458	400	435	366	413
	Civil Traffic/Ordinance/Miscellaneous	1,400	1,609	1,727	2,035	1,883	2,070
	Total Cases Filed	4,844	5,011	5,557	5,727	5,061	4,930
Other Cases Processed:	Juvenile Cases	463	415	319	327	242	170
	No Prosecution Cases	347	491	600	580	380	381
	Total Other Cases Processed	810	906	919	907	622	551
	Total Cases Filed/Processed	5,654	5,917	6,476	6,634	5,683	5,481
	Number of Jury Trials	32	34	30	25	5	17
OUTCOMES		<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Average Number of Days for Prosecutorial Action at or under 15 days		15.42	15.93	11.21	10.05	7.36	8.20
Case Clearance Rate at or above 95%		100%	95%	91%	98%	98%	99%
Jury Trial Conviction Rate at or above 75%		75%	71%	83%	68%	100%	76%

Victim Witness Services & Crisis Response

Victim Witness staff provide legally-required case notification to victims, provide crisis response support to victims prior to the filing of criminal charges, provide support to victims and witnesses during the course of case litigation, and prepare various forms of reports required by state/federal authorities.

OUTPUTS		<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Victim Witness Services:	Number of Victims Served	1,779	2,289	2,445	2,284	2,426	1,641
	Number of Witnesses Served	50	249	385	279	390	282
	Number of Other Case Parties Served	87	148	172	203	235	176
	Total Case Parties Served	1,916	2,686	3,002	2,766	3,051	2,099
	Initial Contact Letters Sent	1,713	2,222	2,496	2,338	2,383	1,752
	No Contact Orders in Place	1,197	985	1,050	949	496	454
	Number of Follow Up Contacts	2	13	3	163	596	404
Crisis Response:	Total Number of Clients Served	561	973	620	707	1,373	1,165
	Number of Child Advocacy Center Interviews Attended	*	*	62	100	151	119

*Data not available

Deferred Acceptance of a Guilty Plea (DAGP), Diversion, & Justice Reinvestment Initiative-OWI Early Intervention Programs

The Deferred Acceptance of a Guilty Plea Program (DAGP) involves informal supervision of defendants in criminal cases. The community benefits because defendants receive necessary domestic abuse, alcohol abuse or other counseling services that would often not otherwise occur.

The Diversion Program is a pre-charge program offered to first time, low risk offenders. The Diversion Program is designed to keep those offenders out of the Criminal Justice System and to reduce recidivism in order to preserve limited resources.

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative-OWI Early Intervention Program (JRI-OWI Program) provides for a more comprehensive disposition for impaired driving convictions that includes random drug/alcohol testing, incarceration, and other programming. Successful completion of the program results in reduced monetary penalties, and reduced incarceration time.

OUTPUTS		<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
DAGP Program:	Number of Participants	301	274	271	228	222	212
	DAGP Fees Collected	\$70,871	\$69,117	\$66,523	\$56,068	\$57,438	\$53,058
Diversion Program:	Number of Participants	239	214	221	207	234	191
	Diversion Program Fees Collected	\$59,820	\$54,530	\$54,480	\$59,240	\$58,653	\$48,920
Justice Reinvestment Initiative – OWI Program:	Number of Participants	34	18	22	22	17	32
	Number of Successful Participants	32	13	21	19	15	30
	Jail Days Permanently Stayed	993	541	1,058	707	646	*

*Data not available

Worthless Checks/Financial Program

District Attorney employees review referrals from Eau Claire County citizens and merchants of possible worthless check matters, prepare and send pre-prosecution “dunning” letters, issue criminal charges in appropriate cases, and process payments.

OUTPUTS		<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Worthless Check Payments Collected		\$21,513	\$10,632	\$11,781	\$24,489	\$7,753	\$13,227
Restitution Payments Collected		\$71,522	\$81,223	\$83,083	\$194,678	\$125,355	\$168,734