

Racine County Ch 980 Committee
WebEx Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting attended by: Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel John Serketich, Assistant Corporation Counsel Erika Frank Motsch, Legal Coordinator for the Office of the Corporation Counsel Nicole Jurgens, Aging and Disability Services Administrator Michelle Goggins, Human Services Director Hope Otto, Public Works and Development Services Director Julie Anderson, DOC Corrections Field Supervisor Nancy Ahler, and Wisconsin Department of Health Services Contract Specialist Angela Serwa.

1. Convene meeting

The meeting of the Ch. 980 Committee was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Assistant Corporation Counsel Erika Frank Motsch.

2. Public Comments

There were no members of the public present, therefore no comments by public.

3. Approve Agenda & Minutes

Agenda for January 11, 2021 meeting and Minutes from December 14, 2020 meeting reviewed.

Motion: Julie Anderson moved to approve both the agenda and minutes. Seconded by Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel John Serketich.

Action: All Ayes, No Nays. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

4. Legal updates (Office of Corporation Counsel)

Legal Updates: 9:04 a.m.

Daniel Williams: Assistant Corporation Counsel Erika Frank Motsch provided a summary of Mr. Williams' current circuit court case and the procedural posture of the related appeal case no. 2020AP2074 that was filed by the County. The County has retained Remzy D. Bitar an attorney at the legal firm Municipal Law & Litigation Group, S.C., to handle that appeal. The Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office has appointed Assistant State Public Defender Dustin C. Haskell as counsel for Mr. Williams. If the Committee can identify a residential option that is appropriate and approved by the Court for Mr. Williams, the County may seek to withdraw the County's appeal.

Hung Tran: Committee continues to search for suitable housing and has identified a potential residential property. The Racine County Human Services Department (HSD) will request the appropriate law enforcement agency to investigate that property to determine whether the property will meet the statutory criteria required for Mr. Tran's placement. In Mr. Tran's circuit court case, On November 18, 2020, Mr. Tran filed a pro se Petition for Discharge and the Court set that Petition to be heard on January 25, 2021.

James Hinkle: Mr. Hinkle was placed by the Committee in the Douglas Avenue property in August 2020. In November 2020, Mr. Hinkle was temporarily returned to Sand Ridge Treatment Center for voluntary treatment, and the Court ordered that his placement at the Douglas Avenue property be held for him so that he may return to that property upon completion of his treatment. The Committee will continue to monitor

Mr. Hinkle’s status in the event that circumstances change and Mr. Hinkle does not return to the property, which may allow for the potential placement of another individual at Douglas Avenue.

5. Residential option updates (Racine County Human Services Department (HSD))

On behalf of Kim Christman, Michelle Goggins provided the following updates regarding the total number of properties that were sent to HSD for evaluation:

- MLS Listings
 - No changes to the search criteria.
 - Ms. Christman sends MLS list to HSD every week on Tuesday for evaluation.
 - 12-15-2020: 25 single-family, 2 two-family, 0 multi-family, and 5 condos (total: 32)
 - 12-22-2020: 18 single-family, 0 two-family, 0 multi-family, and 3 condos (total: 21)
 - 12-29-2020: 22 single-family, 0 two-family, 0 multi-family, and 7 condos (total: 29)
 - 01-05-2021: 24 single-family, 1 two-family, 1 multi-family, and 5 condos (total: 31)
 - **Grand total: 113**

- Wihomes.com sales list
 - No change to the search criteria.
 - Ms. Christman sends Wihomes.com listings to HSD every week on Wednesday for evaluation.
 - Note: Ms. Christman defines “new” in this section as a property not included on the previous week’s list.
 - 12-16-2020: 261 single family (25 new), 41 duplex (3 new), 73 condo/townhouse (4 new), 9 multi-family (1 new), 14 rental (2 new). Total: 398 (35 new)
 - 12-23-2020: Holiday week, no new reporting
 - 12-30-2020: 242 single family (37 new), 35 duplex (2 new), 70 condo/townhouse (5 new), 7 multi-family (0 new), 14 rental (2 new). Total: 368 (46 new)
 - 01-06-2021: 240 single family (28 new), 34 duplex (0 new), 49 condo/townhouse (3 new), 5 multi-family (0 new), 15 rental (1 new). Total: 343 (32 new)
 - **Grand total: 1,109 (113 new)**

- GIS Mapping Tool
 - No updates/changes to Tool since last meeting.

Ms. Goggins provided the following updates on HSD’s evaluations of the potential properties provided to HSD by Ms. Christman and HSD’s other efforts to identify suitable housing for Mr. Williams and Mr. Tran.

As previously discussed at the last Committee meeting, HSD revised their evaluation criteria. November was the last month HSD used the method to measure the 1,500-foot restriction distance requirement by measuring the distance of the most direct route of travel via the roads from structure to structure the radius measurement. In December, and in the future, HSD will use the “as the crow flies” method (which is using a straight line to measure the distance from structure to structure).

Properties for sale:

December: 1,727 properties were referred to HSD for evaluation, of which only 125 had not been previously evaluated by HSD for conformity with statutory criteria. Of those 125 properties, 12 met statutory criteria after HSD’s preliminary evaluation using the digital mapping tool. All 12 properties were sent to the vendors for consideration. One of the 12 properties exceeded the price point.

The year-to-date totals for 2020 are as follows: 17,994 properties were referred to HSD for evaluation, and only 2,183 had not been previously evaluated by HSD for conformity with statutory criteria. Of the 2,183 properties, 481 met statutory criteria after HSD's preliminary evaluation using the digital mapping tool, and all 481 properties were sent to the vendors for consideration.

Rentals:

December: 25 rental units were identified by HSD and evaluated for conformity with statutory criteria, three (3) met statutory criteria after HSD's preliminary evaluation using the digital mapping tool, but all landlords reported to HSD that they were not interested in entering a lease with the Department of Health Services (DHS) for housing Mr. Williams and Mr. Tran.

The year-to-date totals for 2020 are as follows: 370 rental units were identified by HSD and evaluated for conformity with statutory criteria, 40 met statutory criteria after HSD's preliminary evaluation using the digital mapping tool. Additionally, 138 landlords have been contacted (total number of landlords includes both landlords that had property available that met statutory criteria, and landlords that did not have any properties available that met statutory criteria but were contacted to determine whether they had interest in housing subjects committed under Ch. 980).

In-rem:

As reported at the last Committee meeting, two residences secured by the Treasurer's Office were evaluated by HSD and HSD hosted an open house for potential vendors after reports from the appropriate law enforcement agencies were received and confirmed they properties met statutory criteria. Both properties are uninhabitable and require substantial repairs; however, one vendor is considering creative options for rehabilitating one of the properties. HSD/Ms. Goggins continue to work with vendors who have expressed interest in the in-rem properties.

6. Closed Session

9:20 a.m. Angela Serwa motioned to move to closed session pursuant to section 19.8(1)(d), (e), and (f) of the Wisconsin State Statutes to discuss confidential offender information under Wis. Stats 980.06. Julie Anderson Seconded. Roll call vote, approved.

9:47 a.m. Ms. Serwa motioned to return to open session pursuant to section 19.8(1)(d), (e), and (f) of the Wisconsin State Statutes moved to reopen, Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel John Serketich seconded.

Action: All Ayes, No Nays. Unanimous.

Returned to regular session at 9:47 a.m.

Discuss/consider process for making recommendation to DHS and Court for Chapter 980 sex offender placement

9:47 a.m. - Regarding Daniel Williams – Motion by Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel John Serketich that the Committee forward a report to DHS recommending placement at 9901 Saratoga Drive, Caledonia, Wisconsin seven (7) days after HSD requests the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over that property, the Village of Caledonia Police Department (CAPD), to investigate and provide a report of that property; Assistant Corporation Counsel Erika Motsch seconded.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 1 (DOC Nancy Ahler). **Motion passed.**

Regarding Hung Tran - The Committee will formally evaluate and determine whether 9901 Saratoga Drive Caledonia, Wisconsin meets the statutory criteria required for Mr. Tran after the report from CAPD is received or another appropriate law enforcement agency. Motion by Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel John Serketich for the Committee to forward a report to DHS recommending placement at 9901 Saratoga Drive in Caledonia if that property meets the required statutory criteria under Chapter 980 for Mr. Tran; Assistant Corporation Counsel Erika Motsch seconded.

Ayes 6, Nays: 1 (DOC Nancy Ahler). **Motion passed.**

7. Adjournment

Next meeting scheduled for: **Monday February 22, 2021 at 9:00 am.**

Motion: Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel John Serketich moved to adjourn meeting at 9:53 a.m. Seconded by Angela Serwa.

Action: All Ayes, No Nays. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

Recorded January 11, 2021
Nicole Jurgens - Office of the Corporation Counsel