

RACINE COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
March 8, 2024
Racine County Courthouse
Room 151
730 Wisconsin Avenue
Racine, WI 53403

Members* Present: **Honorable Robert Repischak, Circuit Court Judge, Br 9 (Chair)**
Honorable Scott Craig, Circuit Court Judge, Br 4
Alice Rudebusch, Judicial Court Commissioner
Terra Roberts, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Tonya King, JusticePoint/Racine County Alternatives Program
Laurie Bauer, Supervisor, Department of Correction
Heidi Reichel, Felony Case Manager, Clerk of Courts
Christopher Steenrod, Deputy District Attorney
Jelena Jones, Administrator, Aging and Disability Services, BHS, HSD
Katie Henningfeld, Victim/Witness Coordinator, District Attorney
*Members noted in bold are voting members.

Guests Present: James Schatzman (Racine Vocational Ministry), Greg Petro (Racine Interfaith Coalition), Betty Brenneman (community member)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:04pm by the Honorable Robert Repischak

3. Approval of CJCC 12/01/23 Minutes

Alice Rudebusch moved to approve the Minutes from the 12/01/23 meeting. Seconded by Katie Henningfeld. Discussion: There was an error on the agenda about the date (agenda stated 12/04/23 but the date was 12/01/23, the date on the minutes was correct). Motion carries.

2. Public Comments

No public comments were made. Each person in the group introduced themselves.

4. James Schatzman- Racine Vocational Ministry

Jim speaks first about the new RVM program (1 year), which is part of the jail re-entry grant that the county received. He stated that so far, 54 jail inmates have completed the program. The participants attend training classes (see handout) and then have 1:1 meeting (they have given 294 1:1 meetings in the jail). He shared that 33 of the 54 have since been released from RCJ, 3 returned to prison, 10 of the participants have returned to jail. This is a 30% recidivism rate, which is lower than the jail recidivism rate that the American Jail Association estimates is 46%-60%. At this time, this program has only

been offered to males in the jail but will hopefully branch out to female inmates in the future. If a person is released from RCJ, they will continue to work with them in the community if the client comes to their office. RVM attempts to reach out after release, but sometimes are not able to reach them.

Over the years, RVM has learned that if you don't change offenders' ways of thinking or "worldview", then they will continue with the same patterns/behaviors. This is the hallmark of the Job Readiness Course that RVM provides both to post-correctional clients (in the community) and jail inmates. There is a lot of focusing on "same solutions to the same problems will have the same outcomes" and coming up with different ways to solve problems. RVM states that their recidivism rate with community clients (referred mostly from P&P, medium to high-risk offenders) is 5%. Jim speaks about mental illness and criminality, poverty and criminality, and changes that take place in the brain when a person has a period of incarceration.

RVM has specific employers they work with but must get the client "ready" for employment by changing some of their thinking/behavior patterns. Once a client is ready, they will align them with employers. He speaks about "job readiness" vs. "job needy" (work as a long-term benefit rather than for immediate survival).

RVM is located at 214 7th St Racine (across from LEC). Handout with additional info.

5. Pretrial Assessment Workgroup

Terra will be putting together a PTA workgroup to explore a new risk assessment for Racine County. A brief overview was provided about what a PTA is and what information is provided in the report to the Court. PTA's assess 2 factors: likelihood of FTA Court and likelihood of pretrial misconduct/re-arrest. Additional information can be verified and provided along with the PTA. A few stakeholders have expressed interest in being a part of this workgroup, others interested should contact Terra.

7. Jail Alternatives and Diversion Programs Updates

Terra provided everyone with a handout with some updates for the various jail alternatives/diversion programs, along with the contact person for each program. Chris Steenrod expanded on Project Restoration. Chris also provided some additional information regarding staff changes in DA's office, including Latonia Lewis (office administrator), Katie Henningfeld (VW Coordinator) and the return of Mary Kotleski. The flier for the open house of the Public Defenders new office space was also provided.

7. New Business

None

8. Adjournment

At 1:50pm, Alice Rudebusch motioned to adjourn the meeting, Katie Henningfeld 2nd. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.