

MINUTES
Justice Coalition
November 19, 2009

Members Present: Harvey Olson, Ross Dick, Judge Finn, Bernie Flatoff, Judge Flugaur, Carrie Davies, Mike Baumhofer, Phil Idsvoog, Ray Przybelski, Mike McKenna, Melissa Dalkert, John Charewicz, Don Butkowski, Stan Potocki, Mike Slavin, Bill McCulley, Jim Wiese, Shaun Morrow, Steve Olson, and Zach Bishop

Others Present: Katherine Munck, Justiceworks; Dwayne Wierzba, Plover Police; Jeanne Dodge, Doug Radtke, Jim Krems, County Board; Bill Maher, Citizen; Tom Staack, Justiceworks; Veronica Isherwood, Assistant District Attorney; Jennifer Jossie, Finance Director; Todd Neuenfeldt, Facilities Director

Staff Present: Kathy King and Paula Cummings, Justice Programs Department, and Jeff Schuler, Planning and Zoning Department

Chairman Flugaur called the Justice Coalition meeting to order at 7:53 am in Conference Rooms 1 and 2 of the County Annex.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the July 23, 2009 Meeting

Flugaur asked for comments regarding the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted by consensus.

2. A Recommendation and Report From the Juvenile Detention Study Committee, by Committee Chairperson Jim Krems, and Ross Dick

Flugaur noted an executive summary of this report was attached to the agenda packet mailed to each Coalition member. He acknowledged money saved by having this report prepared in-house rather than hiring an outside consultant. The Study Committee met three times, with additional work being done to write the report itself. Flugaur thanked Dick for all his extra work.

Krems felt the executive summary was self explanatory, and the findings are factual and without bias. As noted, the Study Committee is in favor of continued operation of the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) in Portage County. Judges find extreme value in the JDC for Portage County's juveniles and law enforcement agencies are happy with the JDC being here. Krems acknowledged enrollment is down Statewide; Portage County's numbers are stable. A recession brings the juvenile and adult populations down. Due to cost, other counties are not bringing their juveniles to Portage County. The future is uncertain, and other counties are considering closing their JDC's, which will cause a ripple effect. If that happens, a JDC may not be located in close proximity. Krems noted the County Executive will be establishing a Strategic Planning Committee and they could address the JDC. Again, unanimously, the Study Committee finds the JDC a worthwhile facility. Krems offered minutes to review to those interested. Krems also noted this JDC impacts the Sheriff's Department budget and added the Sheriff has maintained objectivity regarding the JDC and study process. Dick offered the full report to those interested.

Flugaur referred to page 2 of the executive summary in which the Study Committee recommends the report be brought before the Justice Coalition for endorsement. Flugaur felt the JDC needs an annual review process and questioned who would conduct that process; the County Board and/or the County Executive. If there is a movement to close the JDC, the Study Committee will definitely meet again. Krems felt monitoring the JDC for changing conditions is important. An annual review could be done by the Strategic Planning Committee. Krems acknowledged the JDC is a big money item.

Flugaur stated this is the third major study done by the Justice Coalition and they are aware of the pros/cons/impacts. He hopes the Coalition and Juvenile Detention Study Committee would be consulted, if a move is afoot to close the JDC and for the annual review, as well. This is better than an outsider's review. Krems noted the Study Committee was in favor of meeting annually in May or June.

Olson moved to conduct an annual review of the JDC issue and Flatoff seconded the motion. Idsvoog stated he agrees, and the County Executive and appropriate County committees should be kept informed by way of a memorandum. This would include the Finance Committee, County Executive, County Board Chair, and Public Safety Committee. Maher asked whether an annual review was too often and Krems replied no. Idsvoog added the JDC is included in the County's annual budget.

Flugaur stated the cost for the JDC has increased significantly since the last study five years ago. Bed rental is down in the State, but Portage County is stable. He questioned what other counties are doing. Tolerating juvenile crimes or applying fewer sanctions? If so, Flugaur felt they will pay later. Statistics have indicated a JDC is a deterrent factor. Some juveniles have suffered no consequences for their actions, but Flugaur has seen the look on the face of the juvenile sentenced to 10 days in the JDC. Charewicz stated 385 youths have been booked in the JDC, but not booked as an adult. There are 248 juveniles with adult records. Flugaur reiterated it is a "pay now or pay later" situation. If there are no consequences, they often do not learn. Flugaur felt if the JDC were closed, we may see these individuals in court again. Wiese felt an annual review is good, sound public policy.

Flugaur questioned the timing of the annual review and Krems suggested each July. Jossie noted the County's budget process begins in July. It would be better to review in May or June. Krems added that if the JDC structure was changed or would close, there would be huge ramifications on the court system. He then stated the JDC operates smoothly now, so let's not screw it up. Jossie noted that if a decision were made to close the JDC, there would be impacts on other County department budgets, so conducting the study early would be better. Flugaur acknowledged the financial impact of the JDC. With no further comments, a Coalition consensus was found by Judge Flugaur. An annual review will be conducted each May, with notice given to the County Executive, County Board, and Finance and Public Safety Committees.

3. An Update from the Jail Overcrowding Committee Regarding Electronic Monitoring/Home Detention, by Judge Flugaur and Captain Baumhofer

Flugaur stated the Committee has not made a recommendation at this time. The Committee has only had the opportunity to meet twice and he apologizes, but the court calendar has been busy with trials, etc. Baumhofer stated they have been examining ways to increase the use of electronic monitoring/home detention (EM/HD). There are not a lot of eligible offenders and protocols are being looked into. Baumhofer noted that Portage County is infamous as relates to home detention. Our policies were challenged in Federal Court, and they stood up to that. Because of that, Portage County is now case law. There is a half-time officer committed to EM/HD that could perhaps be made full-time. There needs to be a way to entice offenders to take EM/HD.

Finn asked whether home detention only works with a land line. Baumhofer replied there is a cell phone adaptor; Portage County leases the equipment. Slavin questioned whether SCRAM units were used. Noting GPS on the ankle seems to work. Baumhofer replied yes, but it is still in the testing phase. There are issues with the alcohol transdermal technique.

Davies asked why some offenders are ineligible. Dick noted the pretrial jail population is high. They cannot get out of jail and they are not eligible for home detention. Flugaur stated there are 130 offenders in jail and 70 of those are pretrial. Fifty percent of the sentenced inmates were given the opportunity to use EM/HD and only 50% of them are using it. This is a complex, difficult issue. Why are inmates not using EM/HP? Some are ineligible because they test positive at book-in (11%) and another group just does not want to use it. This is a concern. Can only the wealthy afford to serve on EM/HD? If so, it is unfair. Baumhofer added that some inmates did not have a Level of Service Indicator (LSI) completed, which is required prior to EM/HD.

Flugaur stated the LSI is a risk indicator. He added there is a 95% success rate on those using EM/HD according to King. The cost for EM/HD is \$30 per day. He felt some clientele can fall by the wayside with a lot of issues because they need, but do not have, handholding. The District Attorney and defense attorneys agree on the use of home detention. Even though a Judge can sentence home detention, they could do all their time in jail.

Wiese asked if the jail sentence is increased with home detention. Flugaur replied yes. As an example, an OWI II falls into guidelines and if sentenced to 30 days, they must serve at least five in jail. If they serve five in jail, 30 days is changed to 45 days (15 days are added).

King noted the risk tool for home detention is being changed to the COMPASS, which is more predictive and less intrusive than the LSI. The new tool will be used on a pilot basis over the next few months. King further noted Portage County receives approximately \$26,000 from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for our OWI program. SCRAM units may be a condition of Portage County receiving that grant. Flugaur noted that those in the OWI Intensive Supervision Program overwhelmingly test clean at book-in. Those individuals are conditioned and "ready to roll". Whereas, failures are higher for those not in ISP. For those serving a portion on home detention, if they reoffend, they return to court and are booked-in within 60 days.

4. An Update from the Building Review Committee for Public Safety Needs, by Jeanne Dodge and Phil Idsvoog
Flugaur stated there has been a lot of activity on a possible courthouse project. Dodge thanked Schuler for the displays available today to offer a view of what has been done to-date. On March 20, the Building Review Committee was established and charged to include the City of Stevens Point in their process. No budget was given to this Committee; existing staff was utilized, including Jen Stewart, Jeff Schuler, Kathy King, and others. A timeline was devised to keep on track for a referendum in 2010. On August 10, a focus on court system needs took place. On August 18, \$25,000 was allocated to Venture Architects to assist in the process. On October 1, unanimous approval of Concept F took place. Dodge stated Judge Finn was instrumental in choosing Concept F, which attaches a courthouse to the County Annex and Law Enforcement Center. At this time, a review of square footage and dollars necessary to complete the project took place. On October 14, potential funding options were discussed. The Mayor, John Gardner, and the Common Council have indicated their support of a courthouse project in the proposed campus area. On November 11, a resolution was developed authorizing a referendum question, which will be working its way through County committees and on to the December 15 County Board for action. At this time, the cost figure is blank. Dodge noted that the Building Review Committee has fulfilled its charge. The public needs to be educated on the impact and need for a courthouse. The County has loans that will be paid in full in 2012 and borrowing for the courthouse project could take place with no increase in the County tax levy.

Idsvoog described the project as 2-story and 93,300 square feet, to be added to the County Annex. This includes offices, a tunnel, and vertical expansion capability. Budget A is a non-recession budget at \$28,765,354, and Budget B is a recession budget, taking into account a 15% reduction and the construction depression, at \$25,049,035. These budgets do not include land purchase and parking related costs. Idsvoog stated the County set aside \$5 million dollars in reserves at this time. He stated a dollar amount is still needed in the referendum question. Schuler referred those present to the County website, under County information, where there is a link to this courthouse planning process. This link includes financial information and presentations that took place before the County Board, etc. He asked those with question to call the Planning and Zoning Department.

Wiese stated there is still the need for a jail. Idsvoog replied a jail was part of the early discussion and this plan lends itself for jail space in the future. He noted there is discussion with Marathon County regarding a regional jail located on I39. Idsvoog stated he does not disagree with Wiese.

Finn stated this is a concept not set in stone and space assignment is not part of the Building Review Committee discussion. Idsvoog added use of the current court space is yet to be determined. Finn reminded Coalition members this issue will go before the County Board in December and a message needs to be sent to County Board members that they need to vote in favor of or against this project. It will be easier to go to a public referendum, if you know where County Board members stand on the project. If County Board members say no, why have a referendum? Having them vote after the advisory referendum is not a good idea. Flugaur stated he agrees that is an important point. No one wants to see their taxes go up and most referendums include a vote to increase, but this one does not. Why are we even having a referendum? Voters think we are looking for more money and we are not. We must explain and educate voters. Idsvoog reiterated this project has not been finalized yet. Reserve dollars and money available after the bonds expire can be put toward the project, but the argument is out there that the money could be put toward other things rather than a courthouse. There is \$7.5 million dollars in reserves from the 2010 budget. Operational and capital improvement costs come out of reserves.

Flatoff asked what is next, if the referendum fails. Dodge replied nothing happens. We have to talk to the people about the need, including the fact the jail issue has not gone away. Also, there has been little reference to security, which is also needed. Dodge feels if the referendum fails it will be due to the public not being educated on the need. She has heard more positive comments from the community regarding a courthouse. She is not too afraid of the outcome of the referendum. Dodge added that offering your opinion is not electioneering. The public also needs to know how the Judges feel about the project. Flugaur felt that was a good point and he agrees. Idsvoog added that unless the economy completely collapses, there is no better time to build. Flugaur stated we must champion this cause. Potocki felt there is no need for a referendum; we must inform the public of the need and go forward. Noting the last referendum failed.

5. An Update from Justiceworks, by Katherine Munck

Munck noted the Volunteers in Probation Program began in 2007, and in 2009 we are serving 44 offenders, with 35 mentors. The Family Law Center has served 300+ people this year. In 2008, volunteers were trained to work with juveniles in Victim/Offender Conferencing. A referral process began in 2009 working with high schools and junior high schools, the Boys and Girls Club, Peer Court, etc. In 2010, measuring outcomes of these various programs should be in place. Flugaur stated he can attest to the fact that Justiceworks does a fantastic job and is a tremendous service to the community.

6. Topics to Be Considered at Future Meetings

None considered.

With no further business to come before the Coalition, Flugaur adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Cummings
Recording Secretary

MINUTES
Justice Coalition
July 23, 2009

Members Present: Dan Barth, Jeff Morris, Harvey Olson, Ross Dick, Thomas Eagon, Judges Finn, Flugaur, and Fleishauer, Bernie Flatoff, Lia DeGroff, Mike Baumhofer, John Graettinger, John Charewicz, Dave Medin, Mike Slavin, Amy Marcott, Jim Wiese, Vance Underwood

Others Present: Katherine Munck, Justiceworks; Dwayne Wierzba, Plover Police; Bridget Todd, ATTIC Correctional Services; Jeanne Dodge and Don Jankowski, County Board; Patty Dreier, Citizen; Jennifer Stewart, UW-Extension; Sharon Jakusz, Citizen; a representative from the Stevens Point Journal; and Doug Radtke, County Board Supervisor

Staff Present: Kathy King and Paula Cummings, Justice Programs Department, and Jeff Schuler, Planning and Zoning Department

Chairman Flugaur called the Justice Coalition meeting to order at 7:53 am in Conference Rooms 1 and 2 of the County Annex.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the May 21, 2009 Meeting

Flugaur asked for comments regarding the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted by consensus.

2. A Discussion and Recommendation that the Juvenile Detention Study Committee Reconvene and Once Again Study the Future Viability of that Facility, by Judge Flugaur and Chief Deputy John Graettinger

Flugaur began by stating this is not a new issue; it was studied in both 2000 and 2005. In 2000, members looked at whether or not to continue the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF). The 2005 membership discussed whether the JDF should be in the new Justice Center. In 2000, a resolution was approved by County Board to continue to operate the JDF, to monitor its use, and then to review it at a later date. In January 2006, a County Board resolution was approved to include the JDF in the new Justice Center. Flugaur stated cost analysis of the JDF must continue. Flugaur noted the last report regarding the JDF was written by Dick and it was a good report, which may have cost the County 1,000's of dollars, if it was developed by an outside consultant rather than Dick.

Graettinger stated the economics of the JDF have changed drastically. The JDF was discussed last year at the Law Enforcement Committee level. Two contract beds were lost, causing a revenue decrease of \$84,000. Beds are contracted for 365 days a year whether they are used or not. The cost is \$140 per bed day. Both per diem and contract beds have been lost. Other agencies have decided not to house their juveniles in Portage County. Our JDF fees are low to mid-range when compared to other counties. A JDF study in 2005 indicated 60% of its operating budget was paid for by fees and 40% paid by taxpayers. Graettinger went on to note there is a benefit in keeping Portage County's juveniles in Portage County. He further noted that in 2008, only 22% of the JDF operating budget was paid for by fees. Graettinger suggested a discussion on what this means for the JDF and where we go from here.

Graettinger said 2008 expenses were \$721,000 and revenues were \$162,000, which represents a loss of \$559,000. This trend is continuing in 2009 with expenses projected at \$740,000 and revenues of \$140,000, which is a loss of \$600,000 in the year 2009. This is a question of economics even though there is more to it than just the money. During the last 5-6 years, budgets have been cut and at this point, the only place left to cut is personnel costs. He went on to state that from a Sheriff's Department standpoint, there are services we must do and services we like to do. A Portage County JDF is nice, but not a must.

Graettinger stated the discussion is taking place now, in light of work beginning on the 2010 budget process. It is time to discuss the JDF issues with stakeholders. If the JDF is good for Portage County, the Sheriff's Department will need relief from the expenses. The JDF will need funding, but not at the expense of other operations. The JDF is a nice asset, but can Portage County afford it?

Flugaur felt the JDF is a Justice Coalition issue that affects Judges, social workers, defense attorneys, etc. He reminded those present the ultimate decision will be made by the County Board. What is the tipping point? Flugaur noted it is easier for family members, social workers, counselors, etc to see the juvenile when housed in the Portage County JDF.

Flugaur described how full the juvenile court calendar is and how difficult it is to show up on time to court when a transport team is involved. With that, Attorneys will say they did not get to see their client prior to court. Flugaur described juvenile court, which addresses offenders every 15-20 minutes when in session, as a well-oiled machine, unlike criminal courts. He recommends a committee be formed to study this issue. He also noted that juvenile cases, by State Statute, have time limitations in place.

Medin stated Ray Przybelski, Health and Human Services Director, has a juvenile case report, and Medin feels notably absent is a discussion of successful treatment. There is little successful treatment for juveniles due to the short timeframe involved with cases. Medin feels in the current economic situation, the issue becomes cost; especially so without information on treatment for juveniles. Flugaur asked if Medin felt there was little success in rehabilitating juveniles and Medin replied, yes, because there is too short a time with caseworkers.

Flugaur noted this issue has been studied before from a practical, as well as logistical, standpoint. He does not intend to reinvent the wheel when meeting on this again. Flugaur would like previous Committee members to serve again, in addition to any others interested in serving. He feels the discussion could be done in eight weeks. Flugaur asked for a volunteer to Chair the group. Wiese stated he would like to be a Committee member. He then asked the average length of stay for a juvenile and Dick replied 7-8 days. Wiese asked the percentage of Portage County juveniles in the JDF and Dick replied two-thirds are from Portage County. Graettinger added that in 2008, the average population in the JDF was 3.5 juveniles per day; 2005 was 2.2; 2006 was 3.5; and 2007 was 3.8. Our facility is being used more than ever, but others are not utilizing Portage County's beds. He feels that is the problem. The JDF requires a separate entrance and separate staff. It is mandatory to have two corrections officers no matter the number of juveniles being housed. The JDF has very different dynamics from an adult facility. You cannot cut one staff person from the JDF to save money; there has to be two officers. The decision is whether to keep the JDF or not because you cannot scale back. Flugaur noted the number of juveniles fluctuates often from 3 to 9, but the burden of transport must be factored in when looking at the issue.

3. A Discussion and Recommendation that the Jail Over-Crowding Committee Reconvene to Study the Past, Current, and Future Use of Electronic Monitoring – Judge Flugaur

Flugaur noted there has been jail overcrowding for about ten years; that is reality in Portage County. Portage County is looking at ways to alleviate it as a criminal justice system, while maintaining public safety. Flugaur noted that yesterday there were 54 inmates being shipped and only seven on home monitor. Why are so few on home monitor? Offenders are being sentenced with a home detention component and he is surprised at the low number. Flugaur noted the Sheriff makes the final decision as to who is and who is not eligible for home detention. Flugaur further added he does not want to sacrifice public safety. He feels we must look at eligibility and find a consensus.

Baumhofer stated in 2009, there have been 43 eligible for home detention, with 23 on it. Of those 23, 15 have an OWI offense requiring a sobriety as well. There are 20 not on home detention because they are ineligible, 3 did not want it, 6 do not have Level of Service Indicators completed, 4 tested positive for THC, 1 is on Huber, 1 has no money/cannot afford it, 1 does not have a landline telephone, 2 are in another county, and 1 had a PBT of 1.0. He added a small percentage of those eligible are ruled out by the Sheriff's Department. It is the offender's choice to be on home detention or not, or they test positive for alcohol or drugs, which makes them ineligible.

Flugaur asked if having a landline telephone is still necessary. Baumhofer replied they do have cellular units available that do not require a landline. Portage County has the latest technology available for home detention. Flugaur asked the cost incentives/disincentives. Baumhofer replied a landline charge is \$14.76 per day, it is \$17 per day in jail, home detention with sobriety is \$18.52 per day, and a cell unit is \$18.50 per day.

Flugaur asked whether Coalition members wanted to look at jail overcrowding again because it is a continuing problem. He noted there used to be 15-18 people a day on home detention. He understands some offenders prefer jail. Offenders can be sentenced to half jail time and half home detention. Charewicz stated it is a responsibility issue. An offender on home detention may behave, and if in jail at \$17 per day, the County is lucky to collect less than 10% of that fee; whereas, an offender on home detention must pay their fees upfront.

Flugaur noted Dane County has 500 offenders out of county. Charewicz stated they have 150 on home detention in Dane County. It is the Sheriff's decision. They do have failures. Also, it takes five staff members to monitor their home detention program. He is not aware of their charge for home detention. Those not paying are not pulled back in lieu of having shipping costs associated with the offenders.

Flugaur asked if there was merit to meet on this issue again. Barth replied yes. He added offenders are not intimidated by jail. When an offender refuses to blow or provide a urine sample, it is an indication of a serious problem. Barth sees potential and worth in talking about the offender during the presentence phase; be creative and more effective. Jail is not all that effective and this issue deserves discussion. He further noted the County Board passed a resolution to reduce recidivism.

Flugaur stated the Committee will begin meeting again and he will chair the group. A report will be provided for September's Coalition meeting.

4. An Update from Justiceworks – Katherine Munck

Munck reported the Family Law Center has helped 140 individuals so far this year, and in 2008, there were 78 in the first six months. Trained volunteers work in the Center, located in the Courthouse, everyday over the noon hour. The Volunteers in Probation program has volunteer mentors serving 40 offenders. Mediation services, provided by trained mediators, are available for ordinance violations. Ten cases resulted in \$1,100 being paid back to victims. Justiceworks also offers Victim/Offender Conferencing services utilizing trained volunteers as well. They are meeting with school personnel regarding direct referrals. Community education on elections was conducted last spring. There will be a September 2009 session at which you can earn education credits. Last month, Justiceworks began working with deferred prosecution cases.

Munck stated Justiceworks offers a complete set of services and is responsive to victims and offenders. This is a unique non-profit organization that other counties are looking to for information. She added that Justiceworks is dealing with limited resources and invited those present to participate in a Labor Day Run/Walk fundraiser as either a volunteer or a participant. Munck also added that she is amazed at the dedication and commitment of those around the table. Flugaur noted that many Coalition members volunteer 1,000's of hours.

King noted the Portage County Judicial General Government Committee endorsed contracting with Justiceworks for deferred prosecution. Justiceworks staff will monitor offender compliance and report to the courts.

5. Update from the Building Review Committee for Public Safety Needs – Jeanne Dodge

Dodge began by stating the referendum on a new Justice Center failed, but she prefers to refer to the fact that 1/3 of the voters actually voted in favor of the referendum. If Portage County drops the issue, it will no longer have credibility. Needs must be addressed and voters must be convinced of those needs. The proposed Justice Center had a great design, which did not come true. A Building Review Committee has been formed to further study the needs. Dodge feels leadership of the County Board did not take a position on the proposed Justice Center; without that, it is difficult to convince the public.

Dodge noted the Building Review Committee is made up of leaders of many County committees, and they have been meeting and enlisting help from John Cain of Venture Architects. At this point, no money has been allocated by the County Board for help from John Cain, but he has been gracious with his time spent with the Committee. The Committee has been discussing ideas and options as to how to address needs, and it has looked at why the referendum may have failed. Failure may have resulted due to: cost (the Committee is looking to scale back, while still meeting needs); and not addressing use of existing buildings (the Committee is trying to determine use of exiting buildings, while tying together needs and security issues). Three options are being discussed that include: a two level court area between the Jail and the County-City Building; attaching to the County Annex and Jail for a three-story court area; or build a standalone facility.

Dodge stated a referendum is not felt appropriate by everyone; the County Board is elected to decide. Because of the first referendum, it is felt we must go to referendum again. We must show voters the County is addressing their concerns, including cost, existing building use, in town or out of town location, etc. At this time, the City of Stevens Point supports a downtown location; whereas, there was no previous buy-in. The Committee is looking for an April 2010 referendum, which is a tight schedule. The City Council will be approached regarding street closures before the referendum. Dodge wants to present issues with answers to voters before the referendum. She noted Committee meetings are taped and will be available on the City's website.

Morris asked what is included in a public safety center; the Sheriff's Department and City Police Department being housed together and an increase in jail beds? Dodge replied the Committee is only beginning the process; there has been no

discussion yet on that. Committee members decided to address court issues first. She noted that Ildvoog has said the County must address a potential future jail. The Committee is looking at the “big picture” in phases; with phase one being the courts. Jankowski added that discussion could take place regarding a downtown or “green” location; that issue has not been forgotten.

Dodge added that a regional jail with Marathon County is also being discussed. Marathon County has contacted Senator Decker regarding that possibility. This is another reason why a Portage County jail is not being discussed at this time. Dodge pointed out that what is happening at the State level will be important to Portage County.

Flugaur stated he understands why this is going to referendum again. He asked whether there will be a vote at the County Board to support or not support this project. The County Board did not come out and support the project prior to the first referendum, which is unlike what happens at the School Board level. A School Board will come out with unanimous support of its project, while the County Board remained silent on their project. Their silence sends a message to voters that they did not support the project. Dodge replied that Flugaur is probably right. She added the timeline includes a County Board and Common Council vote. The Committee is looking for more visible support. Dodge has heard of those that would support a scaled-back version that decreases cost and meets needs. Dodge feels this project is worth a second shot, and she reiterated that the County will not have credibility, if it acknowledges the need, but offers no alternative.

6. Recommendations for Offender Information Management System – Judge Finn and Brad Bogue

Finn reminded those present of the Goldman Study that reviewed the criminal justice system in Portage County and found a case management system is needed. To fulfill that need, data collection is necessary to determine program needs. Without data, you cannot provide numbers and statistics on recidivism.

In January 2008, a group was formed to work with Brad Bogue. Bogue developed a system to assess the risk of reoffending, by using a simple proxy tool that ranks risk from 0-6. On-going data collection is taking place. Data collection is looking at who is in jail and who needs to be there. Finn noted amazing cooperation by members of the group as they work toward better operation of the criminal justice system. The District Attorney’s Office is generating data on all offenders and is utilizing the proxy tool.

Bogue stated the data collection process began 18 months ago. There is no standard measure across programs. The group is looking at accountability and cost-effectiveness. To understand needs, you must provide comparisons (home detention versus jail); treatment/interventions with behavioral change (evaluate programming), etc. Bogue described the biggest predictor of outcome as the client’s individual factors themselves. Without solid risk level data, comparisons cannot be made. You must have a measure of what is going into programming. The relationship between the client and the treatment professional is important to be able to collect data and have actuarial measures.

Bogue referred to a handout provided to those present. Page 1 includes “Portage County Risk Indicators”; Page 2 is “Portage County Protective Demographics”, and Page 3 deals with “Portage County Alcohol Related Risk Factors”. All of the data collected has resulted in the ability to provide this information. Utilizing the proxy has resulted in good data collection throughout the criminal justice system. The data has found higher risk pockets and recidivism data. This information has never been available in Portage County before.

7. Topics to be Considered at Future Meetings

None considered.

With no further business to come before the Coalition, Flugaur adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Cummings
Recording Secretary

MINUTES
Justice Coalition
May 21, 2009

Members Present: Jeff Morris, Harvey Olson, Tom Eagon, Lia DeGross, Judges Flugaur and Fleishauer, Carrie Davies, Phil Idsvoog, Tom Mallison, Ray Przybelski, Mike McKenna, Jeff Heckendorf, Don Butkowski, Dave Medin, Stan Potocki, Amy Marcott, Bill McCulley, Jim Wiese, Bill Meyer, Shaun Morrow, Steve Olson, Vance Underwood, Kevin Ruder and Zach Bishop

Others Present: Katherine Munck, Justiceworks; Mark Maslowski, County Executive; Tom Staack, Justice Coalition Advisory Committee; Dwayne Wierzba, Plover Police; Cory Nelson and Dale O'Kray, Portage County Sheriff's Department; Robert Cable, Citizen; Bridget Todd, ATTIC Correctional Services; and Doug Radtke, County Board Supervisor

Staff Present: Kathy King, Justice Programs Department and Jamie Phillis, Planning and Zoning Department

Chairman Flugaur called the Justice Coalition meeting to order at 7:53 am in Conference Rooms 1 and 2 of the County Annex.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the March 26, 2009 Meeting

Flugaur asked for comments regarding the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted by consensus.

2. Discussion and Request for Approval of the Recommendations from the Community Service Coordination Committee, by District Attorney Thomas Eagon

Eagon stated this Committee was formed by the Coalition because a number of non-profit organizations in the community were concerned about community service workers coming into their organizations that they did not know anything about. Offenders are appropriately placed within these organizations, but the organizations felt more information was needed on the individual. The Committee discussed concerns these organizations had and how to address them. A referral form was drafted to provide basic information on the offender. Most referrals for community service will come from either Probation and Parole, or the Volunteer in Probation (VIP) Program. The basic information on the offender is gathered, as well as the referring agency, and contact person for the recipient agency. Some providers were indicating that someone would come in on a Thursday and need 40 hours of community service completed by the next Monday, which causes problems. They may also not be aware of what the individual needs to be able to accommodate them. The referral form indicates what hours are needed and when they need to be completed. The special needs section on the form tells what sort of issues the individual may have, such as alcohol or drug issues, which will help in placing them. If someone has prescription drug problems, it would not be good to send them to an elderly home where they could raid a medicine cabinet. The form also has a section for the level of supervision needed, which is assessed by the referring agency. Generally, the referral form gives the receiving agency the information needed to determine whether the individual is an appropriate fit for their agency. There is also a section indicating whether there is more information available that may be obtained by contacting the referring agency.

Flugaur stated some receiving agencies would have an individual walk in and know nothing about them. These agencies have more than just offenders coming for community service; they also have school groups and community volunteers. Sometimes there are concerns with the offenders, so more information about them would help determine where they should be placed. Flugaur thanked Eagon, and stated Munck was instrumental in helping put this referral form together. It is agreed to see how the referral form works and if there are problems, the group will get back together to come up with solutions.

3. A Review and Report from the OWI Intensive Supervision Program, Including an Analysis on Recidivism, by Kathy King

Flugaur stated one of the earlier projects the Coalition worked on was developing the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP). Individuals going through the program have been charged with OWI 3 and subsequent offenses. If they post bond, they cannot go out into the community without supervision before their trial. Those chronic offenders are placed in the OWI ISP pre-trial. They are required to report to Day Report for random breath and urine testing to make sure they are clean. They also attend pre-trial programming with individual and group counseling. The Judges, District Attorney's, and Defense Attorney's receive reports on each individual so when they come to trial there is an update on how they did under

supervision and whether or not they had any violations. Many counties are interested in starting a similar program and have come to Portage County to see what was happening. Primary factors in instituting this program were jail overcrowding and changing behavior to reduce repeat offenses.

King reported when this program was started in 2002, the Department of Transportation (DOT) was still agreeing to run record checks on offenders in the program, on a regular basis, to determine whether they had offended again. The DOT is no longer doing this. This puts every project in the position of having to do its own research on recidivism. There are about 13 projects Statewide and no standardization, which makes a report a bit challenging. In order to draft the numbers for the report, King took five different resources where numbers are compiled, and tried to cross check them. The numbers are not run the same, Portage County runs numbers annually. King is confident with the numbers for participation in the program because financial reimbursement was predicated on new participants. She is also confident with the contact and group standards, and violation reports. This is a condensed version of what ATTIC prepares for King every month and they prepare a separate report for the DOT. If statistics are needed, then a more detailed report is available.

Supervision is also provided for those who move on to home detention after participating in ISP as a bond condition. When looking at the home detention numbers, they are not the total numbers of OWI offenders serving home detention time. These are just the offenders who have previously been on ISP or have become Portage County residents with a condition from another county. A decision was made to only provide supervision to those who live in Portage County, whether or not they committed the offense here. The Department of Corrections (DOC) also utilizes ISP. These numbers are current through March 2009. There have been 862 people referred to the program and 731 were placed. Those not placed were either not from the area, or they bond out. The majority of referrals, 431, were for OWI 3 offense. There are 13,571 case management sessions for these offenders, which does not count the amount of time spent for chemical testing. Most offenders report to Day Report, at a minimum, three times per week and some twice per day. Over the last 10 years, there have been 278 positive tests within this population. There have been 527 offenders who successfully completed the OWI ISP, which is a completion rate of 87.1%. To get exact numbers for repeat OWI offenses, a case-by-case check of local databases would be required.

The possible recidivism rate in one set of statistics is 9% and the other set is 10%. The DOT develops an annual report, which picked a cohort of 19 offenders in the 2002 population. When DOT analyzed the 19 offenders in 2006, they found two of those 19 had reoffended, which gave an 11% recidivism rate. The most recent analysis completed in 2007 found up to five new offenses with the same program, which moves the recidivism rate to 26%. The average rate to reoffend is 1,384 days, which is almost one year longer than other counties.

Wiese asked how they reach out to an individual who offends here in Portage County, but lives elsewhere. King replied more counties are starting ISP or Day Report programs and they all cross reference each other. If the county does not provide an ISP, then a compromise is made, such as offering to give the offender five breath checks a week and seeing if that is adequate supervision. Wiese asked if most counties are cooperative. King replied yes. If someone violates in another county, they will not take them into custody, but report it and request a transfer. Flugaur stated those individuals fall into the deferred category, but do not participate. There are individuals that live here, but are gone during the week and cannot participate. They are told they cannot participate in the ISP, but will have to submit breath or urine samples when they have court dates. For individuals who say they do not want to be involved in the ISP, it can affect their sentence structure, because those who do well on pre-trial ISP receive more favorable treatment since they have proven themselves. King stated in Portage County there is more emphasis on risk assessment, which brings the opportunity of profiling the offenders using a database. There are five or six different types in the population from quiet alcoholics who are law abiding, to those committing crimes related to chemical dependencies. There are also those OWI offenders committing other crimes. When looking at managing resources, the needs of the individual are assessed rather than using a one-size-fits-all solution.

Eagon asked if the State did an analysis of the counties with no OWI ISP. King replied yes. When looking at their report, the closest comparison for Portage County that had a population not participating was Trempealeau County. Starting about 1998, counties were put in groups with a comparison county for each group. The longer the project is going, the more violations occur.

Meyer stated the implications in item nine suggest there is something with the program that results in recidivism being delayed by roughly one year. It is important to be careful about comparisons on the results King is reporting and the DOT results. If there is a time dimension, then the amount of time between treatment and data collection for the DOT report can have a significant impact.

King stated there are a few projects that have mandated programs. If they are mandated, someone needs to fund the program. One option offenders have is to do treatment in a certified agency. Meyer asked if the Portage County program costs more than other counties. King replied yes, per offender. When the program started it was given \$500 per offender. It is made certain there are enough offenders to justify the cost to DOT. The contract for this year is done and authorized. When looking at the law, it was a standard that after four years of operation there is a 50/50 split (State/County). Now, instead of 50/50, we pay 75% of costs. In order to do so, King has to figure all of the costs, including Day Report, into the report for reimbursement from DOT.

Olson stated the data for different types of people would be important. With that data, more targeting can occur and increase the success rate overall. King stated once there is the ability to determine who to invest services in, then a policy decision has to be made. She is looking at a new assessment tool with a company called Northpoint; they have been validated for domestic abuse, gender responsive, racial populations, and others. There are members that want to join in and look at the tool for more consistency across the State and possibly with the Department of Corrections (DOC).

Flugaur stated he will allow the Coalition more time to absorb this information. ISP needs to be reviewed and assessed to make sure it is working because that is what is asked when other counties visit. Legislators also contact us to see what we are doing and if it works. This discussion will be continued on the July agenda.

4. A Review and Possible Action on Policy Changes in Justice Programs, by Kathy King

King stated the policy recommendations are just recommendations. Most either involve more action on behalf of the Justice System or permission from the County Board. The first issue is urinalysis testing, which has increased significantly. The VIP had a fair amount of younger people with drug problems. The DOC also had an increase in population. The next influence on cost was the increase from a three to a five panel test to better the test for prescription drugs. A 75% increase in test supply cost cannot be absorbed in the budget. King is asking the Coalition to consider charging for the test kits. Two ways of doing so would be to charge the offenders coming from the DOC or VIP \$5 for the test, with them paying in advance. In order to continue to serve the population, those costs need to be mitigated. There will be no charge for the alcohol or blood testing, just for the urinalysis. The second concept is to charge offenders, as a condition of bond, if they test positive and create a disincentive for testing positive. Staffing was increased in Day Report this year and the Sheriff's Department provides two Corrections Officers to help one shift per week. There have been errors in policy on the days that many offenders are reporting because of the increase in activity. The second staff person was added to help create efficiency and effectiveness.

Flugaur asked if King wants the Coalition, or a certain committee, to review these requests and how soon do the changes need to occur. King replied there are time issues, which means it cannot wait until the next Coalition meeting. She offered to meet with people individually or form a group to discuss. Flugaur stated since the Coalition works by consensus, they could rely on the executive committee. He asked the Coalition if there were any concerns or questions.

Morrow stated a concern he has is if the offender states they do not have the \$5 for the test. King stated that was a concern she had and thought making it a condition of bond would cause less challenge. Flugaur stated he agrees with Morrow on having costs assessed with testing when the offenders have been pre-trial ordered to do the testing. He will work with King on the issue. Olson asked if the resolution is to have the executive committee approve the policies. Flugaur replied normally the Coalition gets the idea of a request and they are asked to approve or deny the request. This type of discussion King has brought is usually what takes place at sub-committee or ad hoc committees that work with those issues. King brought these issues to Flugaur's attention and it was put on the agenda for initial discussion, not for detailed discussion. King receives direction from the Coalition. Morrow stated the \$5 charge will not work and it should be scrapped right now. Flugaur agreed.

5. A Review and Report from the Warrants Committee on the Fiscal Impact for Non-Execution on Unpaid Forfeitures; by Clerk of Courts, Bernie Flatoff

Flugaur stated they are having a difficult time coming up with the data on this fiscal impact. Hopefully, the issue can be on the next agenda.

6. An Update from Justiceworks, by Katherine Munck

Munck reported Justiceworks is filing a grant application today with OJP for funding to help expand the offender mentoring program.

7. Discussion of a Potential Grant Application Relating to Mentorship, by Katherine Munck

Munck provided a short narrative of the funding proposal. There is a lot of competition for this funding. Usually, it is directed toward the larger urban areas based on the number of offenders coming back into the community. This initiative focuses on reentry and emphasizing enhancement of employability for offenders through a mentoring process. This way there is no disconnect between jail and halfway house, to living in the community. Regardless of the grant funding, this provides a framework for future direction for offender mentoring programs. The goal, with or without the funding, is to create a specialized mentoring group with commitment from the business and health services communities. It involves a change in community perspectives. Just like any other non-profit organization, Justiceworks creates a safety net and works to make the system run more efficiently and effectively. Another goal is to create a system to collect a solid data gathering and assess this program to know what is being accomplished. Just like King, Munck needs to jump through hoops for funding, so at the end of summer, there is a fundraiser being held on Labor Day weekend. The fundraising money can go towards operational costs. Last year the federal funding dictated Munck's position was going to ramp down. They utilized funds to keep Munck's position in place, which gave her the time and ability to go after other funds. Through the Coalition, Munck was able to bring in \$400,000 of earmark funds. There has to be someone in place driving the process and she will do everything she can to get money into our community. Munck thanked those who helped her in the process of preparing the grant funding application and offering letters of support. This framework can be used to apply for future grants made available at a State and local level.

8. Farewell to Bill Meyer, by Judge Fleishauer

Flugaur stated this last agenda item is a sad one. There is rumor Bill Meyer is leaving Stevens Point and moving to the Twin Cities area. Five years ago, a chair was needed for a citizens advisory committee with respect to the Justice Center project and Judge Fleishauer suggested Bill Meyer.

Fleishauer stated he has known Meyer for a long time. He cannot think of another person he would like to give an award to, in terms of his character, work ethic, and cooperativeness. Five years ago Fleishauer asked Meyer to lunch where he asked him to either serve on the Board of Justiceworks or serve as the chair of a citizens advisory committee of the Justice Coalition dealing with the issue of the Justice Center. Meyer relented and agreed work in the capacity of Chair of the Justice Coalition Citizens Advisory Committee, and since then, has worked for five years. If his services were given a monetary value, he would have contributed ten's or hundred's of thousand's of dollars to this organization and the success of Justice Systems in Portage County. He has presided over 30 meetings of the advisory committee on the Justice Center and its location, he has visited many modern Justice Centers throughout the State, he has carefully read every study ever commissioned by the Portage County Board on the Justice Center, he has met with citizens and County officials many times, he wrote the report for which the Coalition made its recommendation on need to the County Board, and he volunteered to serve as the chair for the Public Information Committee formed to prepare for the referendum. He also drafted and created materials for the Public Information Committee, organized the people, conducted meetings, and conducted public forums for citizens of the community. On top of that, he has attended many Justice Coalition meetings. We are deeply indebted to him for all of his hard work. There are two quotes used when talking to people about Justiceworks. One is from Henry David Thoreau, "When government imprisons any unjustly, the only true place for a just person is in prison." The second quote, which is printed on Meyer's award, is from Micah 6:8, "He has told you, oh mortal, what is good. What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

Meyer stated it is a beautiful pen and pencil set. He thanked the Judges and the Justice Coalition; adding, he has learned so much. One point he made during the public forum was the fact that, as a citizen, he finds it reassuring to see all of the service components of our local Justice System sit around a table together and share perspectives on common issues. That is remarkable and he is glad to have been a small part of it. Thank you to all.

With no further business to come before the Coalition, Flugaur adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Phillis
Recording Secretary

MINUTES
Justice Coalition
March 26, 2009

Members Present: Judges Flugaur, Fleishauer, and Finn; Tom Eagon, Bernie Flatoff, Lia DeGroff, Carrie Davies, Mike Baumhofer, Phil Idsvoog, Ray Przybelski, Mike McKenna, John Graettinger, Melissa Dalkert, John Charewicz, Don Butkowski, Dave Medin, Stan Potocki, Mike Slavin, Amy Trzinski, Liz Fulton, Jim Wiese, Bill Meyer, Shaun Morrow, Steve Olson, Vance Underwood, Kevin Ruder, and Zach Bishop

Others Present: Jeanne Dodge and Doug Radtke, County Board Supervisors; Katherine Munck, Justiceworks; Mark Maslowski, County Executive; Thomas Staack, Justice Coalition Advisory Committee; Dwayne Wierzba, Plover Police Department; Kurt Helminiak, Justiceworks/VIP Program; and Bridget Todd, ATTIC Correctional Services

Staff Present: Kathy King and Paula Cummings, Justice Programs Department

Chairman Flugaur called the Justice Coalition meeting to order at 7:55 am in Conference Rooms 1 and 2 of the County Annex.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the November 20, 2008 Meeting

Flugaur asked for comments regarding the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted by consensus.

2. Introduction of New (and Officially New) Members to the Coalition

Flugaur stated he recently met with new members at which time he provided them with an outline of the Coalition, information as to the mission of the Coalition, projects completed, etc. The Coalition has been in existence for more than a decade. Flugaur welcomed and introduced the following members he met with: Pastors Steve Olson and Vance Underwood; Bill Meyer, Jim Wiese, Mike Slavin, Lia DeGroff, Kevin Ruder, and Shaun Morrow.

3. An Update With Possible Recommendations from the Offender Services Information Committee, By Judge Finn

Finn stated he chairs the Offender Services Information Committee, which began meeting in January 2008. The Committee met with the hope of getting rid of anecdotal stories of what does and does not work with offenders. To accomplish this, the County engaged Brad Bogue (Bogue) with Justice System Assessment and Training (JSAT) out of Colorado. To date, offender data has been gathered and analyzed from the period January 2008 through February 2009.

Data has been gathered using a proxy tool in which offenders are scored, on a 0-6 scale, as to their risk to reoffend. It is understood this tool is not 100% accurate. On a scale of 0-6, offenders with a score of 6 are most likely to reoffend. The District Attorney's Office has been using this tool on all new criminal filings, as well as six other service provider agencies, including: ATTIC Correctional Services, Portage House, Jail, Home Detention Program (HDP), Justiceworks, and Ministry Behavioral Health (MBH).

Finn explained that Bogue has analyzed the data and provided a report, which Finn provided to those present and gave a brief overview. The report deals with three principles: Risk Principle (risk to reoffend), Need Principle (which needs of the offender must be addressed and prioritized, and Responsivity Principle (how do you accomplish this). Data indicated the following average offender proxy scores: District Attorney proxies had an average score of 3.11 (a score of 4-6 is considered high), the jail had an average of 4.42, Portage House was at 4.08, Justiceworks was 3.09, Ministry Behavioral Health was 3.12, ATTIC was 2.9, and HDP was 2.6. This information indicates offenders most likely to reoffend are in jail and the Portage House. Finn noted studies have shown that if you use resources on those most likely to reoffend, you can reduce recidivism. Therefore, resources are better spent on high risk offenders versus low risk offenders.

Data analysis found the following priority offender needs to be addressed: low self control (criminal history), AODA, anti-social companions, employment/education problems; as well as dysfunctional families and leisure time, which are not high priority needs to be addressed with Portage County offenders. Services offered by provider groups were also part of the analysis. A heavy emphasis on AODA treatment was found, but not on other priority needs. Bogue recommends agencies begin shifting to those elements to reduce recidivism.

Finn said once the needs and risks are known, you can begin to put things together to better provide offender services. An ideal situation would be a Day Report Center, which differs from what Portage County offers offenders at this time. As time goes on and more statistics are gathered, a shift could take place to work with high risk offenders at an enhanced Day Report Center. Huber release could be utilized with offenders in jail to enable them to attend services at a Day Report Center. Treatment through groups offered to offenders at Portage House averages 20 hours per month, while the jail offers 4 hours per month.

Finn felt the Committee is not in a position to make specific recommendations at this time, but data should continue to be gathered and monitored.

Idsvoog asked how Portage County could move forward to change the Day Report system. Finn replied Day Report could be enhanced and offered as an alternative to jail. An enhanced Day Report Center, as recommended by Bogue, would offer treatment through group(s). This type of center would be open 12 hours per day, 7 days per week. Flugaur reiterated that an enhanced Day Report Center is seen as ideal, and would require seven full-time employees. Finn agreed, noting that currently Day Report has 4 employees.

At this time, King offered those present a handout regarding a Veteran Homeless Program offered at the Veteran's Home in King. Homeless veterans and those with chemical problems can utilize this program, which has 27 beds and has been operating for 13 years. A veteran can stay in this Federal program for 2 years.

4. An Update from Justiceworks, Including the "Bridging the Gap" Project, by Katherine Munck

Munck explained "Bridging the Gap" is a research study through the State Bar. She noted 80% of poor households have legal issues without legal assistance. Justiceworks and Legal Aide offer pro bono services in Portage County. The legal resource center opened last year has served 200 people. Pro se service is available through Legal Aide in Portage County as well. She further noted in-kind donations have taken place in the Law Library. Also, a recruitment effort with attorneys to make them available for legal needs in Portage County is taking place.

Munck thanked Attorney Maury Rice for pro bono service, because through him, funding was received in Portage County. Only Portage County received this money from the State for pro bono services. Legal needs are known in Portage County and volunteer opportunities are available for pro bono in Portage County. Surveys have been sent to local attorneys to gather information as to what they are willing to provide. Rice added there are 103 attorneys in Portage County and 13 surveys have been returned, or 25%. There are 13 categories of areas to help. The largest response indicates the willingness to take one case per year. Most attorneys are needed in the area of family law. Last year, 27 family law cases went through Legal Aide. There are 6-8 attorneys in Portage County that do a lot of family cases. Rice also noted that Legal Aide was created by the Portage County Bar Association in the 1990's. Needs are up and resources are down. Munck agreed that most people are coming in with family law issues. Munck noted community education forums offered through Justiceworks, including one being held at Emmy J's. She then introduced Andrew Roan as an intern with Justiceworks.

Flugaur agreed the need for pro se is growing. He added that things have changed over the years as evidenced by the number of cases appearing before him without legal representation. He finds this number astounding and noted this includes criminal defendants. As a Judge, he finds these cases difficult, inefficient, and frustrating at times. Pro se is helpful. Without lawyers present, several case adjournments take place.

Helminiak stated there are 27 active mentors in the Volunteers in Probation (VIP) program. These mentors work with offenders (mentees) 30-60 minutes each week, and mentor meetings are held approximately every 8 weeks. There are 38 offenders in the VIP program, with 6 pending. Referrals come from the District Attorney's Office and some are considered higher risk offenders; therefore, not all are successful. Flugaur felt it would be good to have a mentor attend a Coalition meeting to give a brief overview of the VIP program experience. King noted Cummings currently mentors two individuals in the VIP Program and Flugaur asked her to speak about her experience. Cummings stated the program has been a wonderful experience. She is mentoring two young women and meets with one on a weekly basis and the other, who she has mentored for 18 months, she now meets with on a monthly basis. Cummings and her mentee prepare and agree upon a plan to attain court ordered requirements that may include community service hours, obtaining a general education diploma, etc. At each meeting this plan is reviewed for compliance and completion. Budgeting, education planning, job search issues, learning to read job ads, and preparing resumes are some of the other areas Cummings works on with her mentees. Cummings feels they really address any need the mentee may have. One of Cummings'

mentees was pregnant when they began meeting, and this young woman has become a wonderful mother. Cummings noted she was even invited to her mentee's wedding. Both the mentor and mentee understand the relationship is a court order and they must meet to comply with the VIP Program. They become friends, but do not meet at their homes, go to movies, or out for dinner. Cummings meets with her mentees at the County Annex. Cummings stated the experience is rewarding for her and the mentee both, and she personally enjoys helping her community.

King stated that 18 people from the VIP Program now utilize Day Report. This usage was not planned for in the current contract with ATTIC Correctional Services. King has moved resources to support the VIP Program and handle the extra court cases. Helminiak keeps the VIP Program involvement limited, but it is used to keep the individual's AODA issues under control. The VIP Program can continue to utilize Day Report through the balance of the year in order to keep effective support for the court in place. Having additional participants in Day Report has caused the need to double staff as errors can be made when staff is overworked. King will be approaching the County Board for additional resources and a contract extension with ATTIC.

5. An Update on Truancy Court, by Judge Fleishauer

Fleishauer stated Truancy Court had become ineffective; therefore, two years ago work began on changing the process. Problems included fines not being paid and the process itself taking too long. Most truants are cited and have to appear in Truancy Court, which meets at 11:00 am each Tuesday, with Judges sharing responsibility. School principals will attend court and bring with them the student's record. Outcomes require students to return to court within 2-3 weeks to check their compliance. Last year, the Stevens Point Area Senior High School had 751 habitual truants and this year has seen 189. The new process has a dramatic impact on recidivism. Przybelski has been involved with truants and this is working well. Przybelski noted they are looking at grants to help fund the process, including Office of Justice Assessment, which will fund the process next year. Electronic monitoring could be introduced as well. Przybelski said by identifying kids early, we pick-up on them before their level of trouble increases and we see them later.

Flatoff asked the age of students involved in Truancy Court and Przybelski replied the students are at the junior and senior high school level, although grade school age can be cited as well. Flatoff asked if parents attend court with their child. Fleishauer responded it is not required unless they are summoned to do so. Out of the 189 truants, the vast majority were juniors and seniors, while sophomores are a smaller group.

6. An Update From the Community Service Coordination Committee, by Judge Flugaur

Flugaur reminded those present that Scott Winn, United Way Volunteer Services Director, made a presentation at the last Coalition meeting regarding court-ordered community service. Also present with Winn was Marti Sowka of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and Sue Wilcox, United Way Director. United Way provides community service opportunities to court ordered participants, as well as community volunteers. With court ordered community service, there is a need for additional information regarding: the offender, the offense, and the community service completion time frame. A uniform referral form will be developed. They are keeping in mind there may be some problem with youth/juvenile information. Portage County does not have a Community Service Coordinator, while others do. A final report will be provided to Coalition members at the May meeting. Wiese noted a situation he is aware of in which a person felt they were treated unfairly and could possibly have lost their job. He is interested in being a member of the Community Service Coordination Committee. Flugaur felt Wiese brought forward a valid concern. He noted the local YMCA takes offenders performing community service. He offered that 99% of those performing community service do a good job, and those offering opportunities for community service do not want any problems. When someone comes forward in need of community service hours, it must be determined whether they are appropriate to work there or not. Having insight into the offender and offense would be helpful.

7. Governor Doyle's budget and the Proposed Changes to DOC and How It Will Affect the Division of Community Corrections; by Corrections Field Supervisor, Shaun Morrow

Morrow noted that Probation/Parole (P/P) works with community service providers as well. In the past there had been no communication between providers and P/P, but they have worked through that and developed a form to use. The form lists the offense and skills the person has to offer.

Morrow went on to note ideas coming from the State, which are money driven. It costs approximately \$20-30,000 per year to put a person in prison, not including health care costs which amount to several thousand dollars. There is a proposed shift from prison to extended supervision, which is the same as parole. An Earned Release Review Commission is looking at non-violent offenders and a day-for-day credit. Once time is served, the offender would be released on extended supervision. More violent offenders would be given one day credit for every three days served, and

a one day credit for every 5.7 days served for the most violent offenders. Once the offender's time is up, they would apply to the new Commission for release. Morrow noted a risk assessment would be completed, but he is unsure of what DOC instrument will be used for the assessment. Once an offender's extended supervision is revoked, an administrative law judge takes over and the person is back to court and re-sentenced. Earned Release will be expanded to include a new AODA clinic, half-way houses, residential living, and addressing mental health issues.

Morrow said they are looking to streamline Earned Release by developing a plan. Individuals can now be released with no ride, no home to go to, and only a short time frame to deal with the release. With more time allowed to plan a release, a ride, a home, and post-release care can be in place.

The State also does not want P/P to supervise non-violent, misdemeanor offenders. A risk assessment tool will be used to make this determination. Morrow noted the non-violent offender classification does not include OWI homicides; they do not qualify for Earned Release. Rather, OWI's are classified as most violent offenders. If a non-violent, misdemeanor takes place, the offender is sentenced, assessed, and if not deemed high risk, P/P will not be able to supervise them. Morrow felt uncertain that would pass.

As for health care, Morrow stated \$60 million dollars is spent on mental health costs, of which \$33 million is from the Wisconsin Resource Center. Each offender with mental health issues can cost \$1 million dollars a year. Jails have dealt with the fall-out from that issue and DOC is trying to address that.

Davies stated victims are concerned with early release in sexual assault cases. Morrow replied that situation could go before the Commission and victims should be informed of that meeting. He added that offenders sentenced to GPS monitor would not be cut back. That program area is to be expanded, and there is also the sex offender registration system. There are 23,000 on the sex offender registration and 250 on GPS. Davies asked about GPS being cut back. Morrow replied that is being expanded for domestic violence. GPS units have been paid for, but not the people to staff it. DOC is trying to address that as well. Butkowski felt that was a tremendous amount of material presented by Morrow and questioned whether these State changes equals more money coming to Portage County from the State because the changes would require Portage County to provide additional resources. Morrow replied the information he provided today includes proposed changes only. He noted Portage County receives more resources than most. He further noted he would fight for every dollar because we have needs here. Flugaur reminded those present the information Morrow shared today are State proposals only.

8. Topics To Be Considered at Future Meetings, Including: a. A review of the OWI Intensive Supervision Program; a statistical analysis on recidivism; and b. A review by the Warrants Committee of the fiscal impact and rate of collection for forfeitures, as compared with fines.

In light of time constraints and the need for more information on these items, Flugaur stated they will be discussed at the next meeting.

With no further business to come before the Coalition, Flugaur adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Cummings
Recording Secretary