



Barron County

Criminal Justice Collaborating Council



Barron County Justice Center
1420 State Hwy 25 North, Room 2700
Barron, WI 54812-3006

Judge James C. Babler, **Chair**
Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald, **Vice Chair**
Shanda Harrington, **Justice Programs Coordinator**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 14, 2024
Barron County Justice Center
Jail Training Room
Barron, WI

Members Present: Judge Babler, Sheriff Fitzgerald, Tim Evenson, Brian Wright, Sharon Millermon, Craig Turcott, Bob Vogel

Members Absent: Louie Okey, Jeff French, Stacey Frolik, Lauren Kennen, Jerry Apfel

Others Present: Judge Boyle, Judge Lawton, Bob Zientara, Ann Hay, Dan McNamara, Jason Hagen

1. Meeting called to order by Judge Babler at 12:00 p.m. Public meeting notification given by Judge Babler.
2. Proposed agenda approved on Motion by Evenson/Turcott.
3. Minutes of the September meeting were approved on Motion of Sheriff Fitzgerald/Evenson.
4. CJCC Reports
 - a. Captain Evenson reported they housed approximately 30 out-of-county prisoners per day. Today's out-of-county number was 28. Barron County charges \$46 per day per prisoner for other counties and that amount may be raised in 2025. Currently there are approximately 10 people on Huber/Electronic Monitoring.
5. Barron County Recovery Court (formerly known as Adult Drug Court) report by Judge Maureen Boyle. Judge Boyle read the Mission Statement of the Recovery Court and indicated that she is the Presiding Judge and that the Team consists of her, Assistant DA, Assistant Public Defender, Recovery Court Coordinator, Treatment Provider, Law Enforcement Officer, Probation Agent, and Recovery Coach. She reported that team staffing is confidential but the Recovery Court itself is open to the public Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

She reported that they have made a number of changes based on national training including moving from three to five phases and that alumni now regularly attend the Court which is excellent peer support. She reports that they take only high-risk/high-needs offenders.

Since inception the Recovery Court has had 278 applicants and 181 were accepted (violent offenders are prohibited from entry). The Recovery Court currently has 13 participants with a maximum of 18. A total of 75 have graduated, seven this year. The Court has consisted of 139 males and 42 females with 80% in the court for methamphetamine.

Regarding recidivism they look at a 3-year period and the last 3-year period 81% of the graduates had no new criminal convictions and 33% of those terminated from the Court had no new convictions.

The name of the Court has recently changed to Barron County Recovery Court and she reports that national training has been extremely beneficial to the program. She further reported that the increase in drug court funding has really helped and has provided national training and better and increased drug testing so that the program can implement best practices. She reports they are now using oral mouth swabs which provide almost immediate results for the test. She further reports that they use Team participant meetings much like intervention which is done by the entire Court Team and believes it is quite successful.

Coordinator Dan McNamara reported that for 2024 there were 25 applicants, 64% of whom were accepted and there were 7 graduates and 7 terminations. He reported that of the participants 75% were there for methamphetamine, 25% for alcohol. He reported 83% of the participants were male and 17% female. He further reported that 52% of the referrals comes from DOC, 24% from the Public Defender and the remainder from other attorneys.

Ann Hay from DHHS reported that participants are required to have reproductive health education, budget education, and mental health counseling.

6. Methamphetamine Updates

No new updates. Methamphetamine is still an issue in Barron County.

7. Bob Vogel passed out cards for a re-entry program run by Red Cedar Church for helping those individuals released from jail.

8. DA Brian Wright announced they now have a new ADA and are fully staffed.

9. Future Agenda Items

Report on Family Recovery Court. Request to have Dave Armstrong talk to the group regarding housing situation in the County. Judge Babler will check with Representative Armstrong.

10. Motion to Adjourn by Millermon/Turcott
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, James C. Babler, CJCC Chair and Presiding Circuit Court Judge
MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CJCC AT THE NEXT MEETING.