

Williston Community Justice Center Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2019

Present: Cristalee McSweeney (Director), Marty DelNevo (Chair), Lillian Colasurdo (Vice Chair), Katie Titterton, Brant Dinkin, Bill Pellechia, Carmella Martone, Mia Marinovich, Hannahlei McSweeney, Diane Kinnon, Marion Cushner, Grace Matitu, Lorayne Lapin, Adina Panitch, Shari Carr, Beckett Pintair, Cathy Kelley, Katherine Lee, Laura Wainer, Amanda Payne, Liz Merrill.

Absent: Greta D'Agostino, Mary Reynolds-Wahl-Greer, Bree Kolibas, Tim Moran, Ali Wainer, Anne Thompson, Catherine Kimball.

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

- a) Minutes from the April 1st meeting were distributed. No discussion or changes.
- b) Motion to approve minutes: Brant Dinkin.
Motion seconded: Bill Pellechia.
- c) Minutes approved.

II. New Members Introduced

- a) Katherine Lee
- b) Grace Matitu
- c) Carmella Martone
- d) Rowan Derby

III. Office Updates

- a) New Staff Members:
 - i) Diane Kinnon was hired to the office for 20 hours a week.
 - ii) They are still interviewing for the second position and hope to have a decision soon.¹
- b) We have 7 open slots for the Youth Panel and have, so far, received 40 applications for those positions. Interviews will be set up soon.
- c) Cristalee is still trying to figure out a way to streamline the new background check requirements for the police station.

¹ In-between the meeting date and the date these minutes were completed Brenna Sue Deavitt was hired to fill the second position. She will be introduced formally at the next board meeting, but members may see her on their hearing nights.

- d) The WCJC will be featured in an upcoming Seven Days article about the work we have done around revenge porn, particularly among youths.
- e) The WCJC will no longer be taking Tamarack (RICC) cases. They are under the purview of the Office of the Attorney General and are the most time consuming and difficult cases the WCJC faces, often with timelines stretching over one year. The decision to no longer accept these cases was based partly on the fact that there are no funds attached to them and they consume a large amount of the CJC's resources and staff time.
- f) The Board will be looking to develop a policy around difficult cases and how the CJC follows consistent protocols for determining whether a case must be sent back to its referral source (police officer, State's Attorney's Office, etc.).

IV. Budget Update

- a) The new Financial Director for Williston has been assisting with cleaning up all the accounting for the CJC. Unused funds were discovered from the previous grant cycle and were returned to the Department of Corrections (DOC) since there was no carry-forward. This may have an impact on the future budget cycles but Cristalee and the town are in discussions with DOC about current funding needs and our disproportionate caseload. Cristalee informed the Board that we have the highest caseload of all the Chittenden County CJs and the highest percent of direct police referrals (80%).
- b) The Williston Police Department will be partially funding the CJC in this next fiscal year to help increase capacity and pay for staff time.

V. Upcoming Trainings

- a) The WCJC can send two volunteers to the Art of Mediation training at Champlain College. This program includes the basic training (2 days), intermediate training (4 days), and additional trainings (2 days). There is no cost to the volunteers. They also have an online version of some of the trainings.

VI. Adjournment

- a) Motion to adjourn: Liz Merrill
Motion seconded: Shari Carr
- b) Marty DelNevo, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Lillian Colasurdo, Vice Chair