

Williston Community Justice Center Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2019

Present: Cristalee McSweeney (Director), Brenna Deavitt (Restorative Specialist), Diane Kinnon (Restorative Assistant), Marty DelNevo (Chair), Lillian Colasurdo (Vice Chair), Josie Colt, Marion Cushner, Greta D'Agostino, Brant Dinkin, Cathy Kelley, Lorayne Lapin, Mia Marinovich, Carmella Martone, Hannahlei McSweeney, Liz Merrill, Amanda Payne, Beckett Pintair, Mary Reynolds-Wahl-Greer, Katie Titterton, Laura Wainer,

Absent: Katherine Lee, Adina Panitch, Bill Pellechia, Rowan Derby Burras, Catherine Kimball

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

- a) Minutes from the July 1st meeting were distributed.
- b) Motion to approve minutes: Brant Dinkin.
Motion seconded: Liz Merrill.
- c) Minutes approved.

II. Bylaw Changes

- a) There had been a misunderstanding with the town about potential changes to the bylaws so the approved changes from the previous meeting were not approved by the Selectboard.
- b) Liz Merrill moved to officially revert back to the bylaws as written prior to the amendments on July 1, 2019. Amanda Payne seconded.
- c) Reverting bylaws back to previous version was approved by a vote. For anyone who would like a copy of the current bylaws, email LillianColasurdo@gmail.com.

III. Cases and Scheduling Updates

- a) The WCJC will be hearing 21 civil disobedience cases stemming from incidents at a local protest. Because each case must be handled individual, the Board recommended scheduling them with a core group of board members to ensure a certain level of consistency in approach. Mary, Marion, Liz, Carmella, and Mia volunteered to participate in these panels. Potential hearing nights 10/24, 10/29, 11/12, 11/18, 12/10, 12/16.

- b) If you cannot make a panel date, please give at least 48 hours' notice (call 802-764-1151). Last minute cancelations and no-shows will be documented as part of overall attendance review by the Selectboard. Folks who miss close to 40% of meetings or panels will receive a warning notice.
- c) With new Board member's joining soon, panel nights might be moved around and teams may be reshuffled. We will be back to full capacity in January.
- d) Several nights need additional coverage. Brenna will send out calendar / Google document for people to sign up from now through the end of the year.
- e) There has been a growing trend of sexting cases from local schools and some revenge porn cases from local colleges. Cristalee is looking for a few volunteers to have training to serve on these panels. She will send an email with more description and ask people who are interested to respond directly to her.
- f) There has also been an increase of gang-related cases, particularly some concerning gender expression and racial hate crimes. Cristalee is also looking for specific volunteers who may be interested in specializing in these types of cases with additional training.

IV. Training

- a) Cristalee will be looking into providing some training for dealing with cases involving hate crimes and/or gangs. In the meantime, she recommended the book "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo.
- b) Marty and Liz both recently participated in the \$2 a Day training and both said it was very valuable. They noted the lack of this type of training or education for individuals who are struggling financially.

V. Office Updates

- a) There will be new intake forms and contract forms coming up.
- b) Please send a picture and statement to Brenna or see her to have picture taken.

VI. Adjournment

- a) Marty DelNevo, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm

Minutes submitted by: Lillian Colasurdo, Vice Chair