

RICE COUNTY COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE COUNCIL

COUNCIL INFORMATION SEPTEMBER 2018

County, court, city, school district and community service provider representatives began work on the Rice County Community and Justice Council (formerly the Rice County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council- CJCC) in October 2016.

Stakeholders participated in two technical assistance evaluations and summary reports:

National Institute of Corrections, April 28, 2017; and

Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Diagnostic Center, June 13, 2018.

Justice Partners then worked in June and August 2018 to create the bylaws for the Rice County Community and Justice Council. The partners agreed that the mission of the RCCJC is to provide an ongoing forum for leaders from justice agencies, government agencies, and community service provider organizations involved with the justice system in Rice County, to discuss, study, evaluate, and prioritize public safety and justice issues and coordinate resources to address them in the most evidence-based, cost-effective, and equitable way possible.

The report completed by OJP staff in June 2018 provided next steps and projects for the proposed RCCJC:

- Communication Strategy: Increase communication/collaboration of all stakeholders across criminal justice and community service providers
- Substance Abuse/Mental Health Collaborative: Enhance availability of community-based services (includes Rule 20 and 25 Issues)
- Scheduling/Case Processing Time Frames Improvement
- Pretrial Release Program/Services and Pretrial Diversion
- Improve Outcomes/Earlier Interventions where Child Protective Services and Parental Criminal Activity Intersect
- Jail Alternatives for Adults/Utilization of Jail Beds
- Enhance Technology/Data Sharing and Access to Performance Data Across Decision Points
- Review and Enhance Financial Resource Allocation by County (Cost-Benefit Analysis)

RCCJC members have initiated subcommittees to begin work on Substance Abuse/ Mental Health Collaboration, an Integrated Data System, the Court Calendar and Crossover Youth (youth involved in the Corrections and Social Service systems.)

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The proposed council would meet quarterly to review initiatives and develop partnerships to improve justice programs.

Proposed city representation on the RCCJC: Mayor or Designee and Chief of Police or Designee.

RCCJC partners ask the county board and city councils to review the proposed bylaws and mission of the council and consider a resolution establishing the council as a collaborative resource for Rice County justice programs.

NEIGHBORING CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCILS:

OLMSTED COUNTY
WINONA COUNTY
STEELE COUNTY

A Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is a collaborative policy- level body that works “to develop and maintain local- level capacity for systemic thinking and acting with respect to criminal justice issues and promotes “better understanding of crime and criminal justice problems, greater cooperation among agencies and units of local government, clearer objectives and priorities, more effective resource allocation, and better quality criminal justice programs.” Robert C. Cushman, *Guidelines for Developing a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee* (Washington D.C.: National Institute of Corrections, 2002), p.ix.