

**MAY 10, 2016 SESSION
OF THE
WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Walworth County Board Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Chair Russell at 2:32 p.m. at the Government Center, 100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Roll Call

Roll Call was conducted and the following Supervisors were present: Tim Brellenthin, Kathy Ingersoll, Kenneth H. Monroe, Susan M. Pruessing, Charlene Staples, Randy Timms, David A. Weber, Paul Yvarra, and Chair Nancy Russell. Vice-Chair Daniel G. Kilkenny and Supervisor Joe Schaefer were absent. A quorum was established.

Others in Attendance:

County staff: David Bretl, County Administrator, Honorable David Reddy, Katie Behl, Treatment Court Coordinator, Carlo Nevicosi, Behavioral Health/AODA Manager, Health and Human Services (HHS), Nicole Heinrich, Behavioral Health/AODA Supervisor (HHS)

● **The purpose of the meeting is:**

- Report on the County's Treatment Courts

David Bretl, County Administrator, gave a brief overview of the County's Treatment Courts presentation. Bretl announced key personnel who were instrumental in implementing the Treatment Court program.

Judge David Reddy presented a Power Point presentation and handout. With the assistance of Katie Behl, Treatment Court Coordinator, Carlo Nevicosi, Behavioral Health/AODA Manager, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Nicole Heinrich, Behavioral Health/AODA Supervisor (HHS), Judge Reddy reviewed the details and impact of the Walworth County OWI Court and the 10 Guiding Principles of DWI Courts which are:

1. Determine the Population
2. Perform a Clinical Assessment
3. Develop the Treatment Plan
4. Supervise the Offender
5. Forge Agency, Organization, and Community Partnerships
6. Take a Judicial Leadership Role
7. Develop Case Management Strategies
8. Address Transportation Issues
9. Evaluate the Program
10. Ensure a Sustainable Program

Also distributed at the meeting were handouts for the National Center for DWI Courts and Walworth County OWI Court.

Judge Reddy noted that the Walworth County OWI Court had a recidivism rate of 5% compared to the national average recidivism rate of 40%. He said over a four year period only three individuals of the 59 graduates were convicted of a crime after graduating from the program. Behl stated Walworth County had a graduation rate of 88% compared to the national graduation rate for DWI of 50% and the state Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program (TAD) of 67%. Judge Reddy stated over 28,000 supervised days were saved since inception of the OWI Court program.

Judge Reddy gave a brief overview of the current and future grant funding that will be necessary to ensure a sustainable program. He said if no additional funding is received, the OWI Court would have to limit its scope to third offense participants.

Judge Reddy thanked the Board for their support. Discussion then focused on grant funding and the possibility of this matter becoming a budget item for 2017. Chair Russell asked the Board to keep in mind the families who are impacted by these issues and the lives that are saved within our community.

Comment Period by Members of the Public Concerning the County's Treatment Courts

Theodore Hawver gave a brief overview of his personal history and the road that led him to his fourth OWI and his participation and graduation from Treatment Court. Hawver is a Junior at UW-Whitewater and working to become a published undergraduate student. He is three years sober and expressed his gratitude to Judge Reddy, HHS and Katie Behl for a second chance at life. Supervisor Monroe informed Mr. Hawver that he represents the highest hope for the program and congratulated him.

Kurt Kulpa of Geneva Township gave a brief overview of his personal history and participation in the program. He is determined to remain alcohol free and stated the dedicated Treatment Court panel changes lives.

Peter Wadlund stated he entered the program not understanding that he could do things correctly, i.e. showing up, being on time, and that there were sanctions for his actions. Wadlund requested that the Board make a conscious effort to find a way to fund the program.

April Beckner stated she was a fourth time offender and a graduate of the OWI Court. She experienced chronic relapses and had been in and out of multiple treatment programs. Beckner stated she learned cognitive skills through the program and has been sober for three years. She said funding is imperative for the program to continue.

Jeri, the spouse of Rick Davis who participated in the OWI Court, spoke about the impact the program had on their family. She stated the OWI Court is a very important program and that it saved both their marriage and her husband's life.

Steve Sturgeon of Lake Como stated he was a third time offender and graduate of the OWI Court. He has been sober since 2012. He encourages everyone to become aware of what alcohol and drugs are doing to the community and by all means put a stop to it.

Mark McDonald of Elkhorn stated he uses the skills he was taught by taking a step back to understand what is happening before he reacts. He expressed his gratitude to Judge Reddy and stated he was given a chance to succeed. He has been sober since 2014. McDonald stated it was a great honor to go through the program and suggested continued funding for the program.

Rick Smith stated he was a third time offender and OWI Court taught him about relationships. He said it was extremely beneficial to himself, his family, and to others.

Russell expressed her gratitude to everyone for taking the time to speak before the Board.

Adjournment

On motion by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Monroe, the meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Prepared By: Trisha Sommers, Administrative Clerk

Submitted By: Kimberly S. Bushey, County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS
COUNTY OF WALWORTH)

I, Kimberly S. Bushey, County Clerk in and for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors for the May 10, 2016 Committee of the Whole Meeting.