

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2006-12 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole June 27, 2006, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 8:30 a.m. CDT. David Erickson opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present: Klaus Alberts District #1
Lyle Tjosaas District #2
David Erickson District #3
Don Gray District #4
David Hanson District #5

Members absent: None

Also present: David McKnight County Administrator
Becky Lubahn Deputy Clerk
Jackie Neve Drug Court Case Manager
Matthew Kohl Drug Court Case Manager

Drug Court Case Managers Jackie Neve and Matthew Kohl provided the Board with a Drug Court update.

Drug Court Update

Ms. Neve reported that as of June 13, 2006 Dodge County Adult Drug Court has been operational for three years. Since May 29, 2003 they have had 43 participants enter the program. Out of the forty-three participants 18 are currently in the program, 13 have failed and 12 have graduated. The failed participants were due to severe mental health issues or continued use throughout the program.

Ms. Neve stated that Dodge County Drug Court is also making itself known out in the community by speaking at local organizations such as the Lion's Club, Mayo Clinic Social Workers, Sertoma Club, Homemakers Association and other counties that would like to initiate a Drug Court Program. Drug Court staff was also asked by the Office of Justice at the National Crime Victim Services Association to make a presentation regarding Drug Courts. Dodge County Drug Court presently has two clients that go into local schools and out into the county and tell their story of addiction to students. Ms. Neve briefly discussed ways in which participants receive credit for community service hours. Mr. Kohl noted that they try to place participants in positions that utilize their individual skills, positions that the participants can gain a positive experience from and one that gives them a sense of accomplishment. Dodge County Drug Court has been approached by many other counties interested in organizing a Drug Court program. These counties have attended Dodge County staffing meetings and drug court hearings.

Ms. Neve noted that for participants that cannot work, they installed a work experience program so they can either gain or keep working if they have a short or long term disability. In Drug Court, they encourage and help their participants to obtain their high school diploma, GED or go to college. Four participants since the start of Drug Court have earned their GED's.

Drug Court Update -
Continued

Ms. Neve reported that they will be discussing Dodge County's "juvenile" Drug Court program at their team retreat on July 21st and will decide on policies and procedures at that time.

Commissioner Hanson wanted to know if things are looking up for the juveniles.

Ms. Neve reported that things are looking up but this is still a difficult group to reach.

As of June 19th Drug Court collected over \$6,202.50 in fees from their participants. Since starting the revenue recapture program, Drug Court has collected \$300.00 dollars from terminated clients.

The Drug Court Case Managers shared with the Board a Drug Court Fee Comparison graph from 2005 to 2006. The graph represented the fees collected from 2005 and fees taken in 2006. One difference is that they now charge \$25.00 more a quarter and have revenue recapture. Revenue recapture has generated \$300.00 dollars since March. The reason for Drug Court being so close to their goal is due to having their participants pay something each month instead of waiting until they move into another phase. Drug Court is hoping to hit the \$7,000 mark in fees collected by the end of August 2006.

Commissioner Erickson asked the Drug Court Case Managers to explain their affiliation with the Many Rivers Juvenile Detention Center.

Mr. Kohl reported that they utilize the center if the judge agrees to its use.

Commissioner Erickson clarified that the center is not used much by juveniles and that Many Rivers is not really a part of our Drug Court Program.

Commissioner Hanson wanted to know if the individuals that have graduated from Drug Court are still checked on.

Ms. Neve informed the Board that they have graduates that stop in to visit from time to time and noted that these former participants still come to the courthouse for probation and that the Probation Office does check up on these individuals.

Commissioner Erickson asked the Drug Court Case Managers for their opinion of the overall program.

Ms. Neve stated that Drug Court is busy and at times crazy with all the activity in the program.

Commissioner Hanson wanted to know if alcohol was the main concern in the Drug Court Program.

Mr. Kohl stated that methamphetamine is the main concern and noted that they will have the ability to conduct hair testing soon.

Drug Court Update - Continued

Commissioner Hanson questioned if Assistant County Attorney Gary ReMine conducted the initial screening for the Drug Court Program.

Ms. Neve confirmed that Mr. ReMine does the initial screening.

Commissioner Erickson was interested in knowing if the Drug Court Case Managers have noticed if attitudes have changed with their participants.

Mr. Kohl informed the Board that they deal with a lot of participants who are initially very angry and then see them work through their problems and become very pleasant to deal with.

Commissioner Gray stated that law enforcement has been a key participant in making this program work. The deputies get to know the Drug Court individuals and build a rapport with them.

The Board thanked Ms. Neve and Mr. Kohl for their work in the Drug Court program.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DAVID ERICKSON
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBHAN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: