ICC Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2016
Sauk County Board Room, West Square Bldg, Baraboo, WI

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Russell Kottke, Chairman, at 9:31 a.m.

Certification of Open Meeting Notices

The Secretary confirmed that the requirements of the WI Open Meeting Law were met.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion by Columbia County seconded by Green Lake County, to approve the agenda.
Motion approved.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Marquette County, seconded by Dodge County to approve the minutes from the Febnruary 15, 2016 meeting.

Reports from Visiting Legislative Officials -- none

Update on County Issues

Wisconsin Counties Association, Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf reported on several WCA legislative topics:

- Legislators have gone home. 'Cleanup' work is all that is being done in Madison at present.
- Shoreland Zoning: Counties want the new changes repealed; fully anticipate more discussion on this.
- Legislature is considering voting on a bill that will allow towns to opt-out of shared zoning control with counties. Dane County is offering to rewrite their zoning ordinance to avert this legislation. Counties will want to watch how this develops.
- Highway Safety: Would prohibit hand held devices in work zones.
- "Second Chance" bill to keep 17 year old nonviolent offenders in juvenile court system has a good chance of passage next year. Rationale: kids don't get services in the adult system; treatment as a juvenile doesn't burden them with a record for the rest of their lives. Tricky part: how to pay for it.
- ½ % Sales Tax for Transportation: Legislators seem split on this issue. SE WI lawmakers are reluctant to embrace so as not to appear raising taxes. Remainder of the state is more receptive. This bill will serve as a test case to allow taxes to be raised at a local level. Per the February WCA report, it is important to hear from counties. Some in legislature are viewing this as a tax increase and not an investment. All recognize we have a transportation problem.
- Attorney General wants all child welfare cases to be referred to law enforcement. He's not interested in compromise on the 'justice for children' package. This bill package will affect counties' abilities to work an alternative response to the problem. Watch for next session.
- Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia has forwarded ten bills – four have passed. Three of these have impact on counties. Governor hasn't signed the bills.
- Several bills on mental health reform have passed the assembly; none have passed in the senate.

Presentation: Community Activated Recovery Enhancement (CARE) program in Sauk Prairie and its expansion plan throughout Sauk County

- Morgan McArthur, Community Development Educator, UW-Extension, Sauk County Office
- Dan Brattset, Director, Sauk County Department of Human Services
- Jerry Strunz, Sauk Prairie Chief of Police

Abstract of presentation:

This session will spotlight the evolution of a novel collaborative response to the heroin problem by a concerned community. The Community Activated Recovery Enhancement (CARE) program had humble beginnings in Sauk Prairie (pop. ~7K) and in three years' time has drawn considerable interest – ranging from addicts in the area to the State Attorney General. The program is now being scaled-up and rolled out (Sauk) county-wide with the support of a 3-year/$3M Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant.
The objective of this ICC program is to show leaders that effective community action does not require a large federal grant. Participants will be encouraged to engage their situation with the three fundamental questions that launched the CARE program. (What is the challenge? Who are the stakeholders? Next steps?)

Director Brattset began the presentation with the question: "How many of you feel completely and utterly overwhelmed by heroin?" He went on to discuss how multiple entities in the Sauk Prairie area faced the choice of allowing the growing problem of opiate/heroin addiction to rage on or to do something. "We can't wait for someone else to get us movin'. We have to do something."

Brattset went on to detail that the Department of Human Services (DHS) had some infrastructure in place to counteract the wave of addiction but attempts at rehabilitation were thwarted by the power of addiction. The prospect of integrating Vivitrol®, a long-acting opiate-blocking injection, into a therapeutic regimen, would offer a better chance at success. Other entities in the Sauk Prairie area – notably the Sauk Prairie Police, the St. Vincent de Paul Good Neighbor Clinic (free), and Dr. John McAuliffe, medical director at Sauk Prairie Hospital, were investigating use of the drug in a recovery strategy.

Community stakeholders were identified – law enforcement, Sauk County jail, medical, education, business, mental health, St. Vincent de Paul, Ho-Chunk Nation – and brought together to discuss what they could do collaboratively to provide 'wrap-around' services to give addicted individuals a chance to 'get their lives back.' The focus of the early conversations was not about obstacles; rather, about what entities and individuals *could* to to work toward a common goal. There were about thirty people sitting around the table in the initial discussion. This was truly a community collaboration.

Healthcare professionals at Ho-Chunk Nation had been using Vivitrol® in addiction rehabilitation and they offered a treatment template to the CARE group. A pilot project was implemented at the Sauk County Jail for inmates who expressed voluntary interest in breaking their addictions. Treatment prospects have to have been off opiates for 7-10 days before the long-acting injection can be administered. Vivitrol® blocks opiate receptors in the brain, effectively eliminating the intense cravings of addiction for a thirty day period. This creates a window of opportunity to bring 'psychosocial intervention' to the addict without the desire to use lurking in the background.

Brattset noted that it is very important to have the conversations within the community about impacts of addiction and who is doing what in order that a collaboration can be initiated. The success of the Sauk Prairie collaboration attracted a $3M/3 year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAHMSA) grant to scale the pilot project into a county-wide effort. Collaborative committees are being formed in Baraboo, Reedsburg and Spring Green/Plain.

Brattset reinforced that communities do not need a big grant to get underway. Jefferson County leaders said that they have had informal conversations between key entities about the problem. "That is where it begins," said Director Brattset. "Invite those people and other stakeholders to come together like we did. Have the

conversation and get something going. It's a colossal problem when you look at it as a whole but taken one piece at a time it is more manageable."

One surprising area of resistance came from within the medical community. Physicians are reluctant to get involved with addiction medicine because of the potential negative impact in their practices. Addicts are notoriously unreliable and no-shows on the appointment docket are costly. Physicians are more inclined to 'come to the party' if they know that there is a support system in place that either reimburses them for no-shows (provided for in the SAHMSA grant), or there is some accountability counseling in the background for treatment prospects. Dr. McAuliffe has worked hard with Sauk County physicians to expand the pool of doctors who are willing to work with the afflicted and addicted.

Chief Strunz was one of the 'founding fathers' of CARE. Law Enforcement had been aware of a growing problem with prescription drugs in the Sauk Prairie area since 2008. At some point Chief Strunz became aware that he could not 'arrest his way out of this,' and there had to be a different approach. Strunz noted that his attitude toward addiction has changed and that some of his law enforcement peers will ask 'what has happened to you?!' He realizes that without comprehensive intervention that jail time will suspend, not break, the addiction cycle and that there is considerable cost to the community. He has come to recognize that many addicts are in pain and want to get out of their rut. He offers them cards that describe the CARE program and its contacts if they choose to change.

Strunz noted that there is still a place for law enforcement – especially for dealers who are preying on addicts and growing their business at the expense of lives destroyed and communities damaged. His passion, insights and leadership were valuable in the development of CARE and the implementation of the program at the grassroots level.

Sauk County Board Chair Marty Krueger talked about the genesis of the Drug Court in Sauk County in the rehabilitative scheme of things and noted both its popularity and its promise.

At the close of the presentation county leaders were encouraged to engage in conversation within their communities and leadership teams and to ask three fundamental questions – the same questions that led to the formation of CARE:

1. What are the **challenges**? An example could be the overprescribing of pain medications - >70% of opiate addictions have their beginnings in legitimate prescriptions.
2. Who are the **stakeholders**? In the Sauk Prairie community there were many entities who were operating in silos – with little knowledge of each others' efforts or information. Bringing them together for a sharing session was very interesting.
3. What are the **next steps**? Everyone at the table brought strengths – be they large or small. With a common goal the question was asked 'what can you do?' This not only brought the power of a collaboration to bear on the problem but it made it more manageable and the effort was sustainable.

Attached is a capture of the meeting by *Portage Daily Register* reporter Lyn Jerde Ljerde (22 March 16) and a flyer for an upcoming public education event "Stairway to Heroin" that will feature a compelling program by the Leybelt family of Hartland, WI. Theirs is a story of the drama and destructive effects that a heroin addiction can wreak on a family. This would be an excellent followup by anyone who was interested in the ICC program.

Other County Issues

April meeting in Marquette County

Adjournment

Motion by Jefferson County, seconded by Columbia County to adjourn at 11:38 a.m. Motion approved.

ICC Participants

Refer to sign-in sheet (attached).

Respectfully submitted by,

Morgan McArthur
Community Development Educator
Sauk County UW-Extension