



# Association of Minnesota Counties

## Public Safety Policy Committee

*Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria*

**September 16 – 17, 2021**

**AMC Fall Conference**

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Anderson, Cottonwood County  
Rick Anderson, Lyon County  
Ron Antony, Yellow Medicine County  
Joe Atkins, Dakota County  
Thomas Berry, Beltrami County  
Eliot Belgard, Martin County  
Marv Bodie, Carlton County  
Julie Braastad, Anoka County  
David De La Hunt, Hubbard County  
Tim Dolan, Sherburne County  
David Ebinger, Clay County  
Linda Flanders, Goodhue County  
Neal Gaalswyk, Cass County  
Jared Gapinski, Benton County  
Nan Haggerty, Pope County  
David Hamre, Renville County  
Brian Harguth, Waseca County

Bruce Lawrence, Pennington County  
Molly Malone, Murray County  
Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County  
Bill Miller, Watonwan County  
Sheldon Monson, Wadena County  
Kurt Mortenson, Otter Tail County  
Susan Morris, Isanti County  
Rollie Nissen, Kandiyohi County  
Larry Olson, Mahnommen County  
David Oslin, Mille Lacs County  
Joe Perske, Stearns County  
John Roper, Faribault County  
David Salberg, Traverse County  
Steve Schmitt, Meeker County  
Jack Swanson, Roseau County  
Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin County  
Donny Wohlers, Stevens County

#### GUESTS PRESENT:

Becky Bales Cramlet, Stearns County  
Grace Beil Call, Council of State Governments  
Marcus Bruning, ECN (DPS)  
Wanda Cannon, Hennepin County  
Midge Christianson, 6W Community  
Corrections/MACCAC  
Scott Hable, Renville County  
Melissa Huberty, Stearns County  
Sam Hansen, Brown County

Stephen Larson, Clay County  
Brad Mesenbrink, Cass County/MACPO  
Josh Milow, Blue Earth County  
Chris Pelzer, Todd County  
Stephanie Podulke, Olmsted County  
Paul Schnell, DOC  
Brett Skyles, Itasca County  
Carli Stark, AMC  
Patrick Waletzko, AMEM

#### I. Call to Order

Roseau County Commissioner and Committee Chair Jack Swanson called the Public Safety Policy Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. on September 16, 2021. Chair Swanson led the pledge of allegiance and introductions of members.

#### II. Approval of Minutes

Kandiyohi County Commissioner Rollie Nissen moved approval of the February 2021 meeting minutes. Meeker County Commissioner Steve Schmitt seconded and the motion carried.

**III. Supervision Systems in Minnesota Counties**

Grace Beil Call from the Council of State Governments gave an overview of the work that CSG has been doing in Minnesota to change the probation funding system and identify supervision standards for Minnesota. Though the effort started prior to the 2021 legislative session, it was put into law in the form of a working group tasked with providing a report by December 15, 2021. Committee members discussed their own supervision systems including what works, what doesn't work, and how they receive information related to the effectiveness of supervision practices within their own county.

**IV. AMC Jail Population Workgroup Update and Discussion**

Carli Stark provided a summary of the findings of the Jail Population Work Group. The issue that most negatively impacts jail population and justice involved individuals is lack of mental health and substance use disorder treatment and services. Other issues covered were jail staff training for mental health care, community corrections and the intersection with jail population, the bail system, collaboration and convening of jail stakeholders, and education of policymakers about jail construction and other population issues. Workgroup members Sheriff Scott Hable and Gina Evans provided some insight into the working group and policy committee members discussed challenges in their communities related to mental health treatment.

**V. Emergency Telecommunications Funding Overview**

Meeker County Commissioner Steve Schmitt and Marcus Bruning from Emergency Communications Network provided an overview of emergency telecommunications funding, focusing specifically on the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response system. The need for updated equipment has become critical as many radios throughout the state are outdated and in need of replacement. The cost could be up to \$120 million, which could fall on counties if the legislature does not find alternate means of funding.

**VI. Agency and Partner Legislative Priorities**

Representatives from the Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety – Emergency Communications Network, Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties, Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers, and the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers provided updates on their legislative priorities for 2022.

**VII. Adjourn Day One**

The committee recessed at 4:00 p.m. on September 16, 2021.

**VIII. Call to Order Day Two**

Chair Jack Swanson called the Public Safety Policy Committee to order at 9:20 a.m. on September 17, 2021 and led the pledge of allegiance.

**IX. AMC Legislative Policy Development Process**

Carli Stark outlined the process for developing AMC's legislative priorities and amending the platform.

**X. Commissioner Presentations – Policy and Platform Issues for 2022**

Clay County Commissioner David Ebinger presented on the 2020 statute change relating to the use of deadly force by law enforcement. The change has caused issues within law enforcement, particularly

with mutual aid from neighboring states. The committee discussed the issue and would like to continue the discussion after a court challenge of the new provision is decided.

Martin County Commissioner Eliot Belgard presented on bonding support for county public safety projects. The current legislative leaders for Capital Investment have a policy of not funding jail projects. However, city public safety projects, including law enforcement centers, are often funding through state bonding. Martin County proposed an idea to change the AMC platform to advocate for equitable bonding opportunities for county public safety projects. The committee members were supportive of the request and will discuss an amendment proposal in December.

Olmsted County Commissioner Greg Wright presented on civil service commissions for county sheriffs. Currently, civil service commissions participate in hiring for the sheriff's office and members are appointed by the county board. Commissioner Wright asked the committee to discuss a proposal to increase community membership on the commissions and also to add policy review and recommendations to the list of duties. Committee members had concerns and wanted more information on how civil service commissions are currently utilized throughout the state

**XI. 2022 Public Safety Legislative Priorities**

Carli Stark provided an overview of the 2021 policy priorities and the guidelines for priority setting. After discussion, Lyon County Commissioner Rick Anderson moved that the committee forward the following priorities:

- AMC supports creating a stable source of revenue to replace declining fine revenue for Regional EMS Boards.
- AMC supports changes to the community supervision funding model so that state fund allocations are transparent, needs-based, and equitable amongst county and state supervision providers. Counties need a substantial increase in community supervision funding to achieve this model.
- AMC supports sustainable ongoing funding for ARMER maintenance and subscriber equipment.
- AMC supports increases in resources for mental health treatment and prevention for justice involved individuals, including those incarcerated in county jails.
- AMC supports statutory changes that enable sharing of private and confidential data (with appropriate safeguards) between corrections departments, court systems, health and human services agencies, behavioral health and medical providers, law enforcement agencies, and other entities involved with cross-sector collaborative services.

Wadena County Commissioner Sheldon Monson seconded and the motion carried.

**XII. Adjourn**

Public Safety Policy Committee Chair Jack Swanson adjourned the meeting at 11:14 A.M.