



Association of Minnesota Counties

Public Safety Policy Committee

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

November 16, 2020

AMC Annual Conference

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Anderson, Cottonwood County
Ron Antony, Yellow Medicine County
Eliot Belgard, Martin County
Marv Bodie, Carlton County
David De La Hunt, Hubbard County
Neal Gaalswyk, Cass County
Nan Haggerty, Pope County
Steven Heinen, Benton County
Christine Husom, Wright County
Jeffrey Jelinski, Morrison County
James Jens, Murray County
Wayne Johnson, Washington County
Denny Kemp, Nicollet County
Bruce Lawrence, Pennington County
Mitch Lentz, Fillmore County
Matt Ludwig, Pine County
John Maatz, Lac qui Parle County
Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County

Chris Meyer, Winona County
Bill Miller, Watonwan County
Dave Mills, Cook County
Sheldon Monson, Wadena County
Rollie Nissen, Kandiyohi County
Larry Olson, Mahnomen County
Joe Perske, Stearns County
Will Purvis, Blue Earth County
John Roper, Faribault County
David Salberg, Traverse County
Steve Schmitt, Meeker County
Jack Swanson, Roseau County
Patrick Waletzko, Otter Tail County
Teresa Walter, Houston County
Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin County
Scott Windschitl, Brown County

GUESTS PRESENT:

Midge Christianson, 6W Community
Corrections
Melissa Finnegan, Ramsey County
Phill Greer, ARC Community Corrections

Sheriff Scott Hable, Renville County
Matt Hilgart, AMC Staff
Jim Schneider, Cass County
Carli Stark, AMC Staff

I. Call to Order - Joint HHS/Public Safety

Health and Human Services Chair Rodney Peterson called the joint meeting of the Health and Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committees to order at 1:00 PM.

II. Parent Representation for Child Protection Cases

Joanna Wollman from the Mitchell Hamline Institute for Transforming Child Protection gave a presentation on the Institute's legislative efforts to provide state mandated attorneys to parents in child protection cases. Committee members asked questions related to funding and implementation of the legislation.

III. Community Competency Restoration Taskforce Update

Stearns County Commissioner Tarryl Clark provided an overview of the work of the statewide taskforce convened to evaluate community competency restoration needs in Minnesota. Over the last year, the taskforce has examined trends of competency referrals by county, local efforts to address the growing number of individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial, and what other states have done to address these issues. Platform changes related to their effort were reviewed during the Health and Human Services Committee following the joint meeting. For final disposition as to the platform, please refer to the Health and Human Services Policy Committee Minutes from November 16, 2020.

IV. Call to Order - Public Safety Committee

Chair and Roseau County Commissioner Jack Swanson called the Public Safety Policy Committee to order at 2:05 PM. Members said the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Approval of Minutes

Ramsey County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire moved approval of the September 2020 meeting minutes. Nicollet County Commissioner Denny Kemp seconded, and the motion carried.

VI. Platform Amendment Review

AMC Public Safety Policy Analyst Carli Stark reviewed the platform change process and explained modifications for voting due to the virtual nature of the meeting.

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire presented an amendment proposal to add a provision to the platform related to cross-system collaboration in the provision of public safety services. Commissioner McGuire moved the following amendment:

- AMC supports increased resources for development of programs, partnerships, monitoring and data collection systems, and other initiatives that build cross-system collaborations between law enforcement, social services, corrections, and other departments to provide mental health and substance use interventions and services that reduce negative contact with the criminal justice system.

Commissioner Denny Kemp seconded, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire presented an amendment proposal to support changes to the bail system that balance equity and public safety. After discussion by the committee, the author withdrew the amendment and asked that the topic be placed on a future agenda for more discussion and information. Committee members supported learning more about changes to the bail system.

Carli Stark presented a staff recommendation related to the Committee's vote of support for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative by the Council of State Governments. Yellow Medicine County Commissioner Ron Antony moved the following subsection and language addition to the platform:

- **Public Safety Systems Change**
AMC supports initiatives that provide neutral, data-based evaluation of Minnesota's public safety system and provide policy recommendations that increase the return on investment in the public safety sector.

Cass County Commissioner Neal Gaalswyk seconded, and the motion carried.

Carli Stark presented a second staff recommendation to fix a grammatical error. Commissioner Denny Kemp moved the following amendment:

- AMC supports movement to a single, needs-based state-funding stream for corrections. In the absence of a single probation funding stream, AMC supports significant increases to the Community Corrections Act Subsidy and County Probation Officer Reimbursement, in order to maintain core probation services and move toward restoring the 50/50 state/county partnership.

Morrison County Commissioner Jeffrey Jelinski seconded, and the motion carried.

Otter Tail County Emergency Manager and Committee Delegate Patrick Waletzko presented an amendment proposal related to emergency management funding. Commissioner Jeff Jelinski moved the following amendment:

- AMC supports disaster assistance initiatives that aid local governments that recognize the limits on local fiscal resources; including emergency management readiness grants for local planning and preparedness

Commissioner Denny Kemp seconded, and the motion carried.

VII. Adjourn

Commissioner Denny Kemp moved to adjourn the Public Safety Policy Committee. Martin County Commissioner Eliot Belgard seconded, and the motion carried. Chair Jack Swanson adjourned the meeting at 3:11 PM.