



Association of Minnesota Counties

Public Safety Policy Committee

Virtual Meeting

September 14, 17, 18, 2020

AMC Fall Policy Conference

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Anderson, Cottonwood County
Joe Atkins, Dakota County
Ron Antony, Yellow Medicine County
Marv Bodie, Carlton County
Neal Gaalswyk, Cass County
Nan Haggerty, Pope County
Christine Husom, Wright County
Jeffrey J. Jelinski, Morrison 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
Rollie Nissen, Kandiyohi County
Larry Olson, Mahnommen County
Will Purvis, Blue Earth County
John Roper, Faribault County
David Salberg, Traverse County
Rick Schmidt, Renville County
Brian Smith, Kanabec County
Jack Swanson, Roseau County
Patrick Waletzko, Otter Tail County
Peter Walsh, Lake County
Teresa Walter, Houston County
Dwight Walvantne, Grant County
Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin County
Donny Wohlers, Stevens County

GUESTS PRESENT:

Matt Hilgart, AMC Staff
Kalyn Bassett, Dakota County
Jennifer Berquam, Olmsted County
Grace Call, Council of State Govs.
Wanda Cannon, Hennepin County
Becky Bales Cramlet, Stearns County
Midge Christianson, 6W Community
Corrections/MACCAC Rep.
Cassie Fitzgerald, Ramsey County
Phill Greer, ARC Community Corrections
Sam Hansen, Brown County
Bruce Heitkamp, Nobles County

Nicole Kern, Morrison County
Andrew Larson, Tri-County Community Corrections
Tami Jo Lieberg, Kandiyohi County
Angela Lockhart, Dakota County
Jesse Mettner, W. St. Paul Police
Kareem Murphy, Hennepin County
Jennifer O'Rourke, Ramsey County
Michelle Rodriguez, Council of State Govs.
Emily Rogers, Council of State Govs.
Jim Schneider, Cass County
Emily Shug, Dakota County
Carli Stark, AMC Staff

I. Call to Order - September 14, 2020

Public Safety Policy Committee Chair Jack Swanson called the Public Safety Policy Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed members. Members said the pledge of allegiance. Carli Stark reviewed Zoom basics and logistics.

II. Approval of Minutes

Nicollet County Commissioner Denny Kemp made a motion to approve the February 2020 meeting minutes, second by Ramsey County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire. Motion carried.

III. Dakota County Coordinated Response: Strengthening Public Service Through Partnership

Carli Stark introduced Kalyn Bassett, Angela Lockhart, and Emily Shug from Dakota County, and Jesse Mettner from the West St. Paul Police Department. The cities of South St. Paul and West St. Paul worked with Dakota County to implement a model of coordinated response that addresses increasing police calls involving mental health crises. The team members provided an update on activities, learnings, and future plans for expansion and evaluation of the Law Enforcement-Social Services Coordinated Response Pilot program.

IV. Council of State Governments – Justice Reinvestment Initiative

At the Legislative Conference, the Public Safety Policy Committee voted to recommend that AMC support the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Carli Stark introduced Michelle Rodriguez and Grace Call from the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center to provide an overview of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and an update on the efforts to bring JRI into Minnesota. JRI would collect and analyze criminal justice and behavioral health data and use that information to shift spending away from ineffective policies and practices and reinvest in cost-effective strategies that increase public safety.

V. Adjourn Day 1

Public Safety Policy Committee Chair Jack Swanson adjourned the meeting for the day at 2:50 p.m.

VI. Call to Order – September 17, 2020

Public Safety Policy Committee Chair Jack Swanson called the Public Safety Policy Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. Members said the pledge of allegiance.

VII. Public Safety Platform and Policy Discussions

Members reviewed the 2020 AMC platform as it relates to the Public Safety Committee and were placed into breakout groups to discuss the following three questions:

1. What is the biggest priority for your county this year as it relates to the Public Safety Committee?
2. Considering the sizable budget deficit facing the Legislature for the foreseeable future, how does the Public Safety Committee need to adjust its platform or priorities to respond appropriately during this fiscal environment?
3. What platform items or language are no longer relevant to the Public Safety Committee?

After small group discussion, a spokesperson from each breakout group reported back to the committee with the group's summarized findings.

VIII. Commissioner Ideas Exchange and Platform Amendment Discussion

Committee members discussed potential platform additions and amendments. Topics of discussion included increased penalties for sex trafficking, justice reinvestment, supporting data collection to drive change, increased access to mental health services, coordinated response efforts, jail population, and alternatives to incarceration.

IX. 2021 Priority Setting

Carli Stark provided an overview of the AMC platform and policy setting process. The Committee discussed priorities for the 2021 legislative session.

X. Adjourn Day 2

Public Safety Policy Committee Chair Jack Swanson adjourned the meeting for the day at 3:09 p.m.

XI. Call to Order – September 18, 2020

Public Safety Policy Committee Chair Jack Swanson called the Public Safety Policy Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. Members said the pledge of allegiance.

XII. Continued Discussion on Priority Setting

The Committee continued its discussion on 2021 legislative priorities. Cass County Commissioner Neal Gaalswyk moved that the committee forward the following priorities:

1. *AMC supports creating a stable source of revenue to replace declining fine revenue for Regional EMS Boards.*
2. *AMC supports stable, ongoing state appropriations for the 911 system, including continuation of the 95-cent emergency telecommunications service fee.*
3. *Community supervision funding should be allocated using a transparent model that ensures counties and the state are funded equitably and based on needs. AMC supports Community Corrections Act Subsidy and County Probation Officer Reimbursement funding increases in order to maintain core probation services and move toward restoring the 50/50 state/county partnership.*

Blue Earth County Commissioner Will Purvis seconded the motion. Members voted using the poll function on zoom. With a majority of members present voting in the affirmative, the motion carried.

XIII. Adjourn Day 3

Nicollet County Commissioner Denny Kemp made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Kandiyohi County Commissioner Rollie Nissen. Motion carried. The Public Safety Policy Committee adjourned at 2:00 PM.