



Association of Minnesota Counties

Public Safety Policy Committee

Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria, MN

September 15-16, 2022

AMC Fall Policy Conference

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Anderson, Cottonwood County
Ron Antony, Yellow Medicine County
Eliot Belgard, Martin County
Marv Bodie, Carlton County
David J. De La Hunt, Hubbard County
David Ebinger, Clay County
Neal Gaalswyk, Cass County
Rick Gnemi, Steele County
Nan Haggerty, Pope County
Mary Hamann-Roland, Dakota County
David Hamre, Renville County
Ted Herman, Freeborn County
Wayne Johnson, Washington County
Bruce Lawrence, Pennington County
Mitch Lentz, Fillmore County
Molly Malone, Murray County
Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County

Charlie Meyer, Douglas County
Sheldon Monson, Wadena County
Susan Morris, Isanti County
Kurt Mortenson, Otter Tail County
Rollie Nissen, Kandiyohi County
Larry Olson, Mahnomen
John Roper, Faribault County
Dallas Roskamp, Pipestone County
David Salberg, Traverse County
Steve Schmitt, Meeker County
Donald S. Springer, Wabasha County
Jack Swanson, Roseau County
Stacy Tufto, Lac qui Parle County
Dwight Walvatne, Grant County
Laurie A. Westerlund, Aitkin County
Donny Wohlers, Stevens County

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mark Bliven, MCA
Wanda Cannon, Hennepin County
Midge Christianson, MACCAC
Becky Bales Cramlet, Stearns County
Terry Fawcett, Pine County
Bruce Heitkamp, Nobles County
Tami Jo Lieberg, Kandiyohi County
Margaret Munson, MACPO
Chris Pelzer, Todd County

LaTonya Reeves, MCA
Michael Schommer, MACPO
Jane Schmid, MCA
Paul Schnell, DOC
Sandi Stroud, ECN
Patrick Waletzko, AMEM
Pete Walsh, Lake County
Kent Wilkening, ECN

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Roseau County Commissioner Jack Swanson called the Public Safety Policy Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed members. Members said the pledge of allegiance.

II. Approval of Minutes

Ramsey County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire made a motion to approve the February 2022 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Isanti County Commissioner Susan Morris. Motion carried.

III. Next Generation 9-1-1 Implementation Planning

Sandi Stroud and Kent Wilkening from the Emergency Communication Networks division of the Department of Public Safety presented on current emergency communications efforts in Minnesota. Specifically, ECN discussed an effort to foster and bolster relationships with stakeholders and the importance of collaboration as it relates to 9-8-8 implementation, M.S. Chapter 403 changes, and Next Generation 9-1-1 Implementation. As Minnesota moves forward with the implementation of NG 9-1-1, grants to local public safety partners will become available.

IV. Minnesota County IT Leadership Association Update

Susan Vreeland, Chair of the Minnesota County IT Leadership Association (MNCITLA), and Nathan Zacharias, MNCITLA Executive Director and AMC Policy Analyst, gave a summary of the initiatives of focus for the association. MNCITLA is also focusing on NG 9-1-1 implementation and echoed some of the statements from ECN.

V. Why Should Juvenile Justice Matter to Counties?

Nicole Kern, Director of Morrison County Community Corrections, presented on the ways juvenile justice impacts communities and interacts with the services of county governments. The Committee discussed the intersection of community corrections, human services, and treatment providers in addressing the needs of juveniles. Many Committee members mentioned issues with lack of both treatment and detention beds for juveniles and how to focus on diversion to ensure juveniles receive services prior to entering the justice system.

VI. Adjourn Day One

Chair Swanson recessed the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

VII. Call to Order Day Two

Chair Jack Swanson called the Public Safety Policy Committee to order at 8:34 a.m. on September 16, 2022 and led the pledge of allegiance.

VIII. Affiliate and Stakeholder Presentations

Representatives from the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties, Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers, Department of Corrections, Minnesota Corrections Association, and the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers provided updates on their legislative priorities for 2023.

IX. AMC Legislative Policy Setting Process

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

X. Commissioner Ideas Exchange and Platform Amendment Discussion

Ramsey County Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo presented on governance changes for the Statewide Emergency Communications Board that are being proposed by Emergency Communication Networks. She stressed the importance our emergency communications and interoperability, as well as the role

counties play implementing the technology and providing emergency services. Active county participation in statute and rule changes is important for Minnesota.

Lake County Commissioner Pete Walsh presented on volunteer firefighter benefits and the need for more incentives for firefighters and EMS to continue their work or to join the field. Ideas discussed included tax credits, additional funding, and other recruitment efforts. The committee members were supportive of the idea and would like to learn more about it.

XI. 2022 Public Safety Legislative Priorities

Carli Stark provided an overview of the 2022 policy priorities and the guidelines for priority setting. Committee members discussed issues related to juvenile placements and mental health services and had a robust discussion about the lack of focus on juvenile diversion. The Committee would like to learn how to be more involved in diversion efforts during future meetings.

After discussion, Dakota County Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland moved that the committee forward the following priorities:

- AMC supports changes to the community supervision funding model so that state fund allocations are transparent, needs-based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers. Counties need a substantial increase in community supervision funding to achieve this model.
- AMC supports sustainable, ongoing state funding to update and maintain Minnesota's emergency response systems including Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER), Next Generation 9-1-1, Public Alert System (IPAWS), and others that are necessary to promote interoperability of emergency response communications.
- AMC supports increases in resources for mental health treatment for justice involved individuals, including those incarcerated in county jails, and increased secure and nonsecure therapeutic placement options tailored to the needs of juveniles.
- AMC supports creating a stable source of ongoing revenue to replace and/or supplement declining fine revenue for Regional EMS Boards.

Clay County Commissioner David Ebinger seconded and the motion carried.

XII. Announcements and Reminders

Carli Stark provided the following information:

- Elections for Chair and Vice Chair of the Public Safety Policy Committee will be held in December. The Chair is also a member of the AMC Board of Directors and would be required to attend the monthly board meetings in addition to the three Policy Committee meetings.
- Platform amendments are due November 4, 2022. A link to the amendment submission form will be sent via e-mail with the draft minutes.

XIII. Adjourn

Public Safety Policy Committee Chair Jack Swanson adjourned the meeting at 11:19 A.M.