

**Intercounty Coordinating Committee (ICC)**  
**November 20, 2006**  
**Sauk County Law Enforcement Center**

**Attendance:**

Jenny Erickson, Sauk County UW Extension; Judy Ashford, Sauk County; Marty Krueger, Sauk County; Kathy Schauf, Sauk County; Katie Crowley, Senator Feingold's Office; Dan Priske, Green Lake County; Orrin Helmer, Green Lake County; Dave Neuendorf, Dodge County UW Extension; Russell Kotthe, Dodge County; Sarah Diedrick -Kasdorf, WCA; John H. Tramburg, Columbia County; Susan Martin, Columbia County; Representative J.A. Hines; Steve Nass, Jefferson County; Debra Wopat, Columbia County; Kathleen Haas, Columbia County UWEX; Jeff Hoffman, Green Lake County UW Extension; Ray Seaholm, Dodge County; Steve Deller, UWEX; Mark Podoll, Green Lake

**1. Introductory Business**

Call to Order – Chair Steve Nass called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. Certification of Open Meeting Notice**

The Secretary confirmed that the requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law were met.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion by Dodge, second by Green Lake County to approve the agenda. Approved.

**4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Columbia County, second by Sauk County to approve the minutes of the October 2006 meeting of the Intercounty Coordinating Committee. Approved.

**5. Brief Icebreaker**

All in attendance gave a brief introduction.

**6. Reports from Visiting Legislative Officials**

- Katie Crowley from Senator Feingold's Office
  - Interested in criminal issues.
- Representative J.A. Hines
  - Republican caucus is in the process of determining committee assignments
  - Working with Senator Breske to draft a constitutional amendment that would prohibit raiding segregated funds.
  - Commented on positive impact of the new boater education program.
  - In the process of drafting a bill to punish those who falsely accuse others of a crime.
  - Expects campaign finance reform will be a priority issue.

## **7. Report on Legislative Issues Affecting Counties**

- Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, WCA
  - WCA is focused on the state budget that will be presented in February. Although the deadline for a budget request from each state department was September 15<sup>th</sup>, WCA expects additional initiatives will come forward.
  - WCA will be working for additional revenue to expand family care and the courts.
  - WCA will adopt their legislative agenda in December and they will conduct regional legislative meetings throughout the state.
  - Four counties passed petitions to reduce the size of their County Boards. (Polk 36 to 18, Price 21 to 13, Waushara 21 to 11, and Wood 38 to 19) Douglas and Winnebago also reduced their County Boards from 28 to 7 and from 38 to 36 respectively.

## **7. Open Discussion of County Issues**

- None

## **8. PROGRAM: “Criminal Justice: Trends and Alternatives to Incarceration, Steve Deller, UW-Extension Community Development Economist”**

- Declining total crime rate (violent and property) reported to law enforcement since about 1990 in Wisconsin and the US. The urban crime rate has been declining while the rural crime rate has stayed consistent.
- Incarceration rate for black men has skyrocketed since 1980 perhaps due to the “War on Drugs”.
- The two major causes of crime are housing stress and areas that are considered retirement destinations. Low employment and persistent poverty appear to be lesser causes.
- Poverty is a poor predictor of crime
- Economic and social instability tends to lead to more crime
- Higher levels of economic inequality tend to be associated with higher levels of crime.
- Programs that target kids struggling in school, first offender programs and intensive supervision are possible strategies to prevent crime.
- The WCA will be hosting a program on Alternatives to Incarceration on December 4, 2006.

## **9. Other Issues:** None.

## **10. Next Meeting:** December 18, 2006 in Dodge County

## **11. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn and tour the Sauk County Law Enforcement Center by Green Lake, seconded by Dodge. The ICC meeting was adjourned by Chair Nass at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Erickson  
Community Development Educator  
UW-Extension, Sauk County