

	Minutes - Unapproved Criminal Justice Collaboration Council Thursday, May 1, 2025 – 5:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting Link: https://wicourts.zoom.us/j/89724521439?pwd=bRF2QMFjOZLJEfbnyKVcHytfeGPM4F.1 Meeting ID: 897 2452 1439 Passcode: 878829 Audio Phone No.: 1-312-626-6799 Iowa County Courthouse – 2nd Floor Loft Room 222 North Iowa Street Dodgeville, Wisconsin	Iowa County Wisconsin
1	Call to order. Meeting called to order by Matt Allen at 5:00 p.m.	
2	Roll call. Members present: Matt Allen, Zach Leigh, Jennifer King, Bruce Paull, Julia Oellerich Mike Peterson, Ryan Bohnsack, Jeff Erickson Members not present: Holly Knapp, Curt Johnson Others present: Mel Masters	
3	Approve agenda for May 1, 2025. King moved to approve, seconded by Erickson. Approved unanimously.	
4	Approve minutes from CJCC meeting held January 16, 2025. Paull moved to approve, seconded by King. Approved unanimously.	
5	Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee. No action will be taken. The Iowa County Sheriff's Office received a \$10,000 grant, with \$5,000 dedicated to placing drug takeback boxes in Arena, Avoca, Barneveld, Ridgeway, and Mineral Point, and \$5,000 dedicated to sending individuals to attend an upcoming opioid conference.	
6	CJCC membership update. The appointments of Erickson, Bohnsack, King, and Oellerich to the CJCC were approved by the County Board.	
7	Update on sex trafficking and municipal responses. Sheriff Peterson is exploring the possibility of an ordinance with Corporation Counsel, possibly via amendment of the existing nuisance ordinance. They also are checking the legalities on the funding of programming through the ordinance. 21 other counties are working on a possible ordinance, which the City of Manitowoc has found to be financially beneficial. A handout authored by Michael Shivley, Advisor to the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, was provided at the meeting (copy attached).	
8	Iowa County Drug Treatment Court. - Current court progress update: five current participants (two in Phase 1, two in Phase 4, and one in Phase 5; an additional participant is slated to start upon completion of a jail sentence). DA Leigh is exploring options to expand the treatment court coordinator position to 30 hours/week, possibly with increased TAD funding. Discussed aftercare and the need for prosocial activities for participants/graduates (e.g. Chamber Connect Meetings) and the benefit of having ambassadors to invite and welcome participants to these types of events. - 2025 WATCP Seminar recap: changes to the phasing process are being recommended in updated treatment court standards, with progress through the first three phases focused on achieving participant stability. - Treatment court name change: proposed name change to Recovery Court to recognize core goal of treatment court proceedings.	

9	Set date and time for next meeting. August 28, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. November 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.
10	Adjournment. Paull moved to approve, seconded by Erickson. Approved unanimously.

Posted by County Clerk's Office on 8/27/2025, Barbara Weinbrenner

Memorandum

To: Michael Spevacek, Madison, WI
From: Michael Shively, Advisor to National Center on Sexual Exploitation
Date: March 31, 2025
Re: Local prostitution ordinance penalties in Wisconsin

The harms of prostitution and sex trafficking are severe, prevalent, and well-documented. The broader question underlying your request for information is whether it will be productive to create local ordinances that will allow for substantial fines for those apprehended for purchasing sex. You suggested imposing a local fine of up to \$2,000 (WI state law allows for fines/forfeitures of up to \$10,000).

My response is: ***Yes, there absolutely are benefits, and there is precedent in Wisconsin for municipal and county ordinances allowing fines of up to \$5,000, with some also allowing for the recovery or the costs of prosecution and other court costs.*** Later, I provide a bit more detail and links to ordinances, but this table summarizes the key elements:

Wisconsin City or County	Maximum Fine \$	Plus Court Costs
Brookfield	2,000	
Chilton	5,000	X
Kenosha County	2,000	
Manitowoc	5,000	
Milwaukee	5,000	X
Racine	1,000	
Schofield	5,000	
St. Croix County	5,000	X
Stevens Point	1,500	X

There are advantages to citing for municipal ordinances those apprehended for buying sex, as opposed to charging them for state misdemeanor violations.

Using municipal or county courts, city attorney's offices rather than the state criminal court system, allows for more control over both incoming and outgoing resources related to fighting prostitution and sex trafficking, which in turn can support better coordinated and more consistent local responses.

By using local ordinances, communities that expend the resources to investigate and run stings that generate prostitution arrests can maintain control of the revenue generated by the fines paid by sex buyers. When charging with state penal code violations, the same expenditure of resources is needed to make arrests, but the fine revenue usually flows into the state systems and distributed widely.

When kept local, the money gathered from sex buyers can be used to support local efforts such as underwriting more stings and investigations, supporting survivor programs as a type of restorative justice, and can be used for “john school” programs that can reduce sex buyer recidivism.

The advantages of raising penalties for purchase of sex a felony include the following:

- **Increased sanctions create a more salient and therefore effective deterrent** for potential sex buyers. There is strong evidence that “customers” of prostitution can be deterred by the threat of substantial sanctions, and raising fines increases the severity of sanction.
- **Felonies can trigger consequences for employment**, including mandatory disclosure by job applicants (and resulting disqualification from hiring), and being grounds for automatic termination stated in employee conduct codes. Conversely, misdemeanors need not be disclosed, nor necessarily lead to job loss.
- **The more severe financial penalty can be harder to hide** from spouses and other partners, adding a layer of “social sanctions” or “extra-legal deterrence.” Conversely, small financial penalties are more easily cleared without the need for unusual bank withdrawals, etc.
- **Steeper penalties for sex buyers allow for greater leverage that may be applied for pro-social purposes.** For example,
 - Those facing large fines may be more motivated to **assist investigators and prosecutors in making arrests and gaining convictions of human traffickers** and violent pimps. Sex buyers are an often-underutilized source of intel and evidence about the crimes of sex traffickers, and can be central to “**victimless prosecutions**,” relieving survivors of the tremendous risks and burdens they often bear in making a strong case.
 - Those facing substantial sanctions may be more motivated to **participate in education or treatment programs that reduce recidivism**, and such programs can be required rather than voluntary.
- Increased fine revenue can **better offsets the costs of making arrests of sex buyers**, which most often occur from conducting stings or investigations whose resource requirements are more typical of pursuing felonies.

For raising fines to be meaningful, there must be a commitment on the part of police to arrest sex buyers, and for local courts to follow through on those cases. The proven model for most effectively combating sex trafficking and prostitution features the following, and elevating the penalties for purchasing sex can only add to its effectiveness:

- **Arresting, sanctioning, and treating/educating sex buyers**, who provide the revenue stream for all sex trafficking.
- **Arresting and sanctioning traffickers and pimps**, who are motivated by consumer demand to acquire and exploit victims for commercial gain.
- **Providing safety and recovery support for those exploited** as the commodity in the sex trade.

Opposing consumer-level demand is essential, and the key to preventing harm and reducing the scope of the sex trade, rather than simply reacting and attempting to cope with the damage. Fortunately,

there is hard evidence that *this approach can reduce sex trade activity and sex buyer recidivism rates* by 40% – 80% using methods that are feasible to implement and sustainable, and have been implemented in more than 3,750 U.S. cities and counties.

Wisconsin is well-positioned to successfully implement laws that shift the focus of law enforcement squarely on those most responsible for sexual exploitation and trafficking. For a recent federal grant, we studied the responses to the sex trade throughout the U.S., and you can access descriptions of documented local efforts to combat the consumer demand for prostitution in 80 *cities and counties within Wisconsin* (www.demand-forum.org). Since NCOSE stopped updating Demand Forum after April 30, 2023, an additional 36 Wisconsin cities and counties have been identified as arresting and sanctioning sex buyers. These 116 jurisdictions contain the majority of the state's populations, and some have arrested and punished sex buyers, pimps, and traffickers for more than 30 years. The state contains the skills and resources necessary to implement laws against buying sex, and to impose sanctions with proportional severity.

Examples of Penalties for Local Ordinance Violations in Wisconsin

Brookfield, WI A fine of up to **\$2,000** for prostitution offenses.

- <https://ecode360.com/34170085#34170149>
- <https://www.codepublishing.com/WI/Brookfield/html/Brookfield09/Brookfield0908.html>
- <https://www.ci.brookfield.wi.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/2550?fileID=48301>
- <https://www.codepublishing.com/WI/Brookfield/html/Brookfield01/Brookfield0112.html>

Chilton, WI Fined not less than **\$500.00**, nor more than **\$5,000.00**, together with the costs of prosecution.

- https://library.municode.com/wi/chilton/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=SPACOGGEOR_CH20OF_ARTVISEMO_DIV4SEOFRERE

Kenosha County, WI For “patronizing prostitutes” a forfeiture not less than **\$100** and not to exceed **\$2,000**.

- [Kenosha County Prostitution Ordinance](#)

Manitowoc, WI Shall forfeit not less than **\$500.00** nor more than **\$5,000**

- <https://www.codepublishing.com/WI/Manitowoc/html/Manitowoc14/Manitowoc14240.html>

Milwaukee, WI Fined not less than **\$500** nor more than **\$5,000**, together with the costs of prosecution,

- <https://city.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/ccClerk/Ordinances/Volume-1/CH106.pdf>

Racine, WI A fine of up to **\$1,000** for prostitution offenses.

- https://library.municode.com/wi/racine/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIMUCO_CH66OF_ARTXIIPR
- https://library.municode.com/wi/racine/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIMUCO_CH1GEPR_S1-15PEVICO

Schofield, WI A forfeiture of not less than **\$2,000.00** and not more than **\$5,000.00**

- https://library.municode.com/wi/schofield/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH37OF_ARTVIIIIPR

St. Croix County, WI A forfeiture of not more than **\$500 plus costs of prosecution and penalty assessment.**

- <https://www.sccwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1141/Chapter-60-PDF?bidId=>

Shawano County, WI A forfeiture of not less than **\$200** for a first offense. For a second offense within 12 months after the act of a prior violation, shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than **\$500**. Any violation shall also require the payment of **court costs** and **costs of prosecution.**

- <https://coshawanowi.civicweb.net/document/60707/>

Stevens Point, WI A fine of **\$1,500 plus court costs.**

- <https://stevenspoint.com/DocumentCenter/View/110/Chapter-2427---Schedule-of-Cash-Deposits?bidId=>
- <https://spmetrowire.com/city-will-consider-adding-prostitution-to-ordinances/> (2018)