

2021 LWVLA Observer Corps Report Form

Thank you for participating as a member of the Observer Corps for the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area. Our goal is to educate LWVLA members on local government activities with the potential to refer topics for further study and advocacy.

Your Name: Sally King

Name of Governmental Body (City/County/Town) Board or Committee: CJMC

Time and Date of Meeting: 4/20/22

Members of the Governmental Body (If available, note attendance.):

Link to the public posting of meeting information: <https://www.lacrossecounty.org/Minutes%20and%20Agendas/Attachments/2022/Standing/Apr/CJMC042022A.pdf>

Meeting Purpose and Content

Please provide a brief statement of the meeting's purpose and a concise overview of its content in the form of a bulleted list:

Committee continues to review status of mental health services in La Crosse County.

Presentation by Jerri Hertel and Jenna Theler, both members of the CJMC.

They are "probation and parole agents", not social workers

Presentation titled "Mental Health Response from DOC Perspective"

8 regions in state-our region is 14 counties divided into 4 units with specialties like sex offender unit.

All people incarcerated and before they are released have a mental health eval and rated. This rating and multiple future ratings are kept in a database for use by staff. The rating determines who their agent will be, where they are placed, and what types of services and support will be given.

Certain mental health ratings qualify someone being released from prison for the "OARS" program(Opening Avenues to Reentry Success)-access to help with housing, meds, etc. BUT VOLUNTARY

Pointed out that most OARS participants are white people. Why?

Also a program for those not in prison called "OARS-2"

What are the gaps in services? ability to get involuntary commitments, big need for local providers, inflexible rules in treatment programs

Both women worked elsewhere in the system and say La Crosse is far above other areas in awareness and services. But we have no residential treatment options.

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Program if someone has probation/parole revoked called "Wisconsin Resource Center"-it is part of Winnebago in Oshkosh. Nothing closer. Referenced as a "mental health prison". 5-6 month wait.

~~Identify issues that the League may want to follow for further study or advocacy:~~

We need more mental health services, especially residential treatment programs both for mental health and substance abuse.

The committee is planning a retreat in person next month.

~~Note any additional comments or feedback regarding this meeting:~~

Items in this section of the form are provided for the observers' benefit. They do not need to be a part of the report, but they provide a checklist of WI Open Meetings Law requirements and good practice for public meeting accessibility. Notable observations about these practices could be included in your feedback comments.

WI Open Meetings Law Checklist

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- ☐ Public notice (time/date/location/content) was readily available no later than 2 hours prior to the meeting.
- ☐ The meeting was held in a location that was open to the public and readily accessible to members of the public who wished to attend.
- ☐ The agenda provided enough specific detail to inform interested members of the public about the content of the meeting.
- ☐ A quorum was present to conduct business.
- ☐ Meeting content was limited to only noticed agenda items, including business discussed in closed session.
- ☐ A record of motions, seconds, and roll-call votes from the meeting will be (was?) created and preserved.

Good Practice for Public Accessibility Checklist

- ☐ The meeting was available to view or listen to on-line.
- ☐ Copies of the agenda and handouts were available to the public. Important information was available for viewing via handouts, web links, or projector.
- ☐ Roll call was conducted, and the public could identify members who were present or absent
- ☐ Speakers were identified and could be easily heard.
- ☐ The public was given an opportunity to speak at the meeting.
- ☐ Minutes and/or a recording of the meeting will be made available to the public.

Thank you for participating in the LWVLA Observer Corps. Your responses will help us ensure transparency in local government and assess the need for future LWVLA actions!