

MEETING MINUTES
**VERNON COUNTY COURT & COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL/
VERNON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP**
August 7, 2014 – VERNON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Members in attendance:

Michael Rosborough, Circuit Court Judge
Kathy Buros, Clerk of Court
Kim Ward, Attorney
Stephanie Hopkins, Attorney
Jill Schrobilgen, Victim/Witness Coordinator
Jessie Fortuna, YWCA/CASA
Ben Bakken, LaFarge Police Chief
Dr. Robert Knadle, Viroqua Area Schools
Rochelle Jones, Legal Action of Wisconsin
Kristi Peterson, Circuit Court

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Judge Rosborough. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2014, meeting. Motion carried.

Legal Action of Wisconsin – Attorney Rochelle Jones was invited to speak about the free legal services she is now offering in Vernon County. In January of this year, Legal Action was awarded a grant to provide free legal services to 10 counties, including Vernon. The grant is specifically to help low income persons who have been victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives with legal issues. This includes cases of family law, small claims/landlord tenant/eviction issues, foreclosures, and many other areas. Applications for services are taken by telephone (1-800-873-0927) on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 8:30 and 11:30 am. Attorney Jones will be in the Viroqua office, which is located at the Family & Children’s Center, on the last Monday of the month. Attorney Jones indicated that interested persons may also try and reach her directly by calling 637-7052. She encouraged everyone to make referrals and she would screen them.

UPDATES:

- **Prevention/Partnership:** Judge Rosborough reported on the poor turn out at the Viroqua and La Farge Town Hall meetings on underage drinking.
- **Sobriety Court:** Judge Rosborough reported that the Sobriety Court team lost 2 founding members, Jerri Hertel and Randy Kahn. Currently Norm Ellefson from the

Dept. of Corrections and Kevin Schmidt from Center Point Counseling have been added to the team in their places. The committee will again request funding for 2015.

- **Teen court:** No report.
- **Bully Project:** Kim Ward reported that the golf outing fundraiser raised approximately \$1,800.00 this year. Stephanie Hopkins shared the idea of the Bully Project of teaming up with Kohls Cares in La Crosse County. The next meeting is scheduled for August 18th at noon at the Grille.
- **Elder Abuse & Domestic Abuse Issues:** No report.
- **Health Department Issues:** No report.
- **YWCA/CASA:** Jessie Fortuna reported that 6 new volunteers are currently being trained, but unfortunately none of them are from Vernon County. Vernon County currently has two open cases. There has been a steady increase of CASA cases in the past 5 years.
- **Veterans Issues:** Chief Ben Bakken shared that the VA hospital has been utilized more for referrals.

Other Business:

- ADDITION - Marina Abt sent an email that Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers is opening a dental lab at Vernon Memorial Hospital in mid August. Also, Burgers in the Park will be held on August 14th in Westby from 5pm – 7pm and this will be a fundraiser for Scenic Bluffs.

Next meeting: October 9, 2014

Meeting Adjourned: at 1:00 p.m.