



Media Release

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Director of Justice Programs Appointed

Stevens Point, WI (**February 6, 2012**) – Portage County Executive Patty Dreier has appointed Ross Dick to be the new Justice Programs Director. Mr. Dick has over 16 years of experience in the Portage County Sheriff's Department as Juvenile Detention Administrator, helping to establish the Juvenile Detention Center facility in 1995. Before that, he worked for 11 years in Portage County Health and Human Services providing comprehensive case management services for delinquent youth and over three years at the Portage House (halfway house) for adult offenders in the County. Mr. Dick has a Bachelor of Science degree from UW-Stevens Point in psychology and political science and has been very involved in local justice program-related efforts.

His appointment must still be confirmed by the Portage County Board of Supervisors and is scheduled for consideration at the February 21st Board meeting.

Portage County's Justice Programs Director position will become vacant on February 10 due to the retirement of Kathy King after 15 years of service in the position.

The Justice Programs Director position has specialized duties to assist the County in using evidence based practices to reduce recidivism and to ensure public safety through daily contract oversight of Portage County's Day Report Program which holds offenders accountable while they are on probation, are awaiting trial, or are participating in other justice programs. This position also acts as the staff liaison to coordinate the activities of the Portage County Justice Coalition chaired by Judge Tom Flugaur.

"I've seen Ross in action and I greatly respect him for his breadth of expertise, his balance, and his communication skills. Ross is highly regarded. He has the right combination of knowledge, skills, and experience with our local justice system—including its challenges and opportunities—to help us move forward in light of what the research says and where our state is headed," said County Executive Dreier.

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