



State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

Co-Chairs Attorney General Josh Kaul and
Department of Corrections Secretary Jared Hoy

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:	Attorney General Josh Kaul, Police Chief Kurt Zempel, Michelle Haese (DHS Designee), Judge Elliott Levine, DOC Secretary Jared Hoy, Mark Gumz, State Public Defender Jennifer Bias, Sheriff Curtis Fell, Jennifer Wakerhauser (DWD Designee), Mark Abeles-Allison, WHEDA Executive Director Elmer Moore, Jr., Awais Khaleel, Patti Jo Severson, Judge Guy Dutcher, Judge Jo Deen Lowe, Jane Graham Jennings
Members Not Present:	Audrey Skwierawski, Shelby McCulley (DCF Designee)
Subcommittee Co-Chairs Present:	Ashley Billig, Sara Benedict, Ray Woodruff, Connie Kostelac, Judge Jon Richards
DOJ Staff:	Ryan Anderson, Mike Austin, Sabrina Gentile, Katie Snell, Chris Henning, Caleb Coughtry-Carpenter, Mark Rather, Danielle Long, Brad Kelly, Christine Herrin, Lara Kenny, Ashley Viste, Chris McKinny, Mike Derr
Agency Partners and Other Attendees:	Zach Baumgart (DOC), Heather Kierzek (State Courts Operations), Adam Plotkin (State Courts Office of the Director), Harm Venhuizen (SPD), Rhonda Frank-Loron (SPD), Rose Baier (Chippewa County)

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Jared Hoy at 12:15 p.m. Quorum was present.

WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS

Secretary Hoy welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). Secretary Hoy began the meeting discussing the interconnectedness of the criminal justice system and its partners, as well as the system's effects on the community.

Secretary Hoy asked if Council members had any announcements to share with the Council. There were no announcements.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 10, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Attorney General Kaul and seconded by Sheriff Curtis Fell to approve the December 10, 2025, meeting minutes.

Council member offered a correction to the meeting attendance section.

AG Kaul offered to make a modification to the motion to include the attendance correction to the minutes.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Post-meeting, a council member contacted DOJ Staff to report the original minutes were correct and the attendance section modification was not necessary.

UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

RACE EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESS (REIA) SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-Chair Judge Jon Richards thanked the CJCC for the letter sent to the legislature requesting policy changes regarding driver's license suspensions because of failure to pay forfeitures. Judge Richards also reported the following updates:

- Inclusive Communications:
 - Jennifer Bias and Judge Elliott Levine are working closely with Judge Richards to adapt legal processes/documents to plain language to ensure understanding for everyone involved in the criminal justice system.
 - They are working with speech pathologists, trauma/cognition specialists, and other professionals to create simplified plea colloquies and best practices for those with communication challenges (e.g., individuals with autism, limited verbal/cognitive skills).
 - They have a goal to present at the annual judicial conference in November 2026.
- Juror Diversity:
 - Members of the subcommittee are working with Common Ground, a large faith-based group in Milwaukee, to increase juror pay and fund a public education campaign to highlight importance of jury duty and improve representation on juries.
 - They are reaching out to Wisconsin sports teams to support this initiative.
 - The Milwaukee Bar Association has agreed to host a forum to show a video about the importance of diverse jury pools in a fair and equitable criminal justice system.

DATA SHARING/OUTCOMES, TRENDS AND INDICATORS SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-chairs Connie Kostelac and Ashley Billig reported the following:

- Many agencies are working on WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) compliance to meet the April 24 deadline, including changes to publicly accessible data dashboards.
- After presentations from two agencies on how they track data requests within their agency, the subcommittee has been discussing how different agencies handle the data request process compared to public records requests, as well as the various levels of data governance within each agency involved in this process.
- Regarding artificial intelligence (AI) usage, Wisconsin is fairly strict compared to other states, and agencies need more specifics regarding what is considered AI and the implementation of AI within Microsoft products.
 - Some agencies are interested in using AI technology in their workflow but are currently working under a blanket DOA policy prohibiting its use, so they're awaiting policy decisions/clarifications in the coming months.
 - Members see the value in AI and want to continue discussing its use and ideas for implementation, while also following DOA policy and being cognizant of security/accuracy issues.
- A new [dashboard of court data](#) to comply with Act 45 is now online on DOJ's website; the subcommittee had a demo of that in our first 2026 meeting.
- Plans/Goals for 2026 – Wrap up the following projects the subcommittee has been working on the last few years:

- Updated report on handling of demographic data.
- Updated documents related to the DOJ AWS (Amazon Web Services) data warehouse and performance measurement.
- Criminal justice data and its location mapped to the sequential intercept mapping.
- Updated documentation added to CJCC website.
- Continue providing support/expertise for the Justice Counts project (ending in 2027).
- Continue reaching out to other subcommittees to determine data needs and/or projects with which our subcommittee may be able to assist.

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND DIVERSION (TAD) SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-Chair Sara Benedict reported the following:

- New membership – The subcommittee recently welcomed two new members:
 - Lisa Multhauf is the Diversion Program Coordinator for St. Croix County.
 - Logan Robertson is a certified peer specialist in Marquette County.
- Medicaid Coverage Expansion:
 - At the last TAD subcommittee meeting, Kenya Bright and Pam Lano from DHS presented on an expansion of Medicaid coverage for peer recovery coaching and peer recovery support services, which will be available to more Medicaid-enrolled agencies including hospitals and community support programs.
 - Peer support will be considered Medicaid-billable services estimated April 1, 2026.
 - This will increase the peer support workforce with increased recognition and value.
- CORE Data Training:
 - Kaley Horvath (DOJ) has conducted three webinar trainings (February 4, February 18, and March 4) for local TAD-funded project staff on extracting data from the CORE system.
 - Recordings of the trainings are available for reference to aid local staff.
- 2026 TAD Subcommittee goals will be developed at the March 26 subcommittee meeting.
- Grant Opportunities:
 - The SCIP Research subgrant announcement, featuring \$600,000 in available funds, is expected to be posted in the coming weeks.

EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING (EBDM) SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-Chair Ray Woodruff reported the following 2026 strategic goals for the EBDM subcommittee:

1. Conduct a comprehensive inventory of state agency training assets that define Wisconsin's evidence-based criminal justice landscape.
 - The subcommittee developed and reviewed a survey to identify training gaps and assess the capacity for technical assistance at the local level. This survey will be sent out within the next week via RedCAP to all relevant state agencies.
 - Results will be compiled and shared with the full CJCC once completed to help align criminal justice training efforts across the state.
2. Provide recommendations for priorities for JAG strategic plan.
 - An in-person meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the EBDM subcommittee to guide the development of the WI DOJ's five-year Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Strategic Plan, which dictates how federal grant funds are prioritized in Wisconsin through 2030.

Rose Baier, Director of Chippewa County's Criminal Justice Department (CJD), used a PowerPoint for her presentation (attached). Chippewa County has had a local CJCC since 2012, and CJD became a department in 2020. The Chippewa County CJCC was accepted into the National Network of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (NCCJCC) in 2022.

Chippewa County CJD programs (and the corresponding SIM intercept):

- SCIP – MILO Crisis Intervention Training System (Intercept 0):
 - 7 local law enforcement agencies involved in this training program.
 - Hoping to expand with community involvement and expand the agencies receiving the training.
- First Time Offender (FTO) Program (Intercept 1) – Divert low-risk individuals with no prior records before it gets to court.
 - Small fee in lieu of citation, offense-specific online course, remain offense free for 60 days.
 - An in-person education opportunity is available for general anti-crime motivations.
 - Online classes specific to the issue, such as alcohol/substance classes, battery, etc.
 - Use Proxy tool for officers to determine if an individual is eligible for FTO.
 - Usually ordinance/misdemeanor offenses and occasional first-time non-violent felony offenses.
- Pretrial Services (Intercept 2) – Pilot program for the state, to maximize release, safety, and return.
- FIT Program – Post-charge diversion (TAD-funded)
 - Supervision level is determined based on an objective matrix based on individual case.
 - Non-violent offenders only
 - Sliding fee scale
 - Uses COMPAS assessment to establish individualized goals.
 - County budget to cover residential treatment and other resources as needed.
 - Seeing decrease in recovery court referrals.
 - Completion requires minimum sobriety for 60 days and stable employment/school/housing.
 - Participants are tracked out for 3 years to assess long-term program success.
- Recovery Court (Intercept 3) – hybrid multi-track drug/OWI court
 - Drug court isn't used very often due to high requirements.
 - Low-risk, high-need track with 5 phases
 - Significant community engagement (e.g., town halls, billboards)
 - 2 residential sober houses
- Reentry services (Intercept 4) – assisting individuals upon return to community after jail stay.
 - Needs assessments, establish short-term goals, assist with resources/needs (e.g., transportation, clothing/hygiene supplies, birth certificates, phones, etc.)
- Take a Stand Against Meth Campaign:
 - Website – <https://www.takeastandagainstmeth.org/>
 - Pre-COVID – there were multiple workgroups engaging in active strategies.
 - Post-COVID – more focused on prevention and education, operated under the CJCC.
 - Interactive “Hidden in Plain Sight” game – <https://posthousevideo.com/21-10%20Chippewa%20County%20Hidden%20in%20Plain%20Site/>

- Chippewa County Crime Stoppers started after a town hall that identified a community gap for tips and community communication.

LEGISLATIVE AND SESSION WRAP UP

Chris McKinny, DOJ Legislative Liaison, stated that the Wisconsin state assembly has wrapped up its session for the year and that the Senate is meeting next week. He reported the status of the following bills:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 514/Senate Bill (SB) 546 – Rep. Steffen and Sen. Wimberger:
 - Authorizes 5 new circuit court branches (2 in Brown County; 1 for Menomonee/Shawano counties; and 1 each in Kenosha County and St. Croix County); 68.5 new Assistant District Attorney positions; 18 new State Public Defender (SPD) positions; and 35 new SPD support positions.
 - Passed assembly on voice vote, available for Senate scheduling.
- AB 320/SB 333 – Rep. Allen and Sen. Wanggaard:
 - Increase certain court fees and surcharges and index those amounts for inflation.
 - Passed assembly, enrolled, awaiting Governor action.
- Act 48 – Rep. Jacobson and Sen. James:
 - Creates new crime of sextortion.
- AB 923/SB 902 – Sen. James and Rep. Jacobson:
 - Creating a civil cause of action for sextortion cases.
 - Passed assembly, available for Senate scheduling.
- AB 964/SB 953 – Rep. Dittrich and Sen. James:
 - Regarding administrative subpoenas in sextortion cases in which the victim is a minor.
 - Passed assembly, available for Senate scheduling.
- AB 957-958/SB 955-956 – Rep. Ball and Sen. James:
 - Provides position authority/funding for 4 new positions for WI DOJ/Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) unit.
 - Passed assembly, on docket for Senate this week.
- Act 93 – Sen. James and Rep. Stubbs:
 - Raises age for missing child alert from <10 to <12.

Secretary Hoy advised there is a budget proposal to improve/modify multiple DOC facilities across Wisconsin. Because the assembly session is over, no progress on that is anticipated until next session other than limited bill drafting.

Adam Plotkin, State Courts Legislative Liaison, added that AB320 includes provisions addressing the use of interpreters by telephone or live AV means in civil proceedings.

GRANTS UPDATE

Ryan Anderson, Criminal Justice Programs Supervisor for the Bureau of Justice Programs (BJP) reported the following:

US DOJ has not released most fiscal year 2025 (FY25) federal grant announcements, which includes most formula grants including JAG (Justice Assistance Grant), SCIP (State Crisis Intervention Program), RSAT (Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program), Title II (Juvenile Justice Initiative), and SORNA (Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act), as well as large discretionary grants such as COSSUP (Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulants, and Substance Use Program). Even though Congress has appropriated these funds, these federal delays, along with new language from

this administration changing requirements/procedures for grant management, is causing BJP to be one year behind and is creating uncertainty for subgrant opportunities.

BJP is still applying for federal grants as they are released, such as grants for law enforcement equipment and national sexual assault kit intake. While BJP is unsure if FY25 and/or FY26 formula grant announcements will have new language, WI DOJ is reviewing all new language in grant announcements for new requirements and/or priorities.

WI DOJ applied to the following FY25 grants:

- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – Reducing recidivism for female juvenile delinquents.
 - Proposed funds will be used for developing and implementing direct service programs for female juvenile delinquents.
- Office on Violence Against Women – Training and technical services to end abuse later in life program.
 - Supporting a comprehensive approach to addressing elder abuse, domestic violence, drug violence, sexual assault, stalking, neglect and exploitation of victims over 50.
- National Criminal History Improvement Program – for live scanners for law enforcement and internal equipment upgrades.
- State Justice Statistics Program – funds will be used to create a process for connecting health claims data to criminal justice data.
- National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative – WI DOJ’s Office of Crime Victim Services in partnership with WI DOJ’s Division of Criminal Investigation.

State grant opportunities/updates:

- Office of Violence Prevention – Funds will be used to create dashboards, one for the Office of School Safety’s “Speak up, Speak Out” initiative and another topic-focused dashboard for the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
- TAD (Treatment Alternatives and Diversion) – Preparing for the 2027 competitive grant cycle.

BJP is currently developing Wisconsin’s 5-year JAG strategy, assuming this remains a requirement when the announcement is released.

For the Law Enforcement Drug Trafficking grant, BJP awarded \$2 million to more than 70 law enforcement agencies to aid in reducing drug trafficking and improve response across the state.

Emily Holder, DOC Grants Coordinator, provided updates on DOC grants:

- SAMHSA Grant – MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment): Connecting Recovery and Community (ends 9/29/2028)
 - 4-year grant to improve recovery outcomes for clients with opioid use disorder at Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility.
 - Provides MOUD (medications for opioid use disorder), treatment and certified peer support services during re-entry.
- FY24 US DOJ Body-Worn Camera Grant (ends 9/30/2027)
 - 3-year grant to support phased expansion of body-worn cameras at 4 maximum security DOC facilities with a focus on general population units, visitation, recreation, and transportation.

- Allows for an update to body-worn cameras in all Restrictive Housing Units (RHUs) at maximum security facilities.
- FY25 US DOJ Body-Worn Camera Grant – application submitted
 - Pending approval and award, this would support a phased rollout of cameras to RHUs at medium security facilities, as well as cameras for general population units at each DOC intake facility.
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, FY25 Second Chance Act – Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children:
 - To improve parent engagement with minor children through expansion of an evidence-based parenting program.
 - To enhance visitation experiences of children through staff training and family-friendly spaces/activities.
- Two re-entry employment skills opportunities are under construction, along with DWD as a partner.

Jason Cram, Deputy Director of Bureau of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery for WI DHS, provided updates on DHS programs that intersect with the criminal justice system:

- Treatment Alternative Program (TAP) – In accordance with DHS 66, the program supports substance use treatment in lieu of prosecution and potential incarceration.
- Prisoner Reintegration – Supports Milwaukee County individuals as they transition from prison/jail to the community.
- Opioid Abatement Efforts by Law Enforcement – Supports multiple strategies to assist law enforcement in community opioid abatement efforts.
- Community Partnership for Diversion from Youth Justice – Uses evidence-based/-informed practices to divert youth from entering the youth justice system.
- DOJ – Youth Diversion
 - DHS received federal funding and contracts directly with DOJ who, in turn, contracts with local Milwaukee agency.
 - Youth gang diversion program for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse program (AODA).

Heather Kierzek, Evidence-Based Program Manager for State Courts, reported that, as part of an executive order, DHS received supplemental funding as part of the Mental Health Block Grant. A portion of these funds will be utilized by State Courts to facilitate Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) workshops (with 6 sessions scheduled before September 2026); organize a state-level SIM workshop; support judicial training on mental health; and fund a speaker at the upcoming WATCP conference taking place in April. All activities will be completed by the end of September 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public were invited to address the council. There was no public comment.

Secretary Hoy reported the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) is hosting a webinar to introduce the Thinking for a Change 5.0 curriculum. T4C 5.0 has a brand new look and feel to the group curriculum, which includes the creation of an additional virtual curriculum for participants. Secretary Hoy shared the link to the training. <https://nicic.gov/training/schedule/virtual-vilt/thinking-change-50>

Michelle Haese, Director of Substance Use Initiatives for WI DHS, reported the following updates:

- Current/Active DHS Grants – <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/business/solicitations-list.htm>

- Division of Care and Treatment Services – **Applications due April 3, 2026, 11:59 p.m.**
 - Seeking applications for funding to implement a Treatment Alternative Program (TAP) for people in the CJ system with substance use concerns.
 - TAP is designed to enhance community safety by providing focused treatment interventions for participants as a voluntary alternative to conviction while fostering recovery and accountability and targeting the underlying causes and/or unmet needs that lead to CJ system involvement.
 - TAP must follow all the standards in Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 66, including the requirement for identifying and providing resources for people in the CJ system eligible for services under Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 66.06 that meet the individual's needs specific to their offense and risk level while minimizing risk of re-arrest.
- Division of Public Health – **Applications due March 31, 2026, 11:59 p.m.**
 - Seeking applications from organizations to provide re-entry navigator services to people transitioning from incarceration back into the community, reducing risk of overdose by connecting them to needed resources (e.g., overdose prevention services, treatment/recovery services, other community assistance resources for housing, employment, food stability, and social services).
 - Re-entry navigators will also work with people who use drugs in jails to connect them with treatment and recovery services while they are incarcerated.
- Overdose Prevention Summit – <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aoda/first-responder-overdose-prevention-summit.htm>
 - Free event, intended for first responders and public safety personnel to provide education on evidence-based overdose prevention efforts.
 - Open to individuals working in law enforcement or public safety (e.g., emergency medical services (EMS), fire departments, police officers and sheriff's deputies, dispatchers, corrections staff, probation and parole staff, other public safety professionals).
 - Held regionally throughout April to maximize information-sharing and to allow participants to network and develop relationships with other local providers working in overdose prevention in their local area.
 - The summit will cover the following topics:
 - The principles behind evidence-based overdose response and ways to implement them in daily work.
 - How fatigue and burnout can influence officer-citizen and provider-patient interactions; how to address these factors to improve health outcomes for first responders and the communities they serve.
 - Naloxone Leave Behind Programs.
 - Deflection/diversion efforts and their impact on reducing overdose fatalities.
 - Five one-day summits will be held across the state. Early registration is recommended, as space is limited.
 - Western Region – April 14, 2026 (9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) in Onalaska @ Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center.
 - Northern Region – April 15, 2026 (9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) in Wausau @ Lake View Conference Center.
 - Northeastern Region – April 16, 2026 (9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) in Oshkosh @ University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Emergency Operations Center
 - Southeastern Region – April 22, 2026 (9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) in West Allis.

- Southern Region – April 23, 2026 (9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) in Madison @ Wisconsin Department of Health Services.
- Opioid Death Dashboard – <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/deaths-county.htm>
 - Updated as of January 15, 2026.
 - Opioid death counts in Wisconsin fell from 1422 in 2023 to 817 in 2024 which is a 42.5% decrease.
 - According to CDC data, from 2023 to 2024, opioid death rates fell across all states, with the largest drops in Virginia and Wisconsin (tying for 2nd highest rates of decrease), and West Virginia (1st in the nation for highest decrease).

Secretary Hoy requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Attorney General Kaul and seconded by Judge Elliott Levine to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.