



State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Members Present:	Attorney General Josh Kaul, Police Chief Kurt Zempel, Judge Elliott Levine, DOC Secretary Jared Hoy, Mark Gumz, Sheriff Curtis Fell, Mark Abeles-Allison, Awais Khaleel, Judge Guy Dutcher, Shelby McCulley (DCF Designee)
Members Not Present:	Audrey Skwierawski, Michelle Haese (DHS Designee), State Public Defender Jennifer Bias, Jennifer Wakerhauser (DWD Designee), WHEDA Executive Director Elmer Moore, Jr., Patti Jo Severson, Jane Graham Jennings, Judge Jo Deen Lowe
Subcommittee Co-Chairs Present:	Ashley Billig, Sara Benedict, Ray Woodruff
DOJ Staff:	Ryan Anderson, Mike Austin, Sabrina Gentile, Katie Snell, Danielle Long, Brad Kelly, Lara Kenny, Chris McKinny, Brittney Felton, Marsha Schiszik
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), Lee Sensenbrenner (DWD)

The meeting was called to order by Attorney General Josh Kaul at 12:15 p.m. Quorum was present.

WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS

AG Kaul welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).

AG Kaul asked if Council members had any announcements to share with the Council. There were no announcements.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 11, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Mark Abeles-Allison and seconded by Judge Elliott Levine to approve the March 11, 2026, meeting minutes.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

RACE EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESS (REIA) SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-Chair Justice Rebecca Dallet reported the following:

Inclusive Communications Workgroup

- Judge Richards and Judge Levine are helping lead a small workgroup that is working to improve how the courts work with individuals who have communications challenges.
- The group has been busy meeting with a variety of different experts in the field and pulling together best practices.
- They are aiming to come to the full subcommittee in the Fall with some recommendations including an update to the plea colloquy and some other practical considerations that courts can take to improve how they interact with individuals with communication challenges or deficits.

Attorney Recruitment and Retention

- We brought this topic to the subcommittee at our last meeting in April. We provided some updates on the ongoing work to brainstorm on how we can amplify or support efforts including:
 - The Access to Justice Commission is putting forward a rule petition in the future that would propose certain non-lawyers to work on certain cases under attorney supervision.
 - Improving technology and Zoom hearings through more judicial education.
 - Making it easier for transfer of passing the bar exam in other states.
 - Setting aside funds that encourage rural and public interest practice.
- Our subcommittee will continue to look at this issue and brainstorm ideas on how we can support efforts.

Juror Appreciation

- The Wisconsin Courts have recognized Juror Appreciation in the month of September.
- Subcommittee member Rebecca Matoska-Mentink who is the President of the Clerks Association is working with Courts staff to circulate materials that have been used in the past.
- The group has also discussed encouraging media opportunities to amplify messaging around the importance of serving on juries, so we aren't just recognizing those at the courthouse that week.

Driver's License Suspensions for Failure to Pay Forfeitures

- This is an issue that came to our subcommittee a couple of years ago and we requested the full CJCC to support a legislative change. The Subcommittee appreciates the full CJCC's letter to the Legislature on the issue. A national advocacy group, the *Free to Drive Campaign*, is planning to include Wisconsin in their national legislative efforts for the next legislative session. They are starting to gather information about other partners and allies on this issue.

DATA SHARING/OUTCOMES, TRENDS AND INDICATORS SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-chair Ashley Billig reported the following:

- The group continued discussions about dashboard and data accessibility work now that everyone has the year extension on the WCAG deadline - everyone struggling a bit to define

what accessibility means for a dashboard - no clear checklists to follow so agencies creating their own and sharing with each other.

- A few agencies (DAIT, Courts) are either in the process or may be considering moving parts of their operations to the cloud.
- A standing item now is AI - some agencies are in the process of gaining training and seeking exemptions to the DOA policy. The subcommittee is going to seek a presentation from the person at DET Bureau of Technical Architecture who oversees AI policy, due to lots of interest from member agencies and some uncertainty on what is allowed and what is not, and how we can move things forward responsibly, securely, and ethically.
- Act 181 work just transitioned to DHS (multi-agency data collection on opioids and meth) that requires an annual report to joint finance committee.
- Last meeting had demo of a new dashboard from DOJ showing firearm related case processing - arrests for firearms that resulted in a criminal case related to the use of a firearm - filters by county and by year - not public yet but shows the utility of the new research data warehouse and is a specific use case we're planning to include in report on what the warehouse allows for (main indicator being the ability to look at an event from beginning to end).
- Reviewed and mentioned that the WI Policy Forum's (WPF) report released in April about the criminal justice system "Cross Examination: A comprehensive look at Wisconsin's criminal justice system" – WPF hey talked with multiple agencies and got data and feedback as part of that work.

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND DIVERSION (TAD) SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-Chair Sara Benedict reported the following:

Leadership Transitions

- Honored the retirement of long-time DOJ TAD Program Manager Mike Derr and subcommittee member Jessica Skemp (La Crosse County DA's Office)
- Subcommittee Roster: Seated new members Logan Robertson (Peer Specialist, Marquette County) and Lisa Multhauf. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is actively seeking a replacement for departing member Jason Cram.

2026 Subcommittee Goals

The subcommittee streamlined its focus down to three primary data-driven and operational goals for 2026:

- Goal #1: Provide feedback to DOJ on priorities for and implementation of the TAD and SCIP grant programs.
- Goal #2: Promote training and technical support to TAD-funded treatment court and diversion programs, and SCIP-funded sites.
- Goal #3: Advance Data-Driven policy development and program evaluation for the TAD and SCIP programs.

Key Initiative Updates (YTD 2026)

- TAD Application Update: The 2027 pre-application was released on May 5, 2026, with a submission deadline of July 2, 2026. Formal consultation meetings are scheduled for late July

with external partners, including DOC, DHS, and State Courts to finalize allocations. Grantees will receive funding request notifications in early August ahead of the final application phase.

- **SCIP Plan Modification:** The subcommittee formally amended the FY2024 SCIP Plan, introducing a fourth priority tier that approved SCIP outreach and coordination efforts by BJP staff.
- **JAG-Funded Training:** Highly successful implementations executed in partnership with the University of Cincinnati and Laura Saunders:
 - **Motivational Interviewing:** 3 of 5 sessions completed, training 168 participants (75 additional registrants slated for upcoming dates).
 - **CBI-SUA & ORAS:** 8 participants certified in Cognitive Behavioral Interventions and 15 certified in the Ohio Risk Assessment System, with subsequent training rounds scheduled for June.
- **CORE Navigation Webinars:** BJIA conducted a three-part "Lunch and Learn" series in February and March to empower local grant recipients to seamlessly extract data from the CORE platform, allowing sites to conduct independent internal evaluations.
- **SCIP-Funded Research Showcases:**
 - **Marquette University Study:** Analyzed data from 2015–2023 across all 72 counties detailing the compounding correlation between involuntary employment separation, economic strain, and violent gun-related crimes in urban and rural environments.
 - **BJIA Firearm Offense Dashboard:** Reviewed long-term quantitative trends (2018–2024) isolating firearm modifiers and possession charges. The subcommittee supports publishing this dashboard directly to the public DOJ website.
 - **UW-Madison Public Health Institute Study:** Evaluated the role of the 988 Wisconsin Lifeline (Sept 2024–Feb 2025) in firearm suicide prevention. Clarified critical system distinctions, noting that while 211 remains a broader hub for social services navigation, 988 provides immediate, acute clinical intervention for mental health emergencies where firearms are a factor.

EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING (EBDM) SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-Chair Ray Woodruff reported the following:

The EBDM Subcommittee has been busy focusing on our two goals for 2026.

- **Goal #1:** Conduct a comprehensive inventory of State Agency training assets that define Wisconsin's evidence-based criminal justice landscape (aka State Agency Training Inventory).
- **Goal #2 (Byrne JAG Strategic Alignment):** Provide recommendations for priorities to include in the 2026–2031 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) strategic plan.

Key Initiative Updates

- **2026–2031 Byrne JAG Strategic Planning Meeting**
 - One of the Subcommittee's primary areas of focus has been guiding the upcoming 5-year strategic plan for WI DOJ JAG funding. This five-year strategic plan will provide a framework for using JAG funds for innovative programs that are scalable and based on available resources. This strategic plan will begin with FY26 Byrne JAG (To date, BJA has not released the FY26 JAG NOFO).
 - The EBDM Subcommittee met in person on April 16 at the State Bar of Wisconsin. During that meeting, six priorities were identified and need to be further refined at the next EBDM Subcommittee meeting.

- State Agency Training Inventory Survey
 - At the request of the CJCC, the EBDM Subcommittee has taken on the task to design and deploy a comprehensive training infrastructure survey. The goal of this survey was to get a statewide snapshot of state agencies' training scope and capacity, and how we can potentially support locals with state training resources. It is hoped we can learn from the survey and identify gaps in training, scope of training, and capacity amongst state agencies. The survey was deployed by BJP on April 27.

Woodruff announced Ryan Anderson will now provide an overview of the results. Anderson reported the following:

State Training Inventory Survey Summary – A Review of State Agency Training Capacity and Scope

A Strategic Assessment Effort

- The EBDM Subcommittee launched this comprehensive survey to explicitly map out Wisconsin's broad agency training systems.

Survey Design

- Evaluated on a per-Division, Office, or Bureau level to capture localized training data across the state landscape.

Participating Agencies and Scope

- Wisconsin State Courts – Focusing on Judges, Clerks of Court, Commissioners, and Interpreters through Supreme Court Rule mandates
- Department of Corrections – Training corrections officers, sergeants, and parole agents on core correctional practices and wellness
- Department of Children and Families and Department of Health Services – Specialized training for Youth Justice, Case Management, and Law Enforcement on mental health and crisis response
- Department of Workforce Development – Training which focuses on workforce entry/re-entry, regulatory compliance, and empowering external stakeholders to effectively support justice-involved individuals or those with barriers to employment

Training Modalities and Delivery

- Virtual/Hybrid: High Adoption
- In-Person/Conferences: Essential/Regional
- On-demand E-Learning: Growth Area

Support of Local Partners

State agencies increasingly bridge infrastructure gaps by opening programs to County Sheriffs, Local PDs, and Municipal Clerks.

Key Models:

- Fee-for-service registration (Conferences)
- Grant-funded specialized tracks
- Tailored Technical Assistance (DCF/Courts)

State to Local System Understanding

"If you could teach your local partners one thing about the criminal justice system to make your job easier, what would it be?"

Major Themes:

- Interconnectedness
- Mental Health Cost
- Court Logic

Key Annual Conferences for Agencies were listed.

Training Staffing and Capacity

- Staffing Highlights Across Departments
- Resource allocation varies significantly depending on specific institutional structures:
 - DOC: 17 dedicated instructional designers
 - DWD: 9-11 dedicated training staff
 - Courts: 8-10 staff managing hybrid roles

Top Barriers to Expansion

Budget & Funding

- Inability to absorb facility rental fees, faculty/speaker travel, or external vendor licensing costs.

Staff Capacity

- Training teams are often booked 6-12 months out
- SME burnout risk exists.

Statutory Mandates and Models

- Training Governed by Mandates
- Shared Trainer Model

Emerging Topics

- AI in Government
 - Using artificial intelligence safely with confidential records and records data privacy.
- Best practices for Diversion – Deflection
- Management and supervisory skills
 - “Comeback training”
- Trends that impact courts
- Youth & Gambling

WI POLICY FORUM – AGING AND SUBSTANCE USE IN WI CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Jason Stein, Joe Peterangelo and Andy Tisdale used a PowerPoint for their presentation.

First section of presentation is from

“Cross Examination – A Comprehensive Review of Wisconsin’s Criminal Justice System”

Issues emerged from landscape study published in April 2026

- Examines available state data on arrests, court cases, corrections, justice system staffing and financing, and more
- Explores demographics within the state’s justice system
- Compares Wisconsin with other states where possible
- Does not make recommendations
- Supported by national Public Welfare Foundation

Arrests have increased for older Wisconsinites.

- Number of court cases has risen for older adults.
- More older Wisconsinites are being incarcerated.
- Incarceration rate for older adults has doubled since 2010.
- More older adults are entering prison for certain offenses.
- Reincarceration less common among older adults.

Major takeaways

The number of older adults involved in WI's justice system is growing.

- Arrests
- Court cases
- Prison population and admissions

This trend is driven by growth in certain types of crime and other factors.

- Rise in Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) and other "public order" offenses
- Increase in violent crimes, such as assault
- Truth in sentencing and other policy changes resulting in longer sentences

Policy Considerations

These trends pose budgetary and policy challenges.

- Older adults in prison are more likely to need medical care, and DOC health spending for adults has nearly tripled since 2005, its largest budget increase.
- The agency has built an assisted living unit at one prison for those with advanced medical needs.
- State data show older adults are far less likely to commit violent crimes or be reincarcerated.
- State prisons remain overcrowded: in 2024, they held 22,801 adults, well above their 17,648 capacity.

OWI Trends and Policies in Wisconsin

- Incarceration for OWI near record high.
- OWI accounts for larger share of all incarceration.
- Share of admissions for OWI set record in 2023.
- OWI incarceration rate for older adults has tripled.
- Larger number of older adults incarcerated for OWI.
- Black and American Indian adults overrepresented in prisons for OWI.
- Women are a growing share of adults incarcerated for OWI, but less so for all offenses.
- Arrests for OWI and all offenses have fallen in tandem.
- Wisconsin OWI penalties less severe for first three offenses, more severe thereafter.

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder in Jails and Prisons

Second section of presentation is from "Treatment Behind Bars – Medication for Opioid Use Disorder in Wisconsin's Jails and Prisons"

Project Background

- Update of a 2021 statewide survey conducted by the WI Department of Health Services
- Supported by Vital Strategies
- Survey of all 71 county jails and 36 state Department of Corrections prisons
- 65 responses from jails, covering nearly all of the WI jail population, plus DOC response for all facilities

Opioid Deaths

- Opioid deaths have declined since 2024
- Ongoing public health issue fatalities are still comparable to traffic deaths in WI
- People leaving jail and prison are at higher risk of overdose & potential death

Agonist Versus Antagonist Medication

- Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)
- Three types of FDA approved MOUD:
 - Methadone (agonist)
 - Buprenorphine (partial agonist)
 - Naltrexone (antagonist)
- Agonist medications are associated with reduced likelihood of overdose deaths, other benefits

Availability of medication in DOC facilities. Presentation included information on individuals receiving medication through DOC, availability of medication in county jails, availability of medication in jails from 2021 versus 2025 and self-reported challenges from the jails.

Conclusion

- Increased availability of MOUD in both prisons and jails.
- Continuation of existing prescriptions is common; initiation of new ones is less common.
- There are some gaps in medication access, especially in rural areas.
- Potential for future expansion: opioid settlement funds and service sharing agreements to help address costs.

Treatment Courts and Practices in Wisconsin

Third section of presentation

Project Background

- Sequel to WPF's study on medications for opioid use disorder in WI jails/prisons
- Supported by Vital Strategies
- Survey of all 105 treatment courts in Wisconsin
- Will also review data from courts with TAD Program grants
- Treatment courts are operating in 59 Wisconsin counties
- Research supported tool
- Public may not be fully informed about WI's courts and the way they operate
- WPF's survey and literature review will seek to inform citizens and stakeholders about current and best practices

FEDERAL GRANTS UPDATE

Ryan Anderson, Criminal Justice Programs Supervisor, used a PowerPoint for his presentation.

BJP FY25 Federal Grants

- BJS FY25 Consolidated National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)
 - Applied for \$800,000 in NCHIP Funds for a NCIC NIEM XML Conversion project and to provide funds to law enforcement and criminal justice agencies for live scan and mobile ID devices.
- BJA FY25 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

- Provides assistance to state, local, and tribal correctional agencies to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and harassment in confinement settings and to implement PREA Standards that enhance safety for inmates, residents, detainees, and staff.
- Allocated amount: \$81,211. The WIDOC (SAA) will subgrant the full award to WIDOC.
- 2025 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant
 - The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to States and units of local government. JAG allows states and units of local government, including tribes, to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own state and local needs and conditions.
- BJA FY25 De-escalation and Crisis Response Training Program
 - De-escalation and Crisis Response Training Program provides funding to state, local, and tribal governments to improve law enforcement and correctional responses to individuals in crisis who have behavioral health conditions, intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DDs), physical disabilities, and/or traumatic brain injuries. Allocated amount: \$700,000. The WIDOC (SAA) will subgrant the full award to WIDOC.
- BJA FY25 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT) – Formula Grants Program
 - Formula grant program providing funding to state, local, and tribal governments to support substance use disorder (SUD) treatment for individuals in detention or incarceration, including initiation or continuation of evidence-based care and preparation for community reintegration and aftercare. Funding is allocated via prison-population–based formulas. At this time, the federal funding amount has not been determined by BJA.
- BJA FY25 State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP)
 - Formula grant program providing funding to states to create or enhance crisis intervention court proceedings and related initiatives, including extreme risk protection order (ERPO) programs, mental health courts, drug courts, and veterans' treatment courts, as well as diversion and behavioral health programs. The program is allocated by formula.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public were invited to address the council. The council received comments from the public.

AG Kaul requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Secretary Jared Hoy and seconded by Sheriff Curtis Fell to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.