



State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 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, Patti Jo Severson, Shelby McCulley (DCF Designee), Audrey Skwierawski, DOC Secretary Jared Hoy, Mark Gumz, State Public Defender Jennifer Bias, Judge Guy Dutcher (left at 1:30 p.m.), Awais Khaleel, Sheriff Curtis Fell, Tiana Glenna
Members Not Present:	Judge Jo Deen Lowe, Jennifer Wakerhauser (DWD Designee), WHEDA Executive Director Elmer Moore, Jr., Jane Graham Jennings, Mark Abeles-Allison
Subcommittee Co-Chairs Present:	Ashley Billig, Sara Benedict, Judge Jon Richards, Kelli Thompson
DOJ Staff:	Steve Wagner, Ryan Anderson, Mike Austin, Sabrina Gentile, Marsha Schiszik, Katie Snell, Chris Henning, Brittney Felton, Chris McKinny, Caleb Coughtry-Carpenter, Kerrie Fanning, Mark Rather, Danielle Long
Agency Partners and Other Attendees:	Assistant Deputy Secretary Kari Beier (DOC), Adam Plotkin (State Courts), Zach Baumgart (DOC), Steve Knudson (SPD)

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Hoy at 12:16 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 announced two new members Chief of Police Kurt Zempel, City of Sheboygan, and Awais Khaleel, former Dane County Assistant District Attorney and asked them to introduce themselves to the Council.

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

APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Judge Elliott Levine and seconded by Tiana Glenna to approve the March 12, 2025, meeting minutes.
The motion passed on a voice vote.

UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

RACE EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESS (REIA) SUBCOMMITTEE

Judge Jon Richards reported the following:

- The Subcommittee has formed a workgroup that is studying driver's license suspensions due to failure to pay a forfeiture. It is the number one reason for suspensions in Wisconsin by far. There has been a national movement to review these policies including in both right and left leaning states. The workgroup has reviewed information that shows the policy has been adversely impacting low-income individuals and minorities. The group has also found that debt-based driver's license suspensions aren't necessarily leading to increased compliance or revenue to local municipalities. The State Debt Collection Program at the Department of Revenue is contracted with municipalities and counties across the state. They could be a better route to collect the debts instead of the suspensions. It has also been shown that this policy presents a barrier to a person's ability to work which impacts our workforce but also their ability to pay forfeitures. The subcommittee will review a recommendation at our next meeting in August from the workgroup.
- Subcommittee members worked with the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies to bring a trainer to their conference to present a curriculum for social studies teachers on the importance of serving on juries. The Conference also featured a panel with Justice Dallet to reinforce the topic.
 - Judge Levine reported they showed a 15 minute video on unconscious bias. Link below:
 - <https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/jury/unconscious-bias>
- As shared during the last CJCC meeting, the Subcommittee proposed increasing the pay of jurors. The state's minimum rate of \$16 has not been touched since 1977. However, we missed the current budget cycle for it to be considered. We will reengage in our efforts after the budget is passed and continue building support for the future with the justice system stakeholders.
- Subcommittee members are working on including a portion of the state video shown to jurors to include information on intentional decision making. The inclusion of this information will be done to remind jurors to make decisions based on the facts of the case and not based on quick judgments they may make and may not even be aware of. That may include making judgments based on a person's gender, age, race, sexual orientation, religion, or even perceived political stance. Several Wisconsin counties are already showing a longer video on the topic from the U.S. District Court in Western Washington. The inclusion of this information in the state video will insure everyone is receiving the same information from a Wisconsin source.

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND DIVERSION (TAD) SUBCOMMITTEE

Co – Chair Sara Benedict reported the following:

- Two regional Treatment Court Standards and two Diversion Standards trainings have been held with about 130 total attendees. Two more treatment court standards and two more diversion standards trainings will be held this year.
 - Treatment Court Standards – July 16 – Appleton
 - Diversion Standards – August 6 – Shawano
 - Treatment Court Standards – Sept. 26 – Janesville
 - Diversion Standards – October 7 – Lacrosse

DATA SHARING/OUTCOMES, TRENDS, AND INDICATORS (OTIs) SUBCOMMITTEE

Co – Chair Ashley Billig reported the following:

1. Billig reports they have finalized their goals for the year in their April meeting.
 - A. Develop a simple report from the data warehouse to demonstrate the value of having multiple data sources in the same place and linked together.
 - I. This will include at least 3 performance indicators and/or questions that can be answered by the warehouse that were barriers before.
 - B. They continue to meet with the co-chairs of the other subcommittees to discuss data support needs and project ideas the other subcommittees may be interested in.
 - C. Create a shared document outlining the process for matching data cross systems, including CJ to CJ and CJ to other systems.
 - D. Update and enhance older documents, including:
 - I. mapping CJ data and gaps to SIM, including a new map and handout.
 - II. review and determine action steps from recommendations from previous demographic data report.
 - E. Continue to work with BJP to update the subcommittee webpage on the CJCC website with these new reports and documents, in addition to linking to other agencies' data websites and dashboards.
2. Identified small workgroups to work on various goals offline outside of normal meetings, including:
 - a. group to work on preliminary warehouse report – the group meets for the first time on June 13, 2025.
 - b. group to work on mapping data to SIM document and handout - met on June 9, 2025.
 - c. group to work on linking - still in process of scheduling.
3. Reached out to co-chairs of other subcommittees about meeting with them at some point during the year.
4. Heard from UW's Institute for Research on Poverty at our last meeting to get an update on where they are at with their work and what data they have in their Wisconsin Administrative Data Core, and some examples of the types of project they have underway related to the criminal justice system.

EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING (EBDM) SUBCOMMITTEE

Ryan Anderson reported the following:

- Reviewed membership and discussed expectations of membership.
- Reviewing statewide EBDM work plans and discussing next steps. Local level staff provided an update on the status of their EBDM work plans. BJP staff are evaluating that information and assessing how that information intersects with statewide EBDM work plans.
- Discussed intersection of EBDM framework and Sequential Intercept Model (SIM). The SIM model is currently in early implementation with several pilot sites. SIMs is not as involved as EBDM because it's looking at the intersection of behavioral health resources/systems and the criminal justice system. As this subcommittee knows, EBDM is a foundational concept that involves looking at the whole criminal justice system and breaking down each CJ partner's process/procedure and involvement with the system. SIMs is a starting point to reinvest in collaboration at the local stakeholder level.
- SIMs pilot sites are scheduled for August, October, and November with four sites. There was a fifth, but that workshop was cancelled.
- Presentations by BJP and BJIA staff about deflection programs and utilization of the COSSUP grant.

- Pre-trial sites have implemented data entry into the CORE platform. BJIA staff held a training for local staff to train on CORE platform.
 - Continued collaboration with local Pre-trial sites on training resources for the advancement of pre-trial. Future presentation to EBDM subcommittee on training resources developed by local sites.

2025 TAD REPORT EVALUATION RECAP AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ashley Billig, Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis Director at the Department of Justice Billig used a PowerPoint to present on the report that is an overview of the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program between 2019 and 2023 in fulfillment of requirements outlined in Wis. Stat. §165.95(5p)(b).

- The TAD 5 –Year Evaluation has been completed.
- BJP and BJIA staff have been collaborating to provide local level individualized performance monitoring technical assistance to multiple TAD funded sites.
- The TAD subcommittee heard from three local sites on innovative initiatives:
 - Marathon County spoke about local level utilization of CORE data to inform programming and budget considerations with local stakeholders.
 - Marquette County spoke about utilization of law enforcement with their mentor/ check-in program with program participants. They also presented about their initiative at the national All Rise Conference in May.
 - Wood County spoke about the results of their program evaluation that was TAD funded and completed in 2023.
- Planning for SIMs pilot sites continues. Lafayette training that was originally scheduled for June 5-6 was cancelled. Next training will be in Jefferson County in August.
- BJP staff have implemented a site visit review process with sites which includes the local site reviewing prior best practice recommendations and providing an update on the status of implementing those recommendations. This process has led to more targeted technical assistance.
- Full TAD statistics and reports see below:
 - <https://www.wisdoj.gov/Pages/DataAndStatistics/dashboards.aspx>
- Attached is the TAD Evaluation PowerPoint

STATE AGENCY 2025 – 2027 BUDGET UPDATES

Chris McKinny, Department of Justice, reported the actions taken by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC).

The first JFC meeting was in early May and, the committee removed over 600 items from the state budget, including the transfer of the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Program to the Circuit Courts. The committee then voted to review the budget using the current base budget appropriations.

The Governor and the Republican leadership were meeting to try to work out a package of spending and tax cuts. Last week, both sides announced that they could not come to an agreement and since then the JFC has been meeting consistently and voting on various agencies. The JFC voted on the Circuit Courts budget yesterday. The Courts received a \$10 million increase, and the TAD program was not discussed.

The committee is meeting again tomorrow. McKinny thought the Department of Justice budget could be considered late next week or the week of June 23.

Kari Beier, DOC, and Shelby McCulley, DCF designee, also added that their agency budgets have not been voted on. Beier reported that DOC continues to meet with Republican leadership.

STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Ashley Billig provided an update to the Council.

The Wisconsin Policy Forum continues to work on the Criminal Justice Landscape Study. The last and most recent meeting of the Advisory Committee was on May 22, 2025. There was discussion on some of the preliminary work that has been completed.

The forum also focused on discussing critical pieces of criminal justice legislation as it is from the 1990s. The goal is to see how this may relate to the current landscape in the criminal justice system. This included a focus on wide ranging areas across eleven different themes such as: OWI/road safety, crimes against children/elderly, juvenile justice, victim rights/compensation, drug laws, and related areas.

The initial analysis is that there have primarily been new penalties added, with a focus on sex crimes (particularly against children). Drug-related changes have focused on new substances, but also treatment options/paths. There was also some discussion of spending and staff in the criminal justice system and how that relates to the US as a whole, overall and by main segments of the system

The advisory committee will continue to meet as additional work is done on the report.

FEDERAL GRANTS UPDATE

Ryan Anderson, DOJ Criminal Justice Programs Supervisor, provided an update on state and federal grant programs.

Both JAG 2021 and 2022 were submitted for a one-year extension. We are still waiting on JAG 2021 as this is our second extension request. JAG 2022 has been approved through September 30, 2026.

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH OVERVIEW

Dr. Melissa Parrent and Dr. Kevin Kallas used a PowerPoint to report on the recently created Interagency Council on Mental Health.

Governor Evers created this in 2024. The goal is to reduce barriers and help address gaps in mental health services. This is a statewide action plan to create healthy communities and connect Wisconsin residents to care, when and where they need it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public were invited to address the council. Public comment was presented to the council.

Secretary Hoy requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Patti Jo Severson and seconded by State Public Defender Jennifer Bias to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.