



Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Evidence-Based Decision Making Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 Meeting location Virtual (Zoom)

Co-Chairs Kelli Thompson and Tiana Glenna

Subcommittee Members Present:	Kelli Thompson, Holly Audley, Tiana Glenna, Patti Jo Severson, Heather Kierzek, Lisa Roys, Lance Wiersma, Ray Woodruff, Greg Peterson, Adam Plotkin, Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Sadique Isahaku, Kit Kerschensteiner, Jane Klekamp, Judge Elliot Levine, Judge Kelly McKnight, Nick Sayner
DOJ Staff:	Sabrina Gentile, Phil Zell, Lara Kenny, Marsha Schiszik, Kerrie Fanning, Katie Snell, Brad Kelly, Mike Derr, Mark Rather, Ashley Billig
Other Agency Staff:	

Welcome and Opening Comments

Subcommittee Co-Chair Kelli Thompson welcomed members to the meeting at 9:03 A.M.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for 07/27/2023

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 07/27/2023. The motion was approved.

DHS Presentation: Beyond the Beds: Forensic Mental Health Solutions

During the DHS presentation titled "Beyond the Beds: Forensic Mental Health Solutions," key speakers including Holly Audley, Assistant Administrator, Andie Bensky, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Dr. Greg Van Rybroek, Mendota Mental Health Institute Director, Emily Propson, Bureau of Community Forensic Services Director, and Katie Martinez, Forensic Mental Health Section Supervisor, outlined the objectives and goals of the presentation. Dr. Van Rybroek discussed the historical context and current issues surrounding forensic mental health care, while Andie Bensky explored the root causes of the prevalence of individuals with mental diseases in the criminal justice system. The presentation also included brainstorming on how DHS, CJCC, and partners can collaborate to mitigate criminality in individuals found not competent to stand trial, and a discussion on the next steps.

Moving forward, questions were raised about how the group could assist, the role of treatment courts, and other possible options. Adam Plotkin inquired from a DHS perspective if the general approach should be to treat individuals in the mental health system instead of the Wisconsin Correction System. Dr. Van Rybroek emphasized that sick individuals should be in hospitals and highlighted the complexity of determining who should and shouldn't be in jails, mentioning the

need for resources, policy restrictions, prevention, early intervention, and strong partnerships with county agencies. A DHS representative added that the overall goal is to avoid having treatment be part of the criminal justice system and discussed the challenges of treating people within this system, including the financial burden on counties. Adam Plotkin also raised concerns about the limitations on certain medications in jails and the need for standardized formulations, with DHS covering the cost of psychotropic medications and offering consultation services for appropriate prescription in jails. Furthermore, he questioned how DHS adjusts for the natural decomposition cycle in a jail setting compared to a hospital, with admissions at Mendota maintaining close contact with jail providers.

Tiana Glenna from Eau Claire County discussed the challenges in determining who has mental health issues and who needs to be treated to competency, noting that many individuals are found competent for court but are still mentally ill. She inquired about how courts or counties can better screen individuals, given the lengthy process.

Dr. Van Rybroek addressed the common confusion around competency and mental illness, and Andie Bensky emphasized the importance of raising doubts about competency and exploring options beyond building more beds. Bensky discussed the potential of treatment courts and the need for alternative funding sources for FACT teams, which have proven effective. Patti Jo Severson, involved in the council due to her son's involvement in the criminal justice system, emphasized the need for better education and more robust community support programs. She advocated for continued discussion to support individuals like her son.

Heather Kirerzek suggested the utilization of the treatment court model, noting that the Chief Justice has identified competency as a key area needing support. She recommended reviewing legislation and highlighted the timeliness of these conversations.

BJP Grant Updates

Lara Kenny stated BJP has several open subgrant opportunities listed on her organization's website. These include the annual pretrial grant opportunity, the JAG funded Drug Task Force, the Drug Trafficking Response Opportunity, and TAD. However, for FY23, the COSSUP grant was not awarded. In response, Kenny is actively working on the next steps to not only keep the projects moving forward but also to expand them. Additionally, the State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) is a topic that she plans to discuss at the upcoming CJCC TAD meeting. Lastly, the FY23 JAG application has been approved, and a summary of this application is now available on the website.

Pretrial Site Updates

Tiana Glenna recently attended the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) conference in New Orleans, which she found to be a positive experience. During the conference, she focused on the importance of reviewing data to ensure the effectiveness of their programs. Glenna emphasized the necessity of working with the BJIA to access vital data. Looking forward, she noted an increase in funding going into the next year, which will enable

the expansion of services offered. This includes enhancing FACT teams and implementing Peer Specialists in Pretrial programs. In a notable discussion, Kelli Thompson inquired about how Wisconsin compares to other states in terms of Pretrial processes. Glenna responded that Wisconsin is in a unique position due to the absence of bail bondsmen, placing it in line with, or ahead of, some jurisdictions. She highlighted that the leaders in Wisconsin have state-led programs, which helps in creating uniform standards.

EBDM Subcommittee 2023 Goals Update

The first goal aims to expand EBDM to other jurisdictions. This is an ongoing effort, with each meeting including an agenda item for pretrial updates. The subcommittee has advised the DOJ to continue funding existing pretrial sites under JAG but to refrain from expanding grant opportunities until data is collected and analyzed, which will promote EBDM system mapping.

The second goal focuses on promoting EBDM systems mapping and establishing and maintaining local CJCCs (Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils). Heather Kierzek from the Office of State Courts has hosted multiple local CJCC coordinating meetings to determine the best ways to support local CJCC coordinators. These meetings have included reviewing National CJCC Standards and their relevance to state CJCCs, offering an opportunity to tailor standards more closely to local needs.

The third goal involves building and sponsoring an EBDM summit. Following the subcommittee's recommendation, funding will be incorporated into the upcoming JAG grant application to support an annual CJCC summit/conference. This event aims to build upon the momentum from local CJCC coordinators' meetings, with initial development of agenda topics and potential partners for the EBDM Summit underway.

The fourth goal is to coordinate with the TAD subcommittee and DOJ staff to provide and facilitate EBDM-relevant training and technical assistance to agencies with EBDM and TAD-related programs. The Justice Programs Participation Survey has been completed, and its results have been shared with both EBDM and TAD Subcommittees.

The fifth goal is to re-engage in using the EBDM framework to discuss a variety of challenging topics. The main topic of interest in the year's first two meetings has been bail reform legislation and its potential impact on pretrial sites. Brad Kelly from the DOJ presented information on the Wisconsin Deflection Initiative, indicating a possible area of future growth.

Finally, the sixth goal is to promote consistency in data gathering and reporting. DOJ staff are currently reviewing performance measures for Pretrial programs, aiming to standardize and enhance data collection processes.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 A.M.