



Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Evidence-Based Decision Making Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 16, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Meeting location Virtual (Zoom)

Co-Chairs Kelli Thompson and Ray Woodruff

Subcommittee Members Present:	Heather Kierzek, Kelli Thompson (arrived at 9:17am), Ray Woodruff, Judge Elliott Levine, Nick Sayner, Emily Westover, Tiana Glenna, Chloe Moore (arrived at 9:54am)
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Delilah McKinney, Dave Mack, Brad Jago
DOJ Staff:	Ryan Anderson, Ashley Billig, Sabrina Gentile, Brad Kelly, Christine Schulz, Mike Derr, Brittney Felton, Danielle Long

Welcome and Opening Comments

Subcommittee Co-Chair Ray Woodruff welcomed members to the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Quorum was present.

Co-Chair Ray Woodruff asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the August 21, 2025, meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 21, 2025

Motion was made by Tiana Glenna and seconded by Nick Sayner to approve the August 21, 2025, Evidence-Based Decision Making Subcommittee meeting minutes.

The motion was passed on a voice vote.

Subcommittee Member Updates

There were no subcommittee member updates.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) and Medication

Brad Kelly, DOJ Program Manager for RSAT

Kelly used a PowerPoint to summarize the RSAT and MAT program.

What is MAT?

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is the use of FDA-approved medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat individuals with alcohol use disorder and opioid use disorder.

MAT is an evidence-based approach proven to:

- Improve treatment retention
- Reduce cravings and withdrawal symptoms
- Lower the risk of relapse, overdose, and overdose death

- Support long-term recovery when paired with behavioral therapies

Allowable Uses of Funding for MAT

Funds may be used for:

- FDA-approved medications for opioid or alcohol use disorder
- MAT for pretrial populations
- Continuing or initiating evidence-based MAT within correctional facilities or community program.

Kelly introduced the managers from DOC and the local RSAT and Medication programs.

Bonnie Macritchie-Titze, Department of Corrections

Bonnie, the Opioid Initiatives Director for DOC, provided an update on the department's ongoing work to expand access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) across DOC facilities. Her role, created two years ago, focuses on identifying service gaps and securing resources to support individuals in recovery both inside facilities and in the community. A major part of this effort has involved close collaboration with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and county jail teams.

Why MOUD Access Pre-Release Matters

Bonnie emphasized the large and growing body of evidence showing the importance of providing MOUD before release. Key points:

1. High-Risk Period Post-Release

- The first two weeks after release are an extremely vulnerable period for individuals with opioid use disorder.
- While incarcerated, most individuals are in a forced period of withdrawal because substances are not available.
- Upon release, they often return to:
 - The same neighborhoods
 - The same social networks
 - The same behavioral patterns
- This combination significantly raises the risk of relapse, overdose, and overdose death.

2. Stress and Instability After Release

- Individuals face numerous stressors immediately upon returning to the community:
 - Securing housing
 - Finding employment
 - Re-establishing transportation
- Stress increases the likelihood of returning to substance use, especially in familiar environments.

3. Benefits of Buprenorphine

Bonnie highlighted that buprenorphine:

- Treats withdrawal
- Reduces cravings
- Dramatically lowers the risk of overdose

- Reduces overdose deaths

Because of these benefits, DOC is focusing on expanding access before release to support sustained recovery.

Strategic Implementation Progression (Beginning 2024)

Phase 1 – Continuation at All DOC Facilities

- MOUD is continued for all patients who enter DOC with an active prescription.

Phase 2 – Initiation at Select DOC Facilities

- Individuals within 4 months of release are:
 - Referred to a DOC MOUD prescriber
 - Provided assistance with their first community appointment to ensure continuity of care post-release

Phase 3 – Continued Expansion

- Broader rollout of MOUD initiation
- Identification of additional sites for initiation
- Focus on high-risk populations and circumstances

Brad discusses the Therapeutic Community Requirement

What Is a Therapeutic Community?

- A therapeutic community is a designated treatment environment set apart from the general correctional population.
- It exists in:
 - A separate facility or
 - A dedicated housing unit used exclusively for:
 - RSAT (Residential Substance Abuse Treatment)
 - Other structured substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs

This structure allows for more intensive, recovery-focused intervention.

Unlike DOC facilities, jails generally lack the space, staffing, and dedicated housing units needed to operate therapeutic communities. This limits their ability to implement certain components of MOUD programming at the same scale.

Sara Benedict, Dunn County

Dunn County continues to operate its Therapeutic Community and associated health services, supported in part by the RSAT grant, which has helped sustain and expand these services.

Identification and Engagement of Individuals

The process begins with ensuring that individuals in the jail know that MAT and therapeutic community services are available. Several strategies are used:

1. Booking Questions

- During intake, individuals are screened for:
 - Substance use history

- Current substance-related challenges
- However, not all individuals disclose substance use during booking, so multiple follow-up opportunities are integrated into the process.
- 2. Nursing Follow-Up
 - If an individual remains in custody for any length of time, the jail nurse conducts additional screening and asks about substance use needs.
- 3. Information & Advertising
 - Flyers are posted throughout the facility to inform individuals of the program.
- 4. Word of Mouth
 - One of the most effective methods has been word-of-mouth referrals.
 - When individuals engage in MAT and begin to improve, news spreads quickly among the jail population, increasing participation.

MAT Participation and Primary Substances of Concern

- The Dunn County jail typically has 8–10 individuals per month participating in the MAT program.
- The most prevalent substance issues in the county are:
 1. Alcohol (most common)
 2. Methamphetamine
 3. Opioids

Recently, the county was able to restart MAT services for alcohol use disorder, which is a major step because alcohol-related issues represent the largest share of their incarcerated population's treatment needs.

Assessment and Treatment Process

- Individuals must undergo an assessment to confirm an opioid or alcohol use disorder.
- A full clinical assessment is then completed to determine readiness and appropriateness for MAT.
- As noted earlier, Joe Metzger, the jail's licensed substance abuse counselor, conducts these assessments and provides ongoing support.

Dillon Ksionek, Wood County

Wood County Jail – Facility Overview & Program Highlights

New Jail Facility

Wood County discussed the development of their new jail, which was intentionally designed to increase access to programming and treatment services for incarcerated individuals.

Facility Structure

- 4 total floors
- Built with a focus on expanding and improving programming opportunities

Population

- The jail houses an average of 175–200 individuals at any given time.

Recovery Pod

The new facility includes a dedicated recovery pod, designed to support individuals with substance use disorders.

Recovery Pod Details

- 8-person capacity
- Serves both male and female participants
- Focuses on recovery-based programming and support

Staffing & Clinical Support

Wood County's programming is supported by specialized staff, including:

- Two part-time case managers
- A prescribing CAR-NP (Certified Addiction Registered Nurse Practitioner)

This structure allows the county to provide more individualized care, increase treatment access, and strengthen reentry planning

Training Request from CJCC

Presented by Lara Kenny, Bureau of Justice Programs Director

At the last CJCC meeting, several members raised the issue of training professionals in the criminal justice field in Evidence Based Decision Making. There seems to be a drop off in various disciplines of familiarity with the principles of EBDM and members want this subcommittee and BJP staff to work on this issue.

BJP staff will work with this subcommittee in the coming months to learn more about this training gap and discuss remedies.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Co-Chair Ray Woodruff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Kelli Thompson and seconded by Nick Sayner to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

2025 Meeting Dates

December 18, 2025