

State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Race Equity, Inclusion, and Access Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date | 10/05/2023 12:15 p.m. | Meeting location Virtual (Zoom)

Co-Chairs: Rebecca Dallet
Supreme Court Justice
Wisconsin Supreme Court

Gwen Topping
Associate Judge
Red Cliff Tribal Court

Staff Lara Kenny
Ryan Anderson
Mike Austin
Sabrina Gentile
Phil Zell
Kerrie Fanning
Mark Rather
Caitlin Snyder
Katie Snell

Subcommittee Members Present

State Public Defender Kelli Thompson, Jane Graham Jennings, Kimberly Lawton, Derek Mosley, Jerome Dillard, Blake Gross, Judge Elliott Levine, Rebecca Matoska-Mentink, Judge Neal “Chip” Nielsen

Subcommittee Members Not Present

Judge Emily Lonergan, Chief Shon Barnes, Deputy Chief Judge Carl Ashley, Sheriff Tammy Sternard, Mary Triggiano, Ashley Billig, Representative Evan Goyke

Others Present

Adam Plotkin, Michelle Goodman, Heather Kierczek, Tyler Brandt, Sarah Wynn, Linda Palmer

AGENDA TOPICS

Welcome and Opening Comments

At 12:15 PM, Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Dallet welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Race Equity, Inclusion, and Access (REIA) Subcommittee.

Approval of 02/02/2023 & 08/03/2023 Minutes

Kelli Thompson made a motion to approve the 02/02/2023 and 08/03/2023 meeting minutes. Judge Elliott Levine seconded.

Indiana Courts Master Jury List Project

Justice Dallet introduced Michelle Goodman, staff attorney for the Indiana Office of Court Services to present to the subcommittee about Indiana's master jury list project.

Ms. Goodman began the presentation by briefing the subcommittee on the State of Indiana's structure in regard to the jury process. Indiana's 18 and over population is 5.2 million per the 2022 census, and all counties do their own jury management. In her role, Ms. Goodman is part of a committee of judges who work to implement processes and aid courts in meeting jury requirements. One of their major projects is a jury master list that they produce at a state level that is provided to the counties annually.

Prior to the master jury list project, Indiana counties only used voter registration lists and there were no statutes or rules governing master jury lists. During the project, the Indiana Supreme Court adopted jury rules that required Indiana counties to draw from more than one list for their jury pools. Ms. Goodman will follow up and provide a link to the jury rules in Indiana to the subcommittee.

During initial research, they looked at voter lists, driver's license lists, ID cards, and income tax lists. They partnered with a local university to have an early analysis done on the lists to determine which added the most value. The determination was made to move forward with a master list comprised of the income tax list from the Department of Revenue and the driver's license and ID card list from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and partnered with seven pilot counties to disseminate the master list to those counties for review. The seven sites reviewed the lists for quality assurance and feedback on differences, improvements, issues, and concerns. Once feedback was received and addressed, Indiana moved forward with using this process for the jury master list.

Indiana's master jury project started with a subcommittee in 2002 and the final release of the jury list was in Fall 2005 for use during Calendar Year 2006. They have been using the same process ever since and are trying to release the master jury list to counties by the beginning of September. They pull their data in July so that they can have the most up-to-date data while also still having enough time to properly process the data for release. In Indiana

After the presentation, there was discussion among the subcommittee members about the presentation and Wisconsin's ability to use data from the Department of Revenue.

Tyler Brandt from Wisconsin State Courts shared with the subcommittee that we should start seeing data regarding the impact that the addition of the ID card list from DOT has had on jury lists, especially in larger areas such as Milwaukee County.

New Member Recruitment Follow-Up Updates

Justice Dallet announced retired Judge Neal (“Chip”) Nielson from Vilas County, Clerk of Courts Rebecca Matoska-Mentink from Kenosha County, and private practice Attorney Blake Gross from Ashland County as new members of REIA.

Juror Project Educational Opportunities Updates

No updates were available to be made at this time.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 PM.