

# State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

## Race Equity, Inclusion, and Access Subcommittee

### Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date | 8/26/2021 7:30 a.m. | Meeting location Virtual (Zoom)

#### **Co-Chairs:** Rebecca Dallet

Supreme Court Justice  
Wisconsin Supreme Court

Kimberly Lawton  
District Attorney  
Bayfield County

#### **Staff**

Matt Raymer  
Donna Hahn  
Lara Kenny

#### **Subcommittee Members Present**

Associate Judge Gwen Topping, Public Defender Kelli Thompson, Chief Shon Barnes, Deputy Chief Judge Carl Ashley, Jane Graham Jennings, Judge Derek Mosley, Rhonda Frank-Loron, Derek Veitenheimer

#### **Subcommittee Members Not Present**

Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes, Vanessa McDowell

#### **Others Present**

Tina Virgil, Adam Plotkin

## **AGENDA TOPICS**

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### **Welcome and Opening Comments**

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

### **Membership Updates**

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Justice Dallet has not yet heard back from the Badger State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA) about a representative from that association. Associate Judge Gwen Topping suggested that perhaps there should be two Sheriffs on the REIA Subcommittee, with one being from a county that has a Tribe. Justice Dallet will reach out to Sheriff Rebecca Smith of Menominee County.

Matt Raymer introduced Derek Veitenheimer, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis. Veitenheimer will represent the State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Data-Sharing/Outcomes, Trends and Indicators (OTIS) Subcommittee on the REIA Subcommittee. He gave a brief update of the Comprehensive Outcome, Research and Evaluation (CORE) Reporting (System for Treatment Courts and Diversion Programs, which manages the flow of information and participants for the state funded Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program; it is similar to a case management system. Judge Ashley informed the

subcommittee that there is a partnership between WATCP and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to analyze CORE to look at demographics for programs to examine inclusion. Veitenheimer offered to do a presentation at a future meeting on that topic or other data topics relevant to the criminal justice system.

Raymer noted that Kelli Thompson chairs the CJCC Evidenced-Based and Decision Making (EBDM) Subcommittee so we have an established link to that group. The EBDM Subcommittee has several key vacancies and once those are filled, it may be possible to invite another EBDM member to join this subcommittee as well.

### **Subcommittee Mission/Goals Discussion**

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Justice Dallet led a discussion about the goals and mission of the subcommittee.

DA Lawton has a rough draft of a mission statement but will look at language of other coalitions and committees as well. She requested everyone send their ideas about mission statement and values to Raymer. Narrowing down the values of the subcommittee will help to guide what the action items will be so that they are focused.

Chief Barnes suggested that the mission statement include specific language and to have room to change. He suggested that the statement include language about continuous improvement.

Justice Dallet shared a link to the National Consortium as it is a good resource to see what other states are doing. Justice Dallet reported New Jersey's mission statement is very good and has been doing this work for a long time. She asked the subcommittee members to look at the link and New Jersey's second paragraph in particular. It uses words such as "identify", "where/how", "confront", and "seek to remedy." These types of words will help set the stage for action. <https://www.national-consortium.org/>

Judge Ashley noted that it is very important to use the word "education" as everyone has the ability to learn and effect change.

DA Lawton noted that she has a basic draft mission statement and will share it after she and Chief Barnes receive input from others. Subcommittee members should send values and mission statement input to Raymer. The mission statement and values will be discussed and perhaps finalized at the next meeting.

### **State CJCC/Subcommittee Overview**

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Raymer provided an update on each of the State CJCC Subcommittees and their recent work that will align with the work for this subcommittee.

#### **Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Subcommittee**

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Raymer announced that the TAD grant opportunity opened for application this week.

Raymer reported that the Diversion Standards were edited prior to approval to include revised and enhanced language on equity and inclusion. Raymer will send out language from the Diversion Standards that may assist the subcommittee with the mission statement.

The TAD Subcommittee meets on August 26, 2021.

### **Data-Sharing/Outcomes, Trends and Indicators (OTIS) Subcommittee**

Veitenheimer gave an overview of the projects the Data-Sharing/OTIS Subcommittee is working on. Currently the subcommittee is working on gathering and developing mechanisms to share state data across the criminal justice system, specifically between DOJ, the Department of Corrections (DOC), and the State Courts. This project is funded by DOJ's Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) federal grant. BJIA recently hired a staff person to lead this effort. The project will allow the three state agencies to connect people in the system using biometrics. The main goal of the project is to automate data. The Data Sharing/OTIS Subcommittee will be regularly updating the CJCC on their progress.

Another project is focused on understanding where demographic data comes from as it enters the criminal justice system. It is a big undertaking but will be valuable to understand the how, when, and from where questions when considering data in the system.

The subcommittee will be presenting at the next State CJCC meeting on what the last couple of years' worth of data shows about the criminal justice system.

Judge Ashley expressed excitement about the unique identifier for data as that has been talked about for a long time.

Justice Dallet asked when there will be usable, synthesized data available from the JRI project.

Veitenheimer noted that they have a completed proof of concept and have already conducted a pilot among the three state agencies to connect data together. The timeline depends on what is needed or asked for from the data. Research using the data won't be possible until the automation is done in the next couple years. However, we may be able to look at certain questions using static data from the proof of concept.

Associate Judge Topping noted that Tribal courts hold data as well and we should look at how Tribal courts can be a part of the process to connect and share information. Currently, data cannot be merged into the Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP) because of how data is coded. Veitenheimer will connect with Topping to discuss how to make progress on this effort.

Raymer noted that the next Data Sharing/OTIS Subcommittee meeting is next week.

### **Evidence-Based Decision-Making Subcommittee**

Raymer noted that the EBDM Subcommittee has not met since the last REIA Subcommittee meeting as the other subcommittees meet every other month. Kelli Thompson noted that the subcommittee is still trying to add to its membership.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- The next State CJCC Meeting is September 8, 2021. The agenda includes an item to review the EBDM Subcommittee's work on the multi-year strategic plan.

## Action Items/Next Steps & Future Meeting Topics

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Subcommittee members will send Raymer input on the mission statement, and he will distribute to Chief Barnes and Lawton by email.

Chief Barnes and DA Kimberly Lawton will work on the mission statement for the next meeting.

Veitenheimer will present at the next REIA Subcommittee meeting.

Subcommittee members will continue to work with associations to encourage training on racial bias, inclusion, equity, and access. Education will be a piece of this group's mission.

In the next couple of months, many associations are having conferences and trainings.

The State Public Defenders training is in November. Thompson will send the date of the training and connect Justice Dallet to the point person to discuss training. (Kelli Thompson)

The District Attorneys conference is the first week in November. DA Lawton will reach out to Amy Domaszek, State Prosecutor Education Training Coordinator at DOJ to discuss diversity. (DA Lawton)

Justice Dallet noted that training for Judges is taking place the first week of September.

Associate Judge Topping is working on a new series of webinars on racial trainings. Previously presented webinars were well received and people requested additional training.

The Chiefs of Police meet next week though it is not known when their next conference is. Chief Barnes said there is an option to do a training at an upcoming conference.

The Badger State Sheriffs' Association has quarterly meetings. The last meeting was August 10 – 12, 2021. The next meeting dates are not posted on the website yet.

The Milwaukee County Race, Equity and Procedural Justice 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held on October 22, 2021. The conference is an all-day training and is scheduled for in-person at Marquette University, though a virtual option may become available. Law Enforcement has a presence on the planning committee and are invited to attend. DOC is also involved. The speaker is Danielle Surette. She is the author of *Until We Reckon*. They will also show "*When Claude Got Shot*" and have a panel discussion with some of those that are in the film. (Judge Ashley)

Municipal Judges have educational seminars and the theme for the last year and half has been Recognizing Unconscious Bias. Judge Mosley has been teaching the seminars and the last one is coming up soon.

Nō Studios is showing "Correcting the Narrative – From Incarceration to Inspiration" on August 31, 2021. The event will include a moderated discussion with four people who are leaving the prison system. The event is in person (1037 West McKinley Avenue, Milwaukee) and virtual and begins at 5:30 p.m. (Judge Mosley)

**Next Meeting Date**

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September 23, 2021

**Public Comment**

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The meeting adjourned at 8:24 a.m.