



**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024 // 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Virtual (Zoom)**

**Co-Chairs Kelli Thompson and Sara Benedict**

<b>Subcommittee Members Present:</b>	Kelli Thompson, Sara Benedict, Mark Abeles-Allison, Nick Bakken, Colleen Clark-Bernhardt, Melvin Juette, Kit Kerschensteiner, Heather Kierzek, Judge Elliott Levine, Andrea Loscher, Robert Mann, JC Moore, Tamra Oman, Adam Plotkin, Beth Robinson, Nick Sayner, Jessica Skemp, Lance Wiersma, Lisa Yeates
<b>Subcommittee Members Not Present:</b>	Holly Audley, Sheila Carlson, Kristy Gusse, Judge Jo Deen Lowe, Patti Jo Severson
<b>DOJ Staff:</b>	Ryan Anderson, Phil Zell, Brad Kelly, Katie Snell, Sabrina Gentile, Ashley Billig, Mike Derr, Jacqueline Kamin, Chris McKinney, Dylan Mooney, Marsha Schiszik
<b>Other Agency Staff:</b>	

**Welcome and Opening Comments**

Meeting called to order at 12:02 pm with a quorum. Subcommittee Co–Chair Sara Benedict welcomed members and thanked everyone for making time to attend the extra meeting.

**Review of State Crisis Intervention Program Plan**

Katie Snell reported the TAD Subcommittee, serving as the advisory body for the State Crisis Intervention Program, recommended in the November 16, 2023, subcommittee meeting that BJP staff collaborate with a specially formed working group to review and enhance several project proposals. This working group, consisting of volunteer members from the TAD Subcommittee, convened on November 27, 2023, and January 5, 2024, to fulfill this task.

Snell reviewed the modified proposed State Crisis Intervention Plan that was recommended by the workgroup for approval by the Subcommittee. The modifications are described below.

**Working Group Highlights:**

**Reallocation of Funds for Prosecutors:** BJP has reallocated \$1,000,000 previously designated for “Special Prosecutors focused on Gun Violence.” This was a consensus recommendation by the working group. The group concluded that additional resources in this area would not be an efficient use of SCIP funds.

**Elimination of Specialty Court Specialist Role:** An additional \$200,000, initially earmarked for a “Specialty Court Specialist focused on Gun Violence,” is now redirected to community-based intervention programs. This shift also includes allocating an additional \$50,000 for research on gun violence prevention. The working group reasoned that Wisconsin's current treatment

courts are sufficient and adding roles for handling violent offenders might complicate legal and procedural aspects. Moreover, these changes were deemed more preventive than reactive in addressing gun violence. The working group also advised that enhancing funding for the Research on Gun Violence line item could accommodate all research needs and was a better approach than creating a separate line item relevant to specialty courts and gun violence.

**Expansion of Community-based Intervention Programs:** With the combined reallocation of funds totaling \$1,200,000, the focus shifts to developing and enhancing community-based intervention programs. These programs aim to address gun violence more proactively. The types of programming that could potentially be funded align with violence interruption models and educational efforts on the dangers of carrying and using firearms to resolve conflict. Additionally, there is the potential to fund projects aimed at creating diversion programs to serve those charged with low level gun crimes. There is an ongoing discussion about replicating models like Minnesota’s Pathways program, if there are ways to overcome differences in state laws and establish demand at the county level for such a program. The working group agreed that programs in this category should have a trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy component. The work group also recommended making grant opportunities that assist youth, as well as adults.

**Detailed Budget and Project Plan for Wisconsin:** The state’s proposed SCIP budget of \$4,166,354 for a 48-month period is allocated as follows:

- State usage: \$2,499,812 (60% of the total funding)
- Direct local pass-through: \$1,200,314
- Funds to state courts or subawards to jurisdictions: \$466,228
- Administrative costs: Up to \$416,635 (10% of total award)
- The plan includes potential waivers for jurisdictions receiving less than \$10,000.

**Potential Modifications to the Plan:** BJP, alongside the TAD Subcommittee, will remain flexible to modify this plan as needed. Possible reasons for modifications include non-approval of parts of the plan by BJA, mismatches between funding demand and availability, or new directives from BJA or other relevant stakeholders. This flexibility ensures the plan remains responsive to changing needs and guidelines.

**Subcommittee Members Discussion and Feedback:** Mark Abeles-Allison expressed that he liked the proposed move toward more prevention and community-based interventions. In response to Mark’s request about the 10% administrative cost line amount, Snell confirmed that 10% is the maximum amount allowed. Snell also confirmed that the SCIP Advisory Board can review and revise budget line item amounts later. Abeles-Allison also asked about the purpose of “potential waivers for jurisdictions receiving less than \$10,000.” Snell responded that this provision would help to spread SCIP funds and use across rural areas.

Colleen Clark-Bernhardt asked about the marketing and promoting of the SCIP program among counties and community-based organizations. Snell noted that the Bureau of Justice Programs

(BJP) has been marketing SCIP since August 2023. Snell clarified that grant funds must be awarded directly to counties, but that grantees can partner with community organizations as much as they want. The upcoming grant solicitation will provide more specific guidelines on the awarding and partnership processes. In response to Clark-Bernhardt’s question on the timing of the solicitation, Snell stated that BJP is aiming for this coming spring or early summer.

In response to Nick Sayner’s question about availability funds for school districts, Snell responded that SCIP funds cannot be awarded directly to school districts, but added that other funding will be available to districts for a similar program purpose.

Heather Kierzek asked whether county grantees will be allowed to sub-contract with community organizations. Snell and Ryan Anderson responded yes county grantees will be allowed to sub-contract.

JC Moore asked if the “Gun Shop Program and Training on Reducing Access to Lethal Means” line item grant funds can be directed toward community-based organizations. Snell answered WI DOJ is awaiting federal Bureau of Justice Assistance approval and clarification on both points.

Finally, Ryan Anderson reminded Co – Chairs Sara Benedict and Kelli Thompson that one or both need to sign the cover letter transmitting the updated approved SCIP proposal to BJA.

### **Approval of State Crisis Intervention Plan**

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Co-Chair Benedict requested a motion for the State Crisis Intervention Plan.

Motion was made by Mark Abeles-Allison and seconded by Nick Sayner to approve the State Crisis Intervention Plan.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 19 Ayes, 0 No

### **Public Comment**

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There was no public comment.

Co-Chair Benedict requested a motion to adjourn.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

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Motion was made by Judge Elliott Levine and seconded by Nick Sayner to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 19 Ayes, 0 No

The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.