



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

Thursday, February 22, 2024 // 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Virtual (Zoom)

Co-Chairs Kelli Thompson and Sara Benedict

Subcommittee Members Present:	Kellie Thompson, Sara Benedict, Andrea Loscher, Kit Kerschensteiner, Heather Kierzek, Beth Robinson, Nick Sayner, Adam Plotkin, Holly Audley, Mark Abeles-Allison, Colleen Clark-Bernhardt, Tamra Oman, Jessica Skemp, J.C. Moore, Lance Wiersma
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Robert Mann, Judge Jo Deen Lowe, Kristy Gusse, Patti Jo Severson, Lisa Yeates, Judge Elliott Levine, Melvin Juette, Sheila Carlson, Nicholas Bakken
DOJ Staff:	Ryan Anderson, Phil Zell, Katie Snell, Sabrina Gentile, Mike Derr, Jacqueline Kamin, Dylan Mooney, Marsha Schiszik, Mark Rather, Kaley Horvath, Lara Kenny, Ashley Billig, Brad Kelly

Welcome and Opening Comments

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. Co-Chair Sara Benedict welcomed members to the meeting. Quorum was not yet present, so actionable items were delayed to later in meeting.

Subcommittee Member Updates

Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) Update

Heather Kierzek reported the 2024 Statewide WATCP Conference is scheduled for April 24-26, 2024, at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. The theme will be “20 Years of WATCP.” Registration is open. Please reach out to Heather for information. WATCP will be performing strategic planning next month.

Legislative Updates

Adam Plotkin reported the legislative session is ending soon. The Assembly’s last day in session is today, unless they come back in March to concur in a bill that may be approved by the Senate and needs Assembly action. The Senate will have a limited floor session in March.

The Senate approved Senate Bill 11, relating to expanding the TAD Program. Under this bill, a program funded by a TAD grant need not focus solely on alcohol and other drug treatment, but may provide treatment programs for a person who has any mental illness. The bill has now been referred to the Assembly. Plotkin reminded the Subcommittee that the Assembly may not have another session day.

Subcommittee members discussed how Senate Bill 11 is an expansion of TAD that does not come with funding for more staff to administer the program. Nick Sayner asked what Subcommittee members could do to advocate for additional staff; Plotkin suggested that members support any line item for additional staff included in DOJ's next proposed budget, which is due September 15, 2024. Co-Chair Benedict said this can be addressed at a future meeting.

Plotkin also referenced Senate Bill 275, which codifies the functioning of specialty courts, including treatment courts, as well as commercial courts. Given that the legislative session is nearing the end, Plotkin doesn't anticipate that either bill will pass both houses and wind up on the Governor's desk.

Treatment Court Procedural Fairness Survey Results

Kaley Horvath used a PowerPoint to report the treatment court procedural fairness survey results. The survey was an anonymous, non-mandatory survey to all TAD-funded treatment courts. It was rated on a Likert scale of 1-7 in five categories: judge, case manager, probation/parole officer, treatment provider, and general court staff. The response period was November 20 – December 22, 2023. There were 369 total responses from 52 programs.

Horvath presented the survey results. Horvath noted the positive scores in all categories, with 4 being the target average. Horvath noted there were no statistically significant differences in responses based on sex, race, or year of survey response. It should also be noted that the survey responses were slightly under-representative of Black/African American and Native American participants based on the approximated number of active participants at the time of the survey.

Treatment Comprehensive Outcome, Research and Evaluation for Treatment Courts and Diversion Programs (CORE) Data Platform Updates

Kaley Horvath used a PowerPoint to report the 2023 CORE Enhancements. The updates were funded by the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Adult Drug Court Grant. CORE was updated to accommodate new performance measures determined for three specialty courts (Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, OWI Court). Additions mainly consisted of creating new variables to capture elements included in the new performance measures, such as the number of Peer Sober Support staff or whether benefits were sourced from VA services. In response to Heather Kierzek's question, Horvath clarified that all the of the new performance measure elements are required to be completed by these specialty courts.

There were extra time and resources before the grant expired that were then dedicated to general quality of life improvements within CORE, such as improving the functionality of the Notes and including several new dropdown choices in various areas. It should be noted that more CORE improvements are in process currently, as the focus has turned to incorporating Pretrial programs into CORE, as well as any more general changes that can be included in that process.

At this juncture, DOJ Staff informed Co-Chair Benedict that quorum was present.

Approval of May 25, 2023; November 16, 2023; and January 31, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Benedict requested a motion to approve the May 25, 2023; November 16, 2023; and January 31, 2024, TAD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made by Colleen Clark-Bernhardt and seconded by Mark Abeles-Allison to approve the May 25, 2023; November 16, 2023; and January 31, 2024 TAD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 14 Ayes, 0 No

Establish 2024 Subcommittee Goals, Objectives and Outcomes

Mike Derr used a PowerPoint to review the Subcommittee's proposed six goals and their corresponding outcomes for 2024. The goals and outcomes were applicable to both the TAD and SCIP grant programs, and addressed legislation, alternative grants and other resources, provision of training and technical assistance on EBDM and grant program topics, administration of both grant programs, and awarding of subgrants.

Co-chair Benedict and other Subcommittee members commented the six goals may be too many; there could be ways to combine and boil down multiple goals into one. Also, members stated that revising the goals may make it easier for DOJ staff and the Subcommittee to track.

Nick Sayner commented that it would be nice to have more time to review the proposed goals and outcomes and consider possible revisions. Mike Derr suggested that this matter be tabled for DOJ staff to revise the goals and outcomes, taking into consideration Subcommittee member suggestions.

Discussion and Approval of Diversion Program Outcome and Performance Measures

Mike Derr reported the discussion and approval of the *Wisconsin Statewide Pre-Charge and Post-Charge Diversion Program Outcome and Performance Measures DRAFT* was originally scheduled for the November 16, 2023, TAD Subcommittee meeting. Due to a longer discussion for the State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP), the Diversion Program Outcome and Performance Measures discussion was rescheduled for today's meeting.

Derr reviewed the development of the Diversion Program Outcome and Performance Measures Draft Report in 2018 and the more recent review of those measures by Bureau of Justice Programs (BJP) and Bureau of Justice Information & Analysis (BJIA) staff. In response to Derr's request for comments and feedback, the Subcommittee had the following concerns and questions:

- Mark Abeles-Allison wondered why the selected post-program recidivism time intervals were six months, one year and three years.

- Several members asked what specific workgroup put together the draft outcome and performance measures in 2018.
- Heather Kierzek, Colleen Clark-Bernhardt and Nick Saynor all noted the need for some of the language and terms to be updated, and suggested that diversion program staff and stakeholders be invited to review the current draft.

The Subcommittee did not approve the proposed Outcome and Performance Measures and asked DOJ Staff to form a workgroup if necessary to review the language and make suggested changes, consistent with their comments. Derr responded that DOJ will form a workgroup and act accordingly, and present updated outcomes and performance measures at a future meeting.

2024 TAD Grant Awards and 2025 TAD Application Process

Marsha Schizik reported the 2024 TAD Program funds 58 counties and three tribes with combined subgrant awards totaling \$9,572,900. There are 58 Treatment Courts and 30 Diversion Programs. TAD also funds a State Courts Office subgrant award for \$116,000 for training initiatives. Schizik reviewed the site visits and TAD trainings and meetings.

DOJ Staff is preparing for the 2025 TAD application process. The total funding amount is \$10,688,900. The potential categories for funding are:

- Baseline Funding
- Staff Training and Technical Support Activities
- New Treatment Court & Diversion Program
- Enhancements and Expansion of existing programs (behavioral health, peer specialist)
- One-Year Program Evaluation

Mark Abeles-Allison noted the challenges that will be faced in the review and administration of additional numbers of TAD projects without additional administrative support.

State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) Update

Katie Snell reported the SCIP plan was sent to BJA for their approval after it was approved at the January 31, 2024, TAD Subcommittee meeting. BJP's federal partner for the SCIP grant called to advise today that the SCIP program plan and budget are ready for approval as soon as DOJ Staff modifies a small technical part of the online submission. BJP also learned that only 23 states have approvals from BJA for their SCIP plans, and only 10-15 states have BJA approval for their subgrants. BJA also hosted an informational webinar that advised that BJA will be composing an updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and a clearer FY24 federal solicitation that aims to provide further clarity regarding allowable costs/activities under the SCIP grant. BJP will keep the subcommittee informed as new information is disseminated.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, May 23, 2024

- Thursday, August 22, 2024
- Thursday, November 21, 2024

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Co-Chair Benedict requested a motion to adjourn.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Mark Abeles-Allison and seconded by Nick Sayner to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was approved.

The vote was: 13 Ayes, 0 No

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.