



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

Thursday, March 27, 2025 // 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Virtual (Zoom)

Co-Chairs Kelli Thompson and Sara Benedict

Subcommittee Members Present:	Kelli Thompson, Sara Benedict, Heather Kierzek, Mark Abeles-Allison, Patti Jo Severson, Judge Elliott Levine, Lisa Yeates, Jason Cram, J.C. Moore, Judge JoDeen Lowe, Beth Robinson, Melvin Juetter, Nicholas Bakken, Jessica Skemp, Keeley Crowley, Tim Kufus, Tamra Oman, Nick Sayner
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Kit Kerschensteiner
DOJ Staff:	Ryan Anderson, Phil Zell, Katie Snell, Sabrina Gentile, Mike Derr, Jacqueline Kamin, Marsha Schiszik, Kaley Horvath, Lara Kenny, Ashley Billig, Brad Kelly, Brittney Felton, Steve Wagner, Kerrie Fanning

Welcome and Opening Comments

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. Co-Chair Sara Benedict welcomed members to the meeting. Quorum was present.

Approval of January 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Benedict requested a motion to approve the January 23, 2025, TAD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Motion to Approve January 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Mark Abeles-Allison and seconded by Melvin Juetter to approve the January 23, 2025, TAD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The motion was passed on a voice vote.

Subcommittee Member Updates

Co-Chair Benedict and Lara Kenny asked the Subcommittee if anyone had any updates to share.

- Mark Abeles-Allison noted that Judge John Anderson of Bayfield County described the TAD Program at a local educational presentation.
- Judge Elliott Levine provided a brief update on Effective Justice Strategies (EJS) Subcommittee activities, which also involves planning updates to the Wisconsin Treatment Court Standards. The EJS Subcommittee is part of the PPAC (Planning and Policy Advisory Committee) for the Wisconsin Supreme Court.
- Commissioner JC Moore reminded fellow members that the WATCP Annual Conference will be held on April 23-25, 2025.

2025 TAD Goals

Ryan Anderson, DOJ Criminal Justice Programs Supervisor

Anderson reviewed the slides illustrating the four proposed subcommittee goals and related outcomes for 2025 and asked for comment. (Ryan noted that Goal 4 came before Goal 3 on the slides, and this would be fixed.)

Judge Levine asked Subcommittee members and DOJ Staff to follow up with the local sites that have completed or will complete Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) planning. Judge Levine suggested to add a 4th outcome under Goal 2 stating whether local SIM sites are meeting established outcomes. Heather Kierzek and Marsha Schizik responded that DOJ and the State Courts Office would follow up with the five new SIM sites to determine how they are progressing.

Abeles-Allison asked what kinds of outreach can the subcommittee and the Bureau of Justice Programs (BJP) do to help better inform stakeholders of the TAD program. Schizik, Mike Derr and Lara Kenny responded that outreach presently occurs during grant project site visits, standards and best practice training sessions, and discussions on funding opportunities. Subcommittee members could assist with developing an outreach tool kit. In response to Tamra Oman's question, Kierzek mentioned that peer support best practices are featured in trainings and at the WATCP Annual Conference.

While reviewing proposed Goal #4, Judge Levine stated the importance of setting up a process for local programs to input data into CORE in order to avoid the need to "double entry" that data. Ashley Billig stated that the Bureau of Information & Analysis (BJIA) sent out a survey to program sites seeking information on local database platforms to help promote development of an interface application that would work for both local sites and CORE. Kierzek mentioned that the State Courts has also surveyed local programs to gather information. Judge JoDeen Lowe said that tribes do not enter data into CCAP, so creation of an interface application needs to take that into account. Sara Benedict thanked members and staff for their comments, stating that BJP will make adjustments and additions to the 2025 goals and outcomes based on this discussion.

State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) Update

Katie Snell, SCIP Program Manager

Katie Snell announced a grant opportunity for SCIP supporting crisis intervention and suicide prevention initiatives (e.g., educational campaigns, peer support programs, co-response programs, etc.). This grant opportunity is open to any agency at the county and tribal level across Wisconsin. Non-profits and municipal agencies can also partner with their county or tribe to collaborate on an initiative to support crisis intervention in their community. The grant announcement is available online at

<https://www.wisdoj.gov/Law%20Enforcement%20Services/SCIP%20Counties%20and%20Tribes%20Rd%202%20GA%20FINAL.pdf>.

TAD Marathon County Presentation – Local Use of CORE Data

Laura Yarie and Michal Schultz

Laura Yarie introduced herself (Justice Services Coordinator) and Michal Schultz (Data Officer) and briefly described the Marathon County Drug Court program's data reporting process.

Both presenters highlighted a series of slides shared with the Subcommittee. In 2017, the county started utilizing priority based budgeting (PBB); this approach requires program leaders to defend their treatment court and diversion programs.

The Data Officer position was created in 2023. This position has been instrumental in helping programs to sort through data, arrange it in such a way to effectively present data visually, and explain the significance of program data in a story-like format.

Program overview reports and dashboards are created that help answer the following questions:

How Much Did We do?

How Well Did We Do it?

Are Persons Better Off?

The county's data reports focused on referrals, eligibility, graduates and terminations, compare local data to statewide data levels, in-program recidivism levels, and graduates' living situations and employment status.

Sara Benedict expressed appreciation for this presentation.

Both presenters confirmed that local data can be displayed in local dashboards and benchmarks, in response to Judge Levine's question.

TAD Five Year Evaluation (2019-2023) Completion

Ashley Billig, DOJ Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis Director

Ashley Billig provided an update on the status of the Evaluation Report and presented a series of slides covering various data for treatment court and diversion programs. She highlighted several additional components in the new Report, including the use of two matched comparison groups, referral information, procedural fairness data, and a qualitative analysis of the pandemic impacts to programs. Also discussed were findings regarding the number of program referrals and admissions, graphics showing graduation and termination totals, post-program recidivism rates, and how averted crime and averted incarceration dollars saved impact the cost-benefit analysis. Sara Benedict and Judge Levine shared a few impressions and thoughts regarding the presented Report updates.

2025-2027 Budget Proposals re: TAD

Lara Kenny, Bureau of Justice Programs Director

Lara Kenny gave a brief overview of the Governor’s 2025-2027 Budget proposal that would increase TAD funding and move TAD grant program and staff positions from DOJ to the Director of State Courts Office. She referenced the Legislative Fiscal Bureau’s summary of the budget proposal that was sent out to all TAD Subcommittee members. The proposal would be part of a comprehensive plan that provides additional funding to counties that operate one or more treatment court or diversion program. The budget proposal would also create an appropriation for awarding of treatment court and diversion program funding to tribes, to be administered by the Department of Administration (DOA). Neither DOJ nor the State Courts Office advocated for this proposed change. To date, neither agency has learned any additional details regarding the proposal. No questions or feedback were offered by TAD Subcommittee members.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2025 Meetings

May 22

July 24

September 25

November 20* (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving)

Co-Chair Benedict requested a motion to adjourn.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Heather Kierzek and seconded by Jessica Skemp to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.