



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

Thursday, May 22, 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, Jason Cram, Beth Robinson, Keeley Crowley, Tim Kufus, Kit Kerschensteiner (arrived at 1pm), Robert Mann (left at 1pm)
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Melvin Juette, Nicholas Bakken, Jessica Skemp, Lisa Yeates, J.C. Moore, Tamra Oman, Nick Sayner
DOJ Staff:	Ryan Anderson, Katie Snell, Sabrina Gentile, Mike Derr, Jacqueline Kamin, Marsha Schiszik, Kaley Horvath, Lara Kenny, Ashley Billig, Brittney Felton, Chris McKinny
Presenters:	Marquette County: Judge Chad Hendee, Chief Deputy Scott Johnston; Wood County: Emily Nolan-Plutchak, Dillon Ksionek

### Welcome and Opening Comments

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

### Approval of March 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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Co-Chair Thompson requested a motion to approve the March 27, 2025, TAD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

#### Motion to Approve March 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Mark Abeles-Allison and seconded by Judge Elliott Levine to approve the March 27, 2025, TAD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.  
The motion was passed on a voice vote.

### Subcommittee Member Updates

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Co-Chair Thompson asked the Subcommittee if anyone had any updates to share.

- Mark Abeles-Allison shared information about the Avel eCare program (funded with a State Crisis Intervention Program grant) in Bayfield County that coordinates emergency detention services and provides law enforcement access to crisis care services.

### BJP Grant Updates

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#### Ryan Anderson, DOJ Criminal Justice Programs Supervisor

Ryan Anderson gave an update on the current status of various federal and state grant programs, noting that we're still awaiting further information on the status of federal grants and the state TAD grant program, pending finalization of 2026 federal budget and the 2025-

2027 state budget. He and Katie Snell referenced the May 30 deadline for submission of county crisis intervention grant applications under the SCIP Program.

### **Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Facilitator Training Update**

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#### **Heather Kierzek, Evidence-Based Program Manager, Director of State Courts – Office of Court Operations**

Heather Kierzek reported that the first SIM planning session is scheduled for June 5-6 in Lafayette County. (Subsequently, the county needed to postpone the session to a later date.) She also noted that the WATCP Coordinators & Case Managers Conference is scheduled for September 17-19 in Middleton, and that a block of rooms are now available to reserve. Kierzek shared that WATCP and the State Courts Office are facing difficulty with finding speakers and trainers for upcoming conferences and sessions, due to federal budget cuts and non-renewal of vendor contracts.

### **Innovative Local Initiative**

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#### **Marquette County Presentation – Law Enforcement Check-in Program**

##### **Judge Chad Hendee and Chief Deputy Scott Johnston**

Judge Hendee and Deputy Johnston gave an overview of their law enforcement-based services for treatment court participants and other criminal justice offenders. They noted how these services have helped to significantly increase levels of trust persons have with law enforcement officers. Johnston stated that persons now have a different perspective of officers, and officers have a different, better understanding of persons and the challenges that they face. Both presenters noted that several officers may have contact with treatment court participants, and that three-quarters of the 24 sworn deputies have been involved with participants. The treatment court program averages 12-15 participants. They noted a YouTube video that provides further information on the program. Next week both Hendee and Johnston plus other members of their team will present at the All Rise Conference on their program.

### **Innovative Local Initiative**

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#### **Wood County Presentation – External Evaluation Program Benefits**

##### **Emily Nolan-Plutchak and Dillon Ksionek**

Emily Nolan-Plutchak and Dillon Ksionek highlighted history and present status of the Wood County Treatment Court program, using a series of slides. They discussed the evaluation project completed in 2023, including the evaluator, evaluation design, which program staff and activities were included in the evaluation, and what specific outcomes and findings were the focus of the project. Both also shared how the evaluation findings have impacted the treatment court programming. This presentation was recently given at the WATCP Annual Conference.

### **TAD Evaluation Recap and Recommendations**

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#### **Ashley Billig, DOJ Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis Director**

Ashley Billig used a PowerPoint presentation to cover highlights of the recently completed 2019-2023 TAD Program Evaluation Report. Her presentation focused on several items previously shared with the subcommittee and stakeholders, plus a couple new items.

Components and topics she covered included: (1) impacts on programming from the COVID-19 Pandemic; (2) formation and use of two comparison groups; (3) recidivism rates and how they were defined and analyzed; (4) explanation of the two comparison groups and match groups; (5) and features of the cost-benefit analysis. Billig also summarized five recommendations offered in the Report for improving the operation and quality of the TAD grant program. Sara Benedict observed and Billig confirmed that the Report does not track or evaluate specific impacts from match funds designated by grantees for their TAD-funded treatment court or diversion programs.

### **TAD Procedural Fairness Survey Results**

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#### **Kaley Horvath, TAD/CORE Program & Policy Analyst**

Kaley Horvath used a PowerPoint presentation to provide highlights and key results from the Fall 2024 Procedural Fairness Survey issued to TAD-funded treatment court program participants. She noted the aggregate state-wide scores, broken down by race, sex and type of treatment courts; satisfaction scores continued to average highly satisfactory (average score of well over 6.00 on a scale from 1.00 to 7.00). One slide depicted the average score ratings of the five domain categories spanning from 2019 through 2024. Horvath also discussed several more specific findings and scores by female and non-white participants.

### **TAD Grantee Review Process**

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#### **Mike Derr, TAD Program Improvement Specialist**

Mike Derr used a PowerPoint presentation to summarize the various modes and methods for DOJ staff review of the operation and performance of all TAD-funded treatment court and diversion programs. For years, TAD staff have employed formal in-person site visit review of treatment courts and since 2023 held both in-person and virtual site visits of diversion programs. Beginning in 2025, TAD staff have modified the site visit review process to now focus more on reviewing program status with implementing recommendations from the prior site visits (which occurred from 2021-2023). This review process also focuses more on the specific topics, technical assistance and training requests that local grantees identify for improving their programs. Under this revised approach, DOJ staff (along with Heather Kierzek of the State Courts Office) are better positioned to provide support that more directly meets programs' needs and interests. Both DOJ staff and Kierzek will continue to schedule and complete in-person site visits for programs that request them.

### **2025-2027 State Budget Update/Discussion**

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#### **Chris McKinny, DOJ Government Affairs Director**

Chris McKinny reported that the Joint Finance Committee recently removed from the Governor's 2025-2027 Budget proposal a provision that would have moved the TAD grant program over to the Director of State Courts Office. Also briefly discussed was 2025 SB 153, which would authorize TAD to also fund treatment courts serving persons with mental health disorders without an accompanying substance use disorder. That bill has passed out of committee but has not yet been voted on by the full senate.

## **Public Comment**

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There was no public comment.

## **2025 Meetings**

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July 24

September 25

November 20\* (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday due to Thanksgiving)

Co-Chair Thompson requested a motion to adjourn.

## **Adjourn**

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Motion was made by Patti Jo Severson and seconded by Judge Elliott Levine to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.