



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

**Thursday, May 23, 2024 // 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Virtual (Zoom)**

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

<b>Subcommittee Members Present:</b>	Kelli Thompson, Sara Benedict, Andrea Loscher, Kit Kerschensteiner, Heather Kierzek, Beth Robinson, Adam Plotkin, Mark Abeles-Allison, Tamra Oman, Jessica Skemp, Lance Wiersma, Judge Jo Deen Lowe, Patti Jo Severson, Judge Elliott Levine, Nicholas Bakken
<b>Subcommittee Members Not Present:</b>	Robert Mann, Kristy Gusse, Lisa Yeates, Melvin Juette, Sheila Carlson, Nick Sayner, Holly Audley, Colleen Clark-Bernhardt, J.C. Moore
<b>DOJ Staff:</b>	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, Chris Henning, Chris McKinny, Caleb Coughtry-Carpenter

**Welcome and Opening Comments**

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. Co-Chair Kelli Thompson welcomed members to the meeting. Quorum was not yet present, so actionable items were delayed to later in meeting. Co-Chair Thompson asked for Subcommittee Member Updates.

**Subcommittee Member Updates**

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**TAD Grant Training Activities**

Mike Derr, DOJ Staff, reported on the completed and upcoming TAD training activities. Derr, Marsha Schiszik and Heather Kierzek (Subcommittee member and Evidence-Based Program Manager, State Courts – Office of Court Operations) began the training activities in March 2024. The training activities include *Seeking Safety*, *Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)-Basic*, *Motivational Interviewing*, *Advanced Motivational Interviewing*, *High In Plain Sight-Tall Cop*, *MRT-Advanced*, *Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)*, *ORAS – Case Planning*, and *Incentives Bootcamp*. DOJ and State Courts Staffs plan to have this round of trainings completed in mid-June.

Derr reported the upcoming projects include the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Performance Measurement (PM) Videos and Northwest Professional Consortium (NPC) Research’s Peer Review training.

NCSC is creating four on-demand performance measurement videos that will cover the following:

- Performance measurement background

- All measures in Veteran court PM report
- All measures in OWI court PM report
- Mental Health supplement PM report

NPC Research will develop peer review documents to utilize when facilitating the peer review process for treatment courts in Wisconsin. NPC Research will also train the state team (Director of State Courts Office and DOJ) on how to properly facilitate peer reviews.

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

### **Approval of February 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Co-Chair Thompson requested a motion to approve the February 22, 2024, TAD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

#### **Motion to Approve February 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made by Mark Abeles – Allison and seconded by Judge Elliott Levine to approve the February 22, 2024, TAD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 15 Ayes, 0 No

### **State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) Update**

Katie Snell used a PowerPoint to summarize the first round of SCIP subgrant proposals. Snell reported the DOJ Bureau of Justice Programs (BJP) asked for research proposals that aim to:

- Uncover the root causes of gun violence;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of existing prevention strategies; and,
- Identify innovative solutions to reduce future incidents.

The opportunity was open for applications between March 22 and April 22, 2024. Projects are anticipated to run between July 1, 2024, and Mar 31, 2025.

There was \$300,000 available under this round of SCIP grants. BJP received five applications, all for around \$75,000, which was the maximum award available per application. This means DOJ can fund four of the proposed research projects.

BJP received applications from the following agencies:

1. Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis (BJIA)
2. Marquette University
3. UW-Madison Psychology
4. UW-Madison Population Health Institute
5. Medical College of Wisconsin

Prior to opening, BJP created a rating scale to objectively evaluate the research project applications, based on application completeness, accuracy of budget calculations and allowable costs, and project design feasibility.

BJP had four raters review all applications received, and an average rating score was calculated for each, with the top four projects recommended to receive funding.

Snell summarized each of the five subgrant proposals. BJP Staff also provided grant announcement and subgrant proposals summaries to the Subcommittee so they could review before the meeting.

Snell reported BJP Staff recommends funding:

1. Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis (BJIA)
2. Marquette University
3. UW-Madison Psychology
4. UW-Madison Population Health Institute

Snell answered questions from the Subcommittee.

### **Approval of State Crisis Intervention Program Subgrants - Research**

Co-Chair Thompson requested a motion to approve the four BJP recommended State Crisis Intervention Program subgrant research applications.

#### **Motion to Approve State Crisis Intervention Program Subgrants**

Motion was made by Mark Abeles-Allsion and seconded by Tamra Oman to approve the recommended State Crisis Intervention Program subgrant research applications (Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis, Marquette University, UW-Madison Psychology and UW-Madison Population Health Institute).

Motion approved.

The vote was: 15 Ayes, 0 No

### **2025 TAD Application Process Overview**

Mike Derr used a PowerPoint presentation to provide information regarding the TAD 2025 application process.

Derr provided details on the 2025 priority categories:

1. Baseline Funding for 2024 TAD Grantees – Allocation amount \$9,688,900
2. Staff Training – Allocation amount \$100,000
3. New Treatment Court and Diversion Programs – Allocation amount \$300,000
4. Enhancement and Expansion of Existing Programs – Allocation amount \$500,000
5. Evaluation of Program – Allocation amount \$100,000

Lara Kenny, BJP Director, provided information on the changes for the 2025 TAD budget policies. Kenny showed a table that highlighted the changes. The changes are to promote the following goals:

1. Align state and federal grant program guidelines – Consistent rules applied to reduce confusion

2. Minimize risk of improper use or “misuse” of grant funds – Protection for grantees and DOJ when tasked with interpreting allowable (“reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities”) use of funds
3. Reduce workload for DOJ and Grantees – Less documentation will be needed thereby decreasing workload

Derr summarized the 2025 TAD application timeline.

The Subcommittee had questions and comments regarding the new budget policies and application timeline that included the following topics and themes:

- Subcommittee members expressed appreciation for the difficult work and decisions DOJ management and TAD program staff face in administering the grant program, and appreciate the desire to eliminate risk of inappropriate use of grant funds.
- Difficulty rural program sites may face contracting with transportation providers.
- Challenges counties and tribes might face to juggle budget items around so that local match is available to cover incentive and responsivity items.
- Discussion whether changes could be phased in over a two year period.
- Importance of participants earning incentives or receiving emergency housing or assistance with transportation, and how they relate to stabilization needs.
- Concern that only a small group of grantees made questionable use of funds for incentives or responsivity items; question whether new budget policies are necessary.

#### **Diversion Program Outcome and Performance Measures Workgroup Update**

Mike Derr reported that the full Diversion Performance Measures Workgroup met initially on April 12, 2024, to start reviewing necessary revisions and updates to the *2018 Draft Wisconsin Diversion Outcome and Performance Measures Guidelines*, and establish to process for this review. DOJ staff walked through the history of the development of the *Draft Guidelines* back in 2018-2019.

The full Workgroup agreed that three smaller Subgroups will be formed to focus on specific revisions:

1. Performance Measures Subgroup – review currently-listed five outcomes and 19 performance measures and determine whether to maintain, revise or delete measures;
2. Calculations Subgroup – review formulas and methodologies for defining and collecting outcome and performance measures data; and
3. Language Subgroup – review for necessary language and terminology updates to incorporate into *Guidelines*. The three Subgroups will complete their work later this summer, with the goal that the full Workgroup approve and refer recommended revisions and updates to the TAD Subcommittee for review in November 2024.

The Performance Measures Subgroup met on May 2, 2024, and discussed possible approaches for categorizing whether stated outcomes and performance measures are essential for TAD program evaluation of diversion programs, highly desirable – but not essential -- for program

evaluation per best practice, or desirable for local program evaluation but less crucial. DOJ staff shared which outcomes and measures are required to be collected for the upcoming TAD program evaluation report. A small workgroup with Marsha Schiszik, Lisa Multhauf and Jenae Branter met on May 17, 2024, to categorize existing outcome and performance measures, and will bring their suggestions to the Performance Measures Subgroup at its June 20, 2024, meeting.

### **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 public-facing TAD dashboard was showcased in its final draft form to receive any final feedback from the committee on appearance and content. The dashboard will be available to the public on the DOJ's website in BJIA's data products section, and will have the ability to be hosted through a link on other websites if desired.

The contents of the dashboard were in line with previous Admission Cohort Reports performed on CORE data (mainly pertaining to participant demographics, referrals, eligibility, admissions, and current status in program); the dashboard will hopefully evolve over time to include more statistics from CORE that go outside the scope of the cohort reports. Sites that were involved in focused feedback groups on the dashboard were sent the same link that was showcased to provide their final feedback, and there are plans to have all sites have access to the dashboard before it officially goes public to allow for time to voice any concerns and/or provide feedback as well. Plans are to have the dashboard public at the end of the month and monitor throughout the summer for any issues/changes to be made.

### **Subcommittee Member Updates (continued)**

#### **Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) Update**

Ryan Anderson, BJA Criminal Justice Program and Policy Supervisor, received a WATCP summary from JC Moore because was not able to attend today's TAD Subcommittee meeting.

Summary from JC Moore:

The WATCP Statewide Conference celebrating 20 years of WATCP was held April 23-26, 2024, at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. More than 650 participants from 61 counties and 7 Tribal nations were in attendance. There was a pre-conference team workshop facilitated by two presenters from the National Center of State Courts for 14 treatment court teams and just over 140 participants. The team training focused on roles, responsibilities and how to conduct good staffing sessions.

Dr. Marlowe kicked off the conference with three hours of training on the updates to the National Treatment Court Standards. Other plenary sessions included *Compassion Fatigue*, *How to Engage Law Enforcement in Treatment Court (The Marquette Model)*,

and *Unconscious Bias* facilitated by Judge Derek Mosely. There were 25 other breakout sessions at the two and a half day event.

The 2024 Jack Aulik Award was presented to former State Public Defender Kelli Thompson.

WATCP started an initiative to provide scholarships to graduates of WI Treatment Courts, and WATCP kicked off a fundraising campaign with a benefit concert performed by Barron County's own Chris Kroeze. There was also a Tribal dance, performed by the Ho Chunk Nation, celebrating graduates and veterans.

JC Moore said the 2024 Coordinator Case Manager Conference is Oct. 23-25, 2024, at the Radisson in La Crosse and the 2025 WATCP State Conference will be at the Kalahari on April 23-25, 2025.

### **Public Comment**

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There was no public comment.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

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

Co-Chair Thompson requested a motion to adjourn.

### **Adjourn**

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Motion was made by Mark Abeles-Allison and seconded by Heather Kierzek to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was approved.

The vote was: 13 Ayes, 0 No

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.