



Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 25, 2023 // 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Virtual (Zoom)

Co-Chairs Kelli Thompson and Sara Benedict

Subcommittee Members Present:	Kelli Thompson, Sara Benedict, Adam Plotkin, J.C. Moore, Heather Kierzek, Beth Robinson, Kit Kerschensteiner, Tamra Oman, Mark Abeles-Allison, Judge Elliott Levine, Holly Audley, Colleen Clark-Bernhardt, Melvin Juetten, Jessica Skemp, Ashley Peterson-Bores, Sheila Carlson
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Robert Mann, Judge Jo Deen Lowe, Kristy Gusse, Megan Jones, Nick Sayner, Patti Jo Severson, Lance Wiersma, Lisa Yeates
DOJ Staff:	Lara Kenny, Ryan Anderson, Sabrina Gentile, Ashley Billig, Mike Derr, Chris McKinny, Marsha Schiszik, Kaley Horvath, Caitlin Snyder
Other Agency Staff:	

Welcome and Opening Comments

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. Co-Chair Kelli Thompson welcomed members and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Subcommittee members were asked to introduce themselves due to several new subcommittee members in attendance.

Quorum was established.

Approval of February 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mark Abeles-Allison and seconded by Heather Kierzek to approve the February 23, 2023, meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Subcommittee Member Updates

Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) – Commissioner J.C. Moore spoke on the 2023 WATCP annual conference. He indicated that 618 people attended in-person and there were 50 virtual attendees. He indicated that overall attendance was similar to attendance in 2022, but there were more in-person attendees this year. He reported that there will be a meeting at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) for all Wisconsin attendees on June 27, 2023, and he encouraged anyone present at NADCP to stop in for the meeting. The WATCP Coordinator Conference is scheduled for October 11-12, 2023, at the Marriott in Middleton, WI. Registration will open on August 1, 2023.

Department of Health Services (DHS) – Holly Audley reported on the opioid settlement. She indicated that Paul Krupski is moving to a new position in June, and they are recruiting for his position. Audley provided an overview of the 2022 plan and progress for the funds. She

indicated that the focus has been supporting prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery efforts across Wisconsin. She explained the following initiatives:

- Expansion of Narcan Direct - \$3M total with \$750,000 to law enforcement agencies, \$500,000 to community agencies, \$980,000 to Public Health Vending Machines, and \$570,000 to EMS Leave Behind Programs.
- Capital Projects - \$10M allocated to DHS with \$4.91M to Arbor Place in Menominee, WI, \$4.91M to Meta House in Milwaukee, WI, and \$183,278 to Lighthouse Recovery Community Center in Manitowoc, WI.
- Allocation to Tribal Nations totaling \$6M— Audley indicated that all tribes applied and received funds with the strategies across prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.
- Fund allocation totaling \$500,000 to create a central alert system for near real-time overdose surveillance through Wisconsin Suspected Overdose Alerts for Rapid Response (WiSOARR).
- Funds for K-12 prevention totaling \$250,000 with an agreement with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to administer the funds with programming to start in the 2023-2024 school year.
- Allocation of \$2M to DHS to increase services for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- Allocation of \$2.5M to DHS to fund room and board costs for Medicaid recipients who receive residential substance use disorder treatment services.
- Allocation of \$3M to law enforcement agencies for MAT treatment and education, community drug disposal programs, pre-arrest or pre-arraignment deflection programs, and treatment in jails.
- Statewide prevention totaling \$750,000 allocated to DHS for after-school opioid prevention programs who use law enforcement partnerships.
- Allocation for \$1M to expand the Hub and Spoke Health Home project.

Audley shared that the 2023 opioid settlement plan included public input via a survey with over 4,000 participants and ranked strategies provided during 2022. The plan was submitted, and support was across the continuum of care. The Joint Committee on Finance filed an objection to the DHS plan. DHS will resubmit a plan for approval.

Tamra Oman asked if any of the allotted funds involved peer support and Audley indicated that DHS is aligned with evidence-based practice with peer support and although not specifically discussed, peer support is included in the utilization of funds.

Kelli Thompson asked the entire group about the status of sending more people to treatment. Oman indicated she has seen a move towards more service though we could do better. Oman would like to see peer support involvement earlier. Discussed involving peer support as early as during crisis response.

Audley shared that the question “Are we sending more people to treatment?” is a complicated question to answer. She indicated even though we see more access to services, there is a staffing shortage for those who provide the service. Tamra Oman reported that for peer support training, she is experiencing a lot of requests, and she can’t provide enough trainings.

Legislative Updates

Chris McKinny reported that the DOJ budget has not yet been before the Joint Committee on Finance. He reported that DOJ is requesting position authority for five new TAD positions and changes in statutory language. Both items remain in the budget. He shared that in conversations he’s had the requested positions have been met with skepticism. He has had more positive conversations about the statutory language and those changes would be separated from the budget. He indicated that several legislators have expressed willingness to work with DOJ to request those changes.

Adam Plotkin reported that he doesn’t know when DOJ will go either, but can report a summary of how State Public Defender (SPD), District Attorneys (DAs), and State Courts did with the Joint Committee on Finance. He indicated that overall, there was a substantial investment in pay increases for SPD and DAs. There was an increase from \$27.24 to \$36 per hour and an \$8.76 increase per hour for current attorneys with another pay increase in July of 2023. He indicated that private bar attorney rates went from \$70 per hour to \$100 per hour, and that travel went from \$25 to \$50 per hour. He shared State Courts didn’t fair as well with their requests. The request for additional funds for digital audio was not included. Cyber security was authorized but not attached to any funding source. He shared that funding for four new circuit court branches from Act 184 was included. This will help with court case wait times and staffing on court teams.

2023 Subcommittee Goals and Outcomes

Mike Derr used a PowerPoint for updates on activities related to the TAD Subcommittee goals and objectives.

- Goal #1: Review/analyze proposed legislation and 2023 – 2025 state budget provisions impacting TAD-funded treatment court and diversion programming.
 - UPDATE: Lara Kenny has shared information on the Governor’s budget proposal and legislative actions with BJP staff. Adam Plotkin and Chris McKinny have provided budget and legislative updates to Subcommittees and BJP staff.
- Goal #2: Assist DOJ with identifying grant opportunities and sources of funding to help cover the cost of local site’s treatment, recovery support, and related services.
 - UPDATE: DOJ staff have sent several emails on grant funding and other resources offered by DHS to TAD grantees.
- Goal #3: Subcommittee members will assist DOJ with providing and facilitating training and technical assistance to TAD grantee staff and agencies, especially newly funded programs.
 - UPDATE: Surveys have been sent out and completed by subcommittee members; results are being tabulated.

- Goal #4: Serve as an advisory body to guide BJP's administration of the new federal State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) grant initiative.
 - UPDATE: DOJ is in the process of hiring a Program and Policy Analyst and a Grants Specialist for the SCIP grant. These positions need to be filled to start the program. Lara Kenny indicated that once staff are in place the focus will be background research and submitting a revised spending plan. This will be a lengthy process needing a lot of pieces in place before spending can happen. She anticipates that more detailed information will be sent to the subcommittee before the next meeting. Kenny also discussed new members added to the TAD Subcommittee to comply with SCIP grant requirements. Those new members will bring great perspectives.
- Goal #5: Promote the use of data-based decision-making models by BJP and others in establishing policies and procedures for awarding and administration of TAD grant funds and monitoring the effectiveness of programs.
 - UPDATE: DOJ Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis (BJIA) Staff are planning to develop Comprehensive Outcome, Research and Evaluation For Treatment Courts and Diversion Programs (CORE) dashboard site that provides interactive statewide data regarding treatment court and diversion program eligibility and admission rates, by various categories.

Colleen Clark indicated that Dane County uses the Wisconsin Court System – Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) for data and is required to pay a \$7,000 annual subscription to use. She stated if we are encouraging counties to use data they shouldn't have to pay for a subscription. She realizes this is a State Courts area as opposed to DOJ but thinks this issue should be discussed in more detail.

Derr shared information about CORE and that it is free for use and DOJ staff have been working with sites on how to get their data into CORE and how to make it more useful for them. A CORE 201 training is being discussed to help with this goal.

Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis

CORE Reporting by TAD grantees – Kaley Horvath reported that she and Marsha Schiszik have been auditing TAD grantee sites for CORE data entry in preparation for the upcoming Cost/Benefit Analysis Report. They have been checking in with sites and sending thank you messages to those who have been consistent and timely with their data entry.

CORE Enhancements by Bureau of Computer Services – Horvath also discussed the status on updates and enhancement to CORE with the new performance measures for OWI, Veterans, and Mental Health Courts. BJIA Staff and BCS Staff have been meeting weekly to draft data dictionaries to add those performance measures. BCS Staff is reporting they are close to developing within CORE and then testing.

Melvin Juette discussed time issue with entering information into CORE because his staff must enter information into multiple systems because CORE isn't a case management system. BJIA staff are working to make CORE more user friendly and educating sites on how to use the data entered.

Judge Elliott Levine asked how many non-TAD funded programs use CORE and Horvath indicated she isn't exactly sure but at least a handful. DOJ is trying to promote uses because it's free. Judge Levine indicated that CORE does pull data from CCAP and there was a recent change in how treatment court cases are recorded in CCAP. He encourages all to seek more information on those changes if needed as well as to continue to encourage all sites to use CORE.

Developing CORE Dashboard of Eligibility/Admissions Data – Horvath used a PowerPoint presentation for a proposal to develop a public facing CORE dashboard. The dashboard would serve as a tool for sites interested in aggregate data. The primary focus to start would be eligibility/referrals and reasons for ineligibility. Horvath showed examples of other dashboards used within BJIA. She asked for input from committee members and some committee members expressed concern about utilization of this data without context from local sites/staff. Other members discussed importance of transparency of data and how having a public facing platform may increase more local level evaluation. Horvath and Ashley Billig both indicated the development of this dashboard is still early and there will be upcoming conversations and inquiries with local staff to discuss data elements and accessibility to the data. Billig indicated the goal of this dashboard would be to replace the yearly required Admission Cohort Report. BJIA staff thanked subcommittee members for feedback and input.

Bureau of Justice Programs Update

2024 TAD Grant Application – Derr used a PowerPoint for the tentative plan for the 2024 TAD Grant application process. He stressed that these plans are all tentative because it's unknown what will happen with the state budget. He indicated that if there isn't an increase in 2024, the application process will be streamlined. There may be a small amount of money that would involve a competitive process, but again specifics are unknown until the budget is approved.

Judge Levine asked about why the two counties pulled out of 2023 TAD Grant. Derr explained both sites completed a "Pre-application," but didn't submit the full application. Judge Levine shared that when TAD first started there was conversation about multiple county programs working together and sharing responsibility. If this happens those programs may need help with organizing the structure required. He also asked that the requirement of only serving those in the county be reconsidered because some programs serve multiple counties, especially Veterans Court Programs.

Updating the CJCC and TAD webpages – Derr discussed that there have been many informational updates done to both websites and encouraged subcommittee members to look at the webpages.

Local CJCC Oversight and Authority – Derr presented slides related to CJCC oversight and authority. He explained after DOJ Staff reviewed national and state standards there is no real direction on the degree of authority for local CJCCs. Each standard with reference to the local CJCC was reviewed and discussed with subcommittee members.

Adam Plotkin indicated this has been a new discussion but a timely discussion because it's important to discuss what policies and decisions are being made and at what level.

Diversion Program Updates – Derr reported on efforts made by DOJ Staff for TAD grantee sites with diversion programs. Areas of recent activity include:

- Hosting a Meet and Greet breakout session at WATCP conference in April.
- Development of listserv for diversion program staff in collaboration with State Courts
- Development of a virtual diversion program site visit methodology
- Finalizing of Performance Measures for diversion programs hopefully by end of this year

Summary of Regional CJCC Meetings – Heather Kierzek shared there were five regional meetings held in April. Feedback from those meetings included requests for more networking and more information on Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM). As a result, DOJ and State Courts are making plans for upcoming trainings but first need to secure funding.

Upcoming Meetings

- State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council June 14, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Data Sharing/OTIs Subcommittee July 18, 2023, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- EBDM Subcommittee July 27, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Race Equity, Inclusion, and Access Subcommittee August 3, 2023, 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
- TAD Subcommittee September 28, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Co-Chair Benedict requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Judge Elliott Levine and seconded by Heather Kierzek to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.