



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

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

Co-Chairs Kelli Thompson and Sara Benedict

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

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. Co-Chair Benedict asked for Subcommittee Member Updates.

Subcommittee Member Updates

WATCP – JC Moore reported that the WATCP is holding its annual coordinator and case manager conference in La Crosse from October 23-25, 2024. The annual spring WATCP Conference will be held at the Kalahari Resort in the Dells from April 23-25, 2025.

No other updates were shared by Subcommittee members.

TAD Dashboard Project and TAD Five Year Plan

Ashley Billig used PowerPoint slides during BJIA's TAD Dashboard Project and Five-Year Plan update, which was an overview of the 5-year program evaluation components. She first referenced that the TAD dashboard is now public, with a landing page, two pages on referral information, and two pages on admission information. The dashboard itself refreshes daily and is on the BJIA public page of the DOJ website.

She then discussed the TAD five-year evaluation and three main components: participant admission and discharge overview, recidivism analysis, and cost-benefit analysis. In the last evaluation which covered 2014-2018, the participant section was broken apart by program, program status, rural v urban, and by demographics, risk level, drug of choice, offense type, and offense severity. For the recidivism analysis, events were based on the date of the offense that resulted in an arrest, charge, or conviction, and multiple follow-up periods were used. The

Wisconsin statutes were also subdivided into a schema that places each type of crime into a category so that recidivism could be reviewed based on what the reader is most interested in (e.g. violent crimes, property crimes, person offenses, drug offenses, etc.). For the cost-benefit section, the main costs were program TAD budgets (minus the participation fees collected, if applicable), and the benefits were averted incarceration days and averted costs due to reduced recidivism. The averted incarceration days were calculated by DOJ using real sentencing data, and the schema used to put various statutes in categories was used to calculate averted costs due to reduced recidivism, since the cost to arrest/charge/prosecute is different based on offense.

Previous evaluation challenges included data coming in from multiple sources (used before CORE was available), no access to vital records, and the methodology to create the comparison group for the recidivism analysis. For the upcoming evaluation, along with the same main components, DOJ also plans to add a section about COVID-19 impacts, possibly improve the methodology to create the comparison group for recidivism, include referral and eligibility information, and include procedural fairness data collected from treatment court programs. Three areas of data that DOJ staff are focusing on now for cleanup are discharges that are pending, participants with no state identification numbers (SIDs), and unknown program fee statuses (all in CORE). Next steps include DOJ IT finishing important old data into CORE, working with sites on data quality, determining the comparison group methodology, finishing the Amazon Web Services (AWS) warehouse for linking capabilities, and reviewing COVID-19 program design tables that were submitted by sites. In response to Sarah Benedict's question, Billig stated the evaluation is planned to be completed by the end of February 2025.

Diversion Program Outcome and Performance Measures Workgroup Update

Mike Derr gave an overview and highlight of meetings and activities of the *Performance Measures and Calculations Subgroups*. The *Performance Measures Subgroup* met on May 2, 2024, and June 20, 2024, while the *Calculations Subgroup* met on July 19, 2024, and August 2, 2024. Derr described the three categories that outcome and performance measures from the existing Diversion Guidelines were divided into:

1. Gold Star for measures that all TAD-funded diversion programs should track and are needed for DOJ to complete evaluations of the TAD grant program;
2. Silver Star for measures that are highly recommended to be tracked to help inform internal evaluation and monitoring of program activities and necessary refinements; and
3. Risk/Needs Matrix for measures that diversion programs have discretion to track, depending on the risk and needs levels of participants.

The *Performance Measures Subgroup* supported this proposed structure for the updated Diversion Guidelines.

The *Calculations Subgroup* met twice with BJP and BJIA staff from DOJ to review, revise and update outcome/performance measure descriptions and associated calculations/formulas for tabulating. BJIA and BJP are meeting throughout August to complete reviewing and offering suggested revisions and updates to the Diversion Guidelines, for the *Calculations Subgroup* to

review and approve at its next meeting in mid-September. Derr mentioned that the *Language Subgroup* will meet in late September/October to make necessary updates to the narrative and terms in the Guidelines. Then the full *Diversions Workgroup* will meet to review, discuss and approve the updated, revised Guidelines prior to the November TAD Subcommittee meeting, when the updated Guidelines will be considered.

DOJ Staff reported quorum was now present.

Approval of May 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Benedict requested a motion to approve the May 23, 2024, TAD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Motion to Approve May 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Mark Abeles – Allison and seconded by Jessica Skemp to approve the May 23, 2024, TAD Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Motion approved.

The vote was: 13 Ayes, 0 No

DOJ Grants Update

Ryan Anderson gave a quick update and review of the grant application status for the RSAT, COSSUP, and JAG federal grant programs, including funding priorities under JAG. In addition, Anderson summarized and highlighted recent activities under the SCIP program, including: FY24 SCIP application was submitted on July 26, 2024, seeking \$2,392,048; SCIP strategy will be developed by the TAD Subcommittee; all FY23 subgrant opportunities were opened during the summer; and BJP will use findings funded from the FY23 SCIP research projects and feedback from FY23 SCIP applicants to inform the FY24 SCIP Plan.

Ryan then highlighted recent activities under TAD, including the release of pre-application forms and guidelines in June and submission of pre-application forms from 61 local sites by July 15, 2024. The pre-applications cumulatively are seeking \$11.2 million in funding, slightly over the \$10,688,900 that is available for 2025. Internal BJP and external multi-agency review team meetings were held on August 19, 2024, and August 22, 2024. From those discussions, grant award recommendations will be formulated and reviewed by the AG's Office and secretaries from DOC and DHS. Final application announcement and forms will be posted by September 16, 2024, with final applications due October 21, 2024. Finally, Ryan briefly noted other TAD staff and team activities during the past several months, including site visits, training and technical support.

Judge Levine asked whether any concerns about the new FY25 budget policies pertaining to funding of incentives were raised by applicants. He felt that the Subcommittee should know and discuss if persons have concerns with funding or the policies. Derr noted several sites sought clarification of the policy but did not explicitly express concerns. Colleen Clark-Bernhardt concurred with Judge Levine's statement and suggested surveying local sites for feedback on any concern over the budget policies, then bringing feedback to the Subcommittee. Tamra

Oman asked about the possibility of TAD projects measuring improved quality of life, not just averting jail days served. Derr responded that most projects do measure improved skill development and “qualify of life” measures and include those in their goals and objectives within the TAD grant applications. Oman encouraged that consumers also be part of TAD program review and evaluations, and also wondered if consumers could also help review grant applications.

Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

J.C. Moore shared that the WATCP Board sent a letter to Attorney General Kaul, dated August 14, 2024, expressing the Board’s concerns regarding the portion of the 2025 TAD Grant budget policies placing new restrictions on the use of TAD funding for the purchase of incentives. He and the Board look forward to meeting with DOJ to discuss those concerns. He will continue volunteering WATCP to serve as a vehicle for sharing TAD program information and policies out to local programs and to help address concerns and needs for clarification regarding the new budget policies.

Ashley Viste introduced herself as the chief of staff with the Attorney General’s Office and attending the meeting on behalf of Chris McKinny. She stated that the AG’s Office looks forward to hearing feedback from the WATCP Board and others on possible impacts and purposes of the budget policies.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, November 21, 2024, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

Co-Chair Benedict requested a motion to adjourn.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Collen Clark-Bernhardt and seconded by Tamra Oman to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was approved.

The vote was: 13 Ayes, 0 No

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.