

Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Subcommittee | MINUTES

Meeting date | Time 2/24/2022 12:00 PM | WI Dept of Justice – Virtual via Zoom

Chair Kelli Thompson, State Public Defender

Staff Lara Kenny
Donna Hahn
Mike Derr
Derek Veitenheimer
Alesha Hawkins
Steve Wagner
Ashley Billig
Frank Sullivan
Chris McKinny

Members Present

Kelli Thompson, Sara Benedict, Chloe Moore, Adam Plotkin, Lance Wiersma, Lisa Yeates, J.C. Moore, Robert Mann, Heather Kierzek, Holly Audley, Megan Jones, Beth Robinson, Nick Sayner, Patti Jo Severson, Judge Jo Deen Lowe, Kit Kerschensteiner, Melvin Juette

Members Absent

Mark Abeles-Allison, Colleen Clark, Judge Elliott Levine, Kristy Gusse, Tamra Oman, Jessica Skemp

Guests

Nancy Slattery

AGENDA TOPICS

Welcome and Opening Comments

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. Chair Kelli Thompson gave the welcome and opening comments.

A motion was made by Melvin Juette seconded by Heather Kierzek to approve the 8/26/2021 minutes, approved unanimously.

Updates

WATCP Updates

Commissioner J.C. Moore spoke on the upcoming WATCP conference. Invites have been sent out for the May 3rd – 6th conference and to make sure you register. Heather Kierzek will have a session on Treatment Court Standards the afternoon of May 3rd. There will also be sessions on Equity Inclusion, Behavioral Health, and Treatment Courts program topics. The Conference title is “Resilience: Weathering the Storm Together.”

Other Member Updates

Nothing at this time

Subcommittee Goals & Outcomes for 2022

State Public Defender Kelli Thompson asked the committee members to come today with ideas for goals and outcomes for 2022. They include:

- Streamlining the TAD grant process
- Analyzing pending legislation expanding TAD treatment services to address mental illness
- Identifying additional funding grants and grant opportunities, including those addressing mental health needs of offenders
- Analyzing and advocating for other proposed TAD and statutory language changes

State Budget and Legislative Update

SB-791/AB-815 (Mental Illness TAD Bill)

Adam Plotkin gave an update on the progress of this bill, which would include mental illness within the TAD program. The bill is unlikely to make it into law this session.

Other Bills

Plotkin gave an update on OWI 5th/6th draft bill language #106; the session has timed out, so there is no chance to circulate the language.

Plotkin gave an update on AB-69 expungement reform, retroactive age- removes the condition that the person committed the crime before the age of 25 and makes certain traffic crimes ineligible for expungement. The bill failed to pass before the end of the legislative session.

Also, Plotkin gave an update on the Bail Reform Bill, which would require mandatory cash bail and set minimum cash bail. This subcommittee could work on and analyze this issue over the next 10 months.

Next steps for TAD Statutory Changes

Adam Plotkin made suggestions to the committee members that a fresh set of eyes should take a look at the TAD statute and discuss what changes should be made on the proposed revisions not passed in the last session. Lara asked Chris McKinny to send the latest version of the proposals for review to the subcommittee.

Nick Sayner asked subcommittee members to consider how members could help BJP staff provide onboard TAD training and TA to grantees, especially new ones.

Chris McKinny said he would continue to ask for help with TAD grant administration, i.e., additional staff

TAD Program Update

2022 Grant Awards-Award Amount Factors

Mike Derr gave an update on the 56 grants that were awarded, and the fact Green Lake County did not apply during this grant round. Three new counties were funded. Cumulative grant awards totaled \$7.2 million, and that funding amount was identical to last funding cycle for the 53 returning grantees.

Initial Ideas for 2023 TAD Funding Process

Derr updated the committee members the 2023 TAD funding process will include awarding an additional \$2.5 million in funds, a portion of which will support enhancement of existing projects as well as new projects. DOJ staff will give insight at the May meeting as to how it will be administering the funds.

Lance Wiersma encouraged DOJ staff to ask applicants to reach out to DOC to help them write up TAD proposals.

Heather Kierzek would like a treatment court certification process to be developed in the near future.

Beth Robinson and Sara Benedict both thought keeping the project design table in the TAD application form would be wise and informative, as the table helps grantees focus on meeting treatment court standards.

Several committee members suggested we reach out to current TAD grantees for feedback on what the 2023 grant application process should include, changes, etc.

BJP Updates

Marsha Schiszik-Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Program Manager has been hired as part of the BJP team. She started on January 18th.

Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis (BJIA) has 2 TAD-related positions that have been vacant, and they are seeking to fill. Hopefully, they will be hired by the May meeting.

BJIA Updates-Fairness Survey Results

PowerPoint slides were provided to the subcommittee members. Ashley Billig gave presentation highlighting the 2021 Treatment Court Fairness Survey process and primary results. In general, treatment court participants across the state found program services and processes to be satisfactory and fair.

Subcommittee members asked whether there is an alternative to do the survey since email is a barrier? Paper survey submission is an alternative.

Upcoming Meetings

- State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting – 3/9/2022
- EBDM Subcommittee 3/24/2022
- Data Sharing/OTIs Subcommittee 4/19/2022
- Race Equity, Inclusion and Access 4/8/2022

Action Items/Next Steps & Future Meeting Topics

If any committee members have action items or future meeting topics, please send them to Lara Kenny or Mike Derr.

Next Meeting Date

- 5/26/2022 (12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Public Comment

- Nancy Slattery from Manitowoc County spoke to the committee. She shared that she has attended county CJCC meetings and found their outlook on what they can do seems limited. She will share with them potential solutions, actions and resources based on what this Subcommittee has been discussing.

Patti Jo Severson moved to adjourn the meeting and Beth Robinson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 1:42 pm