

Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Subcommittee | MINUTES

Meeting date | Time 5/26/2022 12:00 PM | WI Dept of Justice – Virtual via Zoom

Chair Kelli Thompson, State Public Defender

Staff Lara Kenny
Donna Hahn
Brad Kelly
Derek Veitenheimer
Alesha Hawkins
Steve Wagner
Ashley Billig
Chris McKinny

Members Present

Kelli Thompson, Sara Benedict, Mark Abeles-Allison, Adam Plotkin, J.C. Moore, Judge Elliott Levine, Heather Kierzek, Holly Audley, Megan Jones, Tamra Oman, Beth Robinson, Patti Jo Severson, Judge Jo Deen Lowe, Kit Kerschensteiner

Members Absent

Colleen Clark, Nick Sayner, Melvin Juetten, Robert Mann, Kristy Gusse, Jessica Skemp, Lance Wiersma, Lisa Yeates

Guests

Nancy Slattery, Linda Palmer, Sara Companik, Ann Lacy, Mary Bechle

AGENDA TOPICS

Welcome and Opening Comments

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. Co-Chair Sara Benedict gave the welcome and opening comments. A motion was made by Mark Abeles-Allison seconded by Judge Elliott Levine to approve the 2/24/2022 minutes, approved unanimously.

Updates

WATCP Updates

Commissioner J.C. Moore spoke on the May 2022 WATCP conference. Mark Abeles-Allison stated the Bayfield County TAD program coordinator was very impressed with the conference, and he stated it was found to be a worthwhile conference. Later in June Bayfield Co. will receive a presentation based on themes from that conference, as discussion of conference themes during the upcoming site visit from TAD program staff.

Other Member Updates

Tamra Oman spoke on the Governor's budget and would like to see an expansion of peer support specialists included. She also asked if anyone knew if the Fond du Lac County Treatment Court is still running since no one is answering the phone. Heather Kierzek will reach out to them for Tamra and get back to her.

Subcommittee Goals & Outcomes for 2022

Sara Benedict and Subcommittee Chair Kelli Thompson will be reporting to the full CJCC on June 8th what the goals of the TAD subcommittee has set for 2022 and the accomplishments so far have been. Mark Abeles-Allison asked if they could highlight promoting local programs. Judge Jo Deen Lowe highlighted Goal #3, which states that TAD subcommittee members will assist the BJP staff with identifying additional grant funding opportunities for counties and tribes to seek in order to help cover the cost of AODA treatment, recovery support and other related services for participants of treatment courts and diversion programs.

TAD Program Update

2023 TAD Grant Competition Priorities & Process

Lara Kenny presented a PowerPoint from staff which will be sent out to the subcommittee after the meeting. The slides provided an overview of the five priority categories that counties and tribes can apply under, and also summarized the timeline for the '23 TAD grant application process.

Mark Abeles-Allison brought up possible concerns of counties that could be reflected in '23 TAD grant awards include wage structures and gas prices. Mark asked that Clinical Social Workers, base stabilization, and Care Coordinators be added to possible types of program expansions or enhancements under Priority #4. Kit Kerschensteiner suggested Peer Specialists also be added to Priority #4. Judge Elliott Levine and Mark Abeles-Allison both voiced their concerns regarding the current lack of housing and temporary shelter for many participants.

Mark Abeles-Allison asked that DOJ staff encourage multiple counties to collaborate in single TAD grant applications to strengthen their programs.

BJP Updates

Nothing at this time.

BJIA Updates – TAD Admissions, Discharge, and other Data

Ashley Billig presented to the TAD subcommittee. The PowerPoint will be sent out after the meeting.

Ashley clarified that only Treatment Court data (not Diversion Program data) are currently in the CORE system. The State Public Defenders Office has hired client service specialists through a grant with DOJ to help with the backlog work from COVID.

Ashley was asked by Tamra Oman if BJIA has data on how many participants have overdosed/death between arrest and waiting to get into court. Ashley stated she has some data and will provide what she has at the August Subcommittee meeting.

Legislative Updates

Adam Plotkin gave a brief legislative update to the subcommittee. About 75% of state legislators are running for reelection this year and they are out of session at this time. Budget requests are due in September for state agencies. Elections are on November 8th.

Chris McKinny updated the subcommittee on TAD program and statutory changes that will be discussed by a new Legislative Committee and proposed to the Subcommittee in August. The changes will likely be similar to those recommended during the last budget session. Members were provided with the information in an email. Two years ago one proposed revision reduced the required TAD match amount down to 10% from the current 25% level. DOJ staff will be looking to request that the match requirement be totally eliminated. DOJ staff will also be looking to address whether or how the TAD statute should be revised to address TAD-funded provision of mental health services, as was proposed in a legislative bill earlier this year.

Kelli Thompson formed a Legislative Committee which includes Adam Plotkin, Sara Benedict, Beth Robinson, Chris McKinny and Judge Elliott Levine, and will be staffed by Mike Derr. If you have items on this topic send them to Mike Derr or Lara Kenny.

Upcoming Meetings

- State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting – 6/8/2022
- EBDM Subcommittee 6/23/2022
- Data Sharing/OTIs Subcommittee 7/19/2022
- Race Equity, Inclusion and Access 6/2/2022

Action Items/Next Steps & Future Meeting Topics

Judge Levine has asked BJIA if there could be an annual report “Graduation/Termination 2023-Post COVID” since the numbers would not be reflected very well in 2020, 2021 or 2022.

Tamra Oman as asked previously for the data on how many participants have overdosed/death between arrest and waiting to get into court. Ashley stated she has some data and will provide what she has at the next meeting.

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

Next Meeting Date

- 8/25/2022 (12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Public Comment

Nothing at this time.

Co-Chair Benedict adjourned the meeting at 1:45 pm