

# Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Subcommittee | MINUTES

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Meeting date | time 4/22/2021 12:00 PM | WI Dept of Justice – Virtual via Zoom

Chair Kelli Thompson, State Public Defender

Staff Lara Kenny  
Matt Raymer  
Reneé Lushaj  
Ashley Billig  
Heather Kierzek  
Chris McKinny

## Attendees

Kelli Thompson, Mark Abeles-Allison, Sara Benedict, Judge Elliott Levine, Rebecca Main, Robert Mann, Melvin Juette, Chloe Moore, Tamra Oman, Adam Plotkin, Beth Robinson, Jessica Skemp, Lance Wiersma, Lisa Yeates, Kit Kerschensteiner, J.C. Moore, Patti Jo Severson, Katy Burke, Sarah Wynn

## Absent

Holly Audley, Colleen Clark, Jane Graham-Jennings, Kristy Gusse, Lt. Colonel David James Whitehorse Klauser, Judge Jo Deen Lowe, Megan Jones, Nick Sayner, Linda Palmer

## AGENDA TOPICS

### Welcome and Opening Comments

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The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. Kelli Thompson gave the welcome and opening comments.

Noting the addition of Katy Burke to the attendees, a motion to approve the 2/25/2021 minutes was made by Mark Abeles-Allison and seconded by Melvin Juette. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Updates

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- WATCP Equity & Inclusion Committee – Reneé Lushaj & Ashley Billig
  - Lushaj discussed the 9 pilot sites and report created through the committee.
  - Billig reviewed data reports that were created by BJIA using data from CORE and CCAP surrounding RED data. The report is broken into three parts: Part 1: Who is Being Referred; Part 2: Who is Eligible; Part 3: Who is Admitted and Current Status.
  - Each of the pilot sites will receive their own data report. The aggregate report will be provided to subcommittee members.
  - J.C. Moore expressed appreciation for the work Lushaj and Billig have done in support of the upcoming WATCP conference, which will have a strong emphasis on equity and inclusion.
  - Jessica Skemp expressed concern with only using drug charges from CCAP and potentially underrepresentation of individuals potentially eligible for the program.
  - Tamara Oman suggested potentially having community listening sessions with underrepresented individuals.
  - Lushaj underscored the need for counties to look at their own county level data (jail population data), as DOJ does not have access to this data.
  - Judge Levine suggested utilizing data being collected during the pretrial screening process.
  
- WATCP Legislative Affairs Committee – Adam Plotkin
  - WATCP plans to provide an informational legislative briefing on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

- Representative Goyke and Representative Zimmerman will be extending invitations to their colleagues.
- TAD Webinar Presentation to Legislators - DOJ Staff
  - Lushaj provided a recap of the TAD webinar presentation. The presentation seemed well received with around 20 legislators attending. There were questions around the match requirements. Emphasis was placed on increasing staff support for the TAD program. Lushaj will send out the link to the recorded presentation.
  - Oman brought up the importance of considering funding for mental health courts. Burke reported there are currently five mental health courts in the state. Lushaj reported that the requirement for a substance use diagnosis has been removed from the TAD statute to allow for broader funding opportunities.

## **Diversion Standards – Update, Review & Approval**

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- Equity & Inclusion Language
  - Lushaj reviewed the changes made to the Diversion Standards document and the inclusion of more specific equity and inclusion verbiage. Committee members made suggestions for further changes and using more person-centered language. Lushaj will send out the document to members for further feedback which should be submitted to Lushaj by 4/30.
- Drug Testing Appendix
  - Lushaj reviewed the discussion of the drug testing workgroup. Discussion was held regarding the legal ability of a diversion program to drug test an individual and does that change dependent on whether the program is pre-charge or post-charge.
  - Lushaj discussed the placement of the drug testing information in the Diversion Standards document. Members agreed to add the information as an appendix.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

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- Evidence-Based Decision Making Subcommittee – Thursday, 5/27/21
- State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting - Wednesday, 6/9/21
- Next TAD Subcommittee Meeting ~ Thursday, 6/24/21 (12 p.m.-2 p.m.)
- Lushaj would like to have the draft Diversion Standards document approved at the CJCC meeting on 6/9/21. A brief TAD subcommittee meeting will be scheduled to approve the final draft Diversion Standards document before submitting to the CJCC.

## **Action Items/Next Steps & Future Meeting Topics**

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- Lushaj discussed areas where local programs have requested assistance from the TAD subcommittee. Areas include:
  - Standard Program Referral Form
  - Standard Collection of Native American Status
  - Standard Connection Process for Counties

## **Public Comment**

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- Becci Main discussed a new PSA campaign on the use of naloxone for individuals being released from jail. DHS is looking for individuals who have lived experience and who have used naloxone. Also looking for a law enforcement representative and a treatment provider to be involved. Stipends are available. Contact Main, Lushaj, or Burke for more information.

- Burke expressed her appreciation for the partnerships through this committee. Thompson expressed her appreciation for Burke's work. Thompson also expressed her condolences on the passing of Tommy Gubbin and Lori Eville.

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Chair Thompson ended the meeting at 1:45 p.m.