

SB 91 Data Collection Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 3, 1:30
Prow Conference Room,
Snowden Administration Building, 820 W. 4th Ave
Teleconference 1-800-768-2983, access code 513-6755

Meeting summary

Participants: Mike Matthews, DOC; Kelly Howell, Lorena Bukovich-Notti, DPS; Nancy Meade, Doug Wooliver, ACS; Dunnington Babb, Public Defender Agency; Alysa Wooden, DHSS; Brad Myrstol, AJIC; John Skidmore, Law; Staci Corey, Susanne DiPietro, Teri Carns, Brian Brossmer, Barbara Dunham, AJC.

Baseline Data and historical perspectives.

John suggested compiling historical data to compare with data collected going forward. Susanne said that Pew had collected baseline data from 2014 but that it might be better to have data from 2015. Teri noted that time to disposition of a case is typically greater than one year so the baseline data may need to cover more than one year. John said he envisioned collecting data over a 3- to 5-year lookback period. Teri mentioned the 2012-2013 sentencing study which may have some data already compiled. Mike said he compiles data on DOC admissions and length of stay which will have much the same information for misdemeanors.

Focus areas for data collection

Teri suggested the focus be on recidivism (remands and rearrests), cost reduction, reductions in reported crimes and arrests, and drug offenses.

John suggested the data points to look at would be:

- Reported incidents
- Citations/Arrests
- Charges
- Convictions
- Length of stay
- Petitions to revoke probation
- Treatment attendance

Barbara also suggested adding number of beds used in a given timeframe.

Mike noted that for PTRPs, DOC has not been able to track the type of probation violation in the past, but will be able to do so starting in January.

Brad said it was important to note that the legislature wanted the Commission to track the reforms proposed in the JRI package, and that would help focus data collection. Susanne said

that there would be no need to focus on pretrial issues yet, and that she was concerned about drug offenders.

Issues with data collection

Doug stated he was concerned about linkage and causation- the Commission would have to be careful to attribute any changes to the right source, whether SB91 or not. John noted that even before SB91 passed, there were decreases in the number of cases referred to the Dept of Law, and an increase in the number of cases the Dept of Law declined to prosecute, and that these were attributable to the budget.

Kelly stated that local law enforcement should still be reporting the number of incidences reported to law enforcement, notwithstanding any decline in follow up. Teri noted that local departments were not required to report, but the reporting that is done should cover about 98% of Alaskans. Brad said that data was from the Uniform Crime Reporting system, which has a voluntary participation rate of about 98% from local law enforcement units. The NIBORS system, used in other jurisdictions and formerly used in Alaska, would be more accurate than the UCR.

Alysa noted that for purposes of getting treatment participation data, DHSS has different data tracking systems for each program and uniformity will be hard to come by. Teri thought that the McDowell group study could provide money spent on treatment, and that the Trust might be able to provide some numbers. Brad said that the Behavioral Risk Factor study (of high school students) and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health would also provide estimates of treatment need. There was not much in the way of general comprehensive victim surveys although there is one for victims of sexual violence/stalking. Dunnington noted that UA testing sites such as Beacon might be able to give a picture of relapses.

Next steps

Susanne and/or Alysa will reach out to others at DHSS about data tracking; John will ask Seneca and an APD rep to join the group. Next meeting December 15 at 10am.