

# **Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission**

**Meeting Summary  
Tuesday, December 12, 2023  
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Anchorage LIO Office  
1500 West Benson  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**And via  
Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Lt. Jean Achee (Sitka Police Department), Terrence Haas (Public Defender, Zoom); Matt Claman (Alaska Senate); Alex Cleghorn (Alaska Native Justice Center); Lisa Purinton (Comm. Dept. of Public Safety designee); David Mannheimer (Ret. Judge, Court of Appeals); William Montgomery (Bethel District Court Judge, Zoom); Tracy Dompeling (Department of Health); Angie Kemp (for John Skidmore, Deputy Atty Gen, Criminal Div. Dept. of Law, Zoom); Brenda Stanfill (ANDVSA); Trevor Stephens (Ret. Judge, Ketchikan Superior Court); Sarah Vance (Alaska House of Representatives, Zoom); April Wilkerson (Department of Corrections designee, Zoom); Steve Williams (Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority); Capt. Brian Wilson (Anchorage Police Department); John Yoakum (PDA/DOL designee).

Participants: Jake Almeida (staff, Rep. Vance, Zoom); Andrew Gonzalez (Alaska Justice Information Center, Zoom); Dr. Ingrid Johnson (AJiC, Zoom); Heather Phelps; Breanna Kakaruk; Carly Dennis (Sen. Claman staff, Zoom); Claire Lubke (Sen. Claman staff).

AJC Staff: Brian Brossmer; Teri Carns; Susie Dosik.

## **Convene, approve agenda**

Chair Claman called the meeting to order in person and on Zoom at 10:02 a.m. Mr. Cleghorn moved to approve the agenda, and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. There were no objections.

## **Approve past meeting summaries**

Mr. Cleghorn moved to approve the meeting summaries from August 31, 2023; September 20, 2023; October 12, 2023; and October 25, 2023. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. Ms. Stanfill asked that page 1 of the October 25 meeting summary be amended to show that Tami Jerue represented the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center. The meeting summaries as amended were approved unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period**

Chair Claman said that the public comment period would be open from 10:10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. No members of the public asked to comment. Chair Claman reminded participants the Commission takes written and emailed comments at any time, and directed people to the Commission's website hosted by the Alaska Judicial Council.

### **Facilitated Discussion of DAC 2024 Research Agenda**

Retired Justice Joel Bolger said he had been asked again to meet with members of the commission to help with the discussion of research priorities for 2024. He reviewed the table that staff had prepared. The first group of research activities are those required by statute. Second were ongoing research activities, such as reporting data on the incarcerated population, data about criminal case processing, recidivism rates, pretrial supervision, and probation and parole data. Third were requests by the legislature, governor, or chief justice of the supreme court; the commission had none of these to consider at this time. Fourth were areas of research focus that were the main topic for this discussion.

Members discussed each project on the table prepared by staff, then took a break for lunch.

Following the break, Justice Bolger reviewed the research projects list.

Members agreed that they would maintain the sections of the annual report required by statute, and those that had been reported on in the past (the first and second categories discussed above). It was agreed that staff would update this data with the most recent data available. If the legislature, governor, or chief justice make requests during 2024, the report will address those as appropriate.

Justice Bolger next asked members to set priorities among the projects that they discussed. Staff will take the information and prepare a research agenda for the commission to approve at its next meeting. The research agenda will take into account the mandated work and other data that members agreed should be routinely included, and the staff resources available to carry out new work proposed.

Members asked how the DAC reports are used. Chair Claman said that legislators refer to them. Rep. Vance agreed that the legislature is a primary user of the report, and sees it as helpful to understanding the system as a whole. She thought that the report should be addressed to a non-lawyer, non-criminal justice system audience, as well as to the media.

Judge Stephens agreed that the report should address the legislature and public as a whole. He suggested that it be structured within the framework of the criminal justice process, starting with pre-arrest events; arrest and bail; pretrial and plea negotiation practices and case disposition issues including timing of events; trials (to the extent that they occur); dispositions (including dismissals and acquittals); sentencing if convicted; and post-sentencing including incarceration,

probation and parole, re-entry, and the range of services offered at each point in the process. Members concurred with this approach.

### **Ideas for 2024 Work Plan**

Members agreed to advance the following projects/proposals for further development and discussion at the February meeting:

#### General initiatives:

- Re-structure the annual report using the approach outlined by Judge Stephens; continue to report on the data required by statute, and on the other standard items including characteristics and trends of the incarcerated population; statistics about the pretrial, probation, and parole functions within Department of Corrections/Parole Board; recidivism (various measures); results risk assessments administered by Department of Corrections to inmates; criminal case processing within the court system, sex crimes processing within the Department of Law, statewide rates of reported crime broken down by violent and nonviolent and analyzing any trends; and the annual activities of state-funded rehabilitation and violence prevention programs;
- When reporting and analyzing data for research projects, include investigation and discussion of any disparities between urban and rural areas. Where possible, include some community-specific analysis, for example, Bethel compared to Sitka.
- Identify strengths in the system, as well as challenges.

#### Ideas for specific projects:

- Develop an approach to explain common terms used for discussion of criminal justice matters, starting with a guide to how different state agencies use/define certain terms (e.g., “case,” “disposition,” “conviction,” and so forth);
- Update report on times to disposition of cases filed in state courts, and add new information about the reasons for delays (for example, number of case events, number of continuances, substitution of counsel) and impacts;
- Pretrial Practices Study: Study various aspects of the pre-disposition phase of criminal cases: what conditions of release are set by judges (e.g., bail, PED monitoring, third party custodian, EM), defendants’ risk levels, which defendants are released pre-disposition, the length of the pre-disposition phase; which defendants were monitored by PED and for how long, and analyze the data for evidence of any disparities in release before disposition that may be associated with characteristics such as gender, race/ethnicity/urban/rural. Include any available information about the effects that pre-disposition incarceration may have on the manner of disposition and, if feasible, on length of sentence. Include information about which defendants were supervised by PED, and report on the impact of PED monitoring;
- Competency and restoration: Update on earlier report on competency to stand trial with updated process data;

- Create and maintain an online library of criminal justice web sites where people can find the most useful statistical reports and data on Alaska’s criminal justice system, as a resource to legislators and staff, people in the courts and executive branches, and the general public;
- Study of characteristics of cases involving domestic violence;
- Develop a comprehensive list of all programs available at DOC and in the community from arrest to release from probation/parole, including a list of re-entry programs and services currently operating in Alaska. Describe the services provided and include any available information about the number of individuals served and outcomes.
- Literature review of existing research on crime prevention, including what types of interventions are most and least effective, any data about cost effectiveness, and including any relevant information about prevention programs in Alaska;
- Victims: research characteristics of victims and levels of victim engagement in the criminal justice system.

In addition, members expressed interest in learning more about impacts that the Crisis Intervention Projects might have on the criminal justice system. Because the projects are so new, it was decided that the MHTA would keep commissioners apprised of ongoing implementation efforts and the idea of an impact analysis would be discussed later.

### **Meeting dates for 2024**

Members reviewed meeting dates for 2024:

February 27, 2024 in Juneau: meeting times TBD.  
May 30, 2024 in Anchorage: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
August 27, 2024 in Anchorage: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
September 17, 2024 in Anchorage: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
October 8, 2024 in Anchorage: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
October 23, 2024 in Anchorage: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
December 10, 11, or 12, 2024 in Anchorage: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Williams moved to adjourn, and Ms. Dompeling seconded the motion. Members approved it without objections. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.