

# **Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission**

**Meeting Summary**  
**Wednesday, February 27, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

## **Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Lt. Jean Achee (Sitka Police Department; Matt Claman (Alaska Senate); Alex Cleghorn (Alaska Native Justice Center); Lisa Purinton (Dept. of Public Safety designee); David Mannheimer (Ret. Judge, Court of Appeals); Terrence Haas (Public Defender); William Montgomery (Bethel District Court Judge); Brenda Stanfill (ANDVSA); Trevor Stephens (Ret. Judge, Ketchikan Superior Court); April Wilkerson (Department of Corrections); Steve Williams (Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority); Brian Wilson (Capt. Anchorage Police Department); John Yoakum (PDA/DOL designee).

Commissioners absent: Laura Russell (Department of Health); Sarah Vance (Alaska House of Representatives). John Skidmore (Dept. of Law)

Other participants: Andrew Gonzalez; Dr. Ingrid Johnson; Dr. Brad Myrstol; Russell Sampson (all AJiC).

AJC Staff: Susanne Di Pietro; Susie Dosik (Zoom); Brian Brossmer (Zoom); Teri Carns (Zoom).

Chair Claman called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., and called the roll.

## **Approval of agenda**

\_\_\_ moved and Mr. Williams seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was approved with no objections.

## **Approval of December 12, 2023 Meeting Summary**

\_\_\_ moved and \_\_\_ seconded a motion to approve the summary of the December 12, 2023 meeting. The motion was approved with no objections.

## **Public Comment Period**

Chair Claman opened the meeting to public comment at 10:12 a.m., and closed it at 10:36 a.m. No member of the public asked to comment. Chair Claman reminded people that the Commission takes public comment at any time, through the DAC website, or in writing or by phone.

## **Research Proposals**

### **Online library of criminal justice databases**

Ms. DiPietro said that DAC staff had created a draft of online websites for Alaska research. Judge Mannheimer suggested that staff review the approach with someone unfamiliar with the subject to test its usability. He also recommended that it be organized by topic. Chair Claman noted that it would need to be included as a section of the annual report. Members suggested additional resources for the list: Steve Williams mentioned national organizations that include Alaska data in their reports; Ms. Purinton said that DPS produces several specialized reports (and databases) that might be mentioned.

Members discussed how to make the resource most easily available to users. Although it will be posted on the Judicial Council website, Ms. Stanfill thought it might be overlooked there. Chair Claman suggested that it be referenced in a couple of different locations, with an additional mention under the AJC's "Links" to other websites.

### **Pretrial Delay**

Ms. DiPietro said that the Data Analysis Commission, the court, and others are all working to resolve pretrial delay issues. The new data collection project will compile basic descriptive data; will try to account for nuances and isolate specific factors associated with delays, including location, demographic factors, and periods of time that should be excluded from delay calculations. Judge Stephens said that limited staffing of offices (e.g., Troopers and defense attorneys) could delay cases, as could the availability of treatment for defendants, and the ability to contact witnesses.

Ms. DiPietro said that a recent comprehensive national study (that included Alaska data) demonstrated that out of a wide range of structural and process factors, only the number of continuances and the number of hearings showed any statistical association with the amount of time needed to dispose of cases. Members discussed how to determine the reasons for continuances in different Alaska locations. Mr. Haas said that he had listened to calendar calls and similar hearings throughout the state; only about one-quarter of the time were reasons given for asking for continuances.

Ms. DiPietro noted that the Court has a group, chaired by Justice Henderson that is also looking at pretrial delay. Chair Claman emphasized that DAC had a role in providing data on which others could base legal and policy discussions. He summarized that the DAC research should focus on how many continuances were given, how long they were, and any variation across the state.

### **Pretrial Release**

Ms. DiPietro said that this proposal built on the ACJC earlier studies that described the characteristics of pretrial supervision, but did not have data about dispositions of cases and how those might relate to pretrial status, including any pretrial supervision. The DAC staff proposes using True-File electronic information about how the defendant got to court (e.g., summons,

arrest), the details of the actual first and subsequent (if they happened) bail decisions (data from log notes; would include bail conditions), The PED assessment and recommendations, whether the defendant remained incarcerated, and if released, whether supervised (and if on EM), and whether subsequently incarcerated. Comm. Wilkerson noted that people have a choice of using a private pretrial service or PED. Members agreed that this project should be a high priority. Chair Claman suggested approaching this project in two phases. Phase I, for this year, would be to obtain baseline data about releases. Phase II would be to follow up on what happened to individuals after their release.

## **Guide to Common Terms Used by Criminal Justice Agencies**

Ms. DiPietro said that the purpose of this project is to provide legislators and others with a guide about how each agency uses common terms, such as “case.” The purpose is not to arrive at a shared definition, but rather to let legislators know how a “case” and other common terms are defined differently by different agencies. Members suggested that “dismissal,” “recidivism,” “acquittal,” and “disposition,” are other terms to include. Members agreed that staff would compile a list of ten terms that are used differently depending on the agency. Staff will send out the list to members who can then comment.

## **Survey of Law Enforcement and Prosecution Entities Regarding Victim Characteristics**

Ms. DiPietro clarified that the only purpose of this survey is to discern what information law enforcement and prosecution entities are currently compiling about victims. Do they collect information about victim demographics? Relationship with alleged offender? Location? Dr. Myrstol and others mentioned the federal NIBRS system, which includes substantially more information about victims than was collected in the past under UCR. Ms. Purinton stated that all law enforcement agencies except the Anchorage Police Department are currently reporting through NIBRS. Capt. Wilson said that the Anchorage Police Department will begin using NIBRS this year, but has not in the past. Mr. Purinton stated that DPS was planning on reporting some NIBRS data, including victim data, via an online dashboard.

Ms. Purinton said that DPS Victim Navigators could be added to the survey, and Ms. DiPietro suggested adding victim service agencies data collection efforts. Members approved the project.

UAA professors Dr. Brad Myrstol and Dr. Ingrid Johnson reported that they were applying for a grant to conduct a crime victim survey in Alaska.

## **Re-entry and Treatment Programs** (Susie will complete this section)

Ms. Dosik explained that this project was a continuation of the project proposed last year. That project was tabled due to unavailability of data and grant reporting from DBH and the AMHTA. The project would include a literature review of successful programming, if any were available, and a catalog of programs around the state. Judge Stephens asked it it would include

DOC programs. Ms. Dosik said it would. Comm. Wilkerson stated that one of the problems associated with having so many defendants in custody on pretrial status for so long was that the unsentenced population does not typically participate in programming. Many individuals end up getting released “time served” and do not receive services. Mr. Yoakum asked if a future goal was to look at outcomes of the programs, because the outcomes would directly impact recidivism rates. Chair Claman said that legislators were interested in whether programs worked and how many people are served. That would be the next step.

## **Domestic Violence**

Ms. DiPietro said that the DAC staff proposed a descriptive analysis of existing data about DV cases, using current databases. Chair Claman asked if this topic was too big a project, given the other projects on DAC’s research agenda. Ms. DiPietro suggested that the DAC would collect information on DV cases while it was collecting related data on criminal cases for the other projects, and analyze it when time permitted. Dr. Myrstol said that AJiC will submit a request to BJS for funding for a DV study within the next 18 months. Members discussed the fact that the DV flag is not an entirely reliable indicator. Comm. Stanfill suggested that the DAC create a subcommittee to do a needs assessment; the subcommittee could include non-DAC resources. Chair Claman said that this could be on the May agenda, along with an update from Dr. Myrstol.

## **Literature Review of Research on Crime Prevention**

Ms. DiPietro said that most of the existing literature about crime prevention is not based in Alaska, but that it would be useful to have an understanding of the field. Dr. Johnson said that she was working on this, and members agreed that the DAC review could rely heavily on the AJiC work.

## **Presentation by Dr. Ingrid Johnson**

Dr. Johnson presented her recent work on Interpersonal Violence and Women’s Health.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Claman asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Williams moved and Mr. Yoakum seconded the motion; it was approved without objection. The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.