

Meeting Summary
Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission
May 30, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Anchorage LIO office and Zoom

Chair Matt Claman called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Present at the Anchorage LIO office were Lt. Jean Achee, Alex Cleghorn, David Mannheimer, Trevor Stephens, April Wilkerson, John Yoakum, Brenda Stanfill, and Judge Kari McCrea. Present by Zoom were James Cockrell, Terrence Haas, and Capt. Brian Wilson.

Staff present were Susanne DiPietro, Brian Brossmer, Teri Carns, and Susie Dosik.

Adopt Agenda

Mr. Cleghorn moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Judge Mannheimer seconded the motion, and members approved it without objection.

Approve February 27, 2024 Meeting Summary

Mr. Yoakum moved, and Mr. Cleghorn seconded a motion to approve the meeting summary for February 27, 2024. Members approved the motion without objection.

Public Comment Period

Chair Claman opened the meeting to public comment at 10:10 am. There were no public comments, and the Chair closed the public comment period at 10:37 a.m. He noted that the commission receives public comment at any time on its website.

Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Fact Sheets

Dr. Ingrid Johnson of AJiC presented the results of a literature review of meta-analyses of primary violence prevention programs that she created at the request of the DAC. After reviewing the information in her written report (provided to members before the meeting), Dr. Johnson responded to questions.

She noted that preventive programs were more difficult to design to reach adults. While youth and teen programs are often part of school health curricula, there are not as many chances to reach adults. Many people who are interested in these programs are survivors of DV or acquainted with survivors. Places where people congregate such as places of worship or bars are opportunities for prevention of violence messages.

Judge Stephens asked if follow up for the teen programs cut off at age 18. Dr. Johnson said that it depended on the study, and each individual study in a meta-analysis would have to be reviewed.

Mr. Cleghorn said that the Association of Village Council Presidents has a pilot program, Tiwahe, for the Yukon-Kuskokwim region, and that other tribes in the state are also participating. These programs may be involved in youth violence prevention programs, and may have data. Ms. Stanfill said that effectiveness of youth programs can be difficult to study consistently because many schools forbid administration of surveys, which are a primary tool for determining effectiveness. She noted that Sitka had a youth program that started in 2010. If that program has data, Sitka might be a good place to look for effectiveness of programs. Mr. Cleghorn suggested looking at communities with tribal health representatives to see if they have helpful data.

Dr. Johnson said that she was available to create fact sheets on topics other than DV. Chair Claman said that commissioners were free to contact Dr. Johnson directly to make suggestions. Mr. Cleghorn said that he was interested in looking at people who have experienced more than one instance of domestic violence, whether as survivor or defendant. Ms. Wilkerson asked about substance-abuse-related DV, compared to incidents without substance abuse. Mr. Cleghorn thought it would be important to have more reporting on sexual violence and factors (such as VPSO/VPO involvement) that lead to more successful case outcomes. Dr. Johnson said that she would next work on fact sheets about repeat victims/perpetrators, and about sexual violence.

Domestic Violence Report by DAC staff

Ms. DiPietro presented information from the DAC's draft report on domestic violence information from court case files. She noted that 25% of all criminal cases disposed during the study period involved domestic violence. Members discussed the demographic characteristics of people charged with DV offenses. Ms. Stanfill said that she would be interested in knowing what percent of female defendants were Alaska Native, and what percent were white. She said that in general female arrests seemed high, and thought that more information would be helpful. Mr. Cleghorn concurred in the request. Ms. DiPietro said the report was compiled using disposition data from the court system, and to study arrests would require integrating data from DPS. Judge McCrea noted that in her experience, arrests of females often were declined for prosecution before charges were filed with the court.

Judge Stephens suggested looking at dispositions by gender to see whether there were differences in dismissal rates by gender. Capt. Wilson suggested looking at differences by location for dispositions. Members discussed how cases changed between filing and disposition, and whether dropping the DV charge in a case also meant that the case was

no longer categorized as DV at disposition. Ms. DiPietro said that staff would clarify these issues to the extent possible.

Mr. Cleghorn asked whether staff could find data about civil protective orders. Ms. DiPietro said that wasn't part of the data that the Commission is statutorily entitled to receive, but the court system might be willing to provide it. Chair Claman said he thought that the ACJC had compiled some of this data.

Ms. Stanfill said that she was interested in pursuing DV issues and questions that could arise from the report, and she would like to participate in a subcommittee to do this. Mr. Cleghorn, Judge Stephens, and Judge McCrea volunteered for the subcommittee. Chair Claman asked if there were objections to creating a DV issues subcommittee; hearing none, the subcommittee was created.

Online Resources

Ms. DiPietro said that the list of online resources was posted on the Council's website, with several links from different locations on the site. She added that staff would update the list as new resources became available, such as those recently provided by Ms. Purinton at DPS.

Guide to Common Terms

Ms. DiPietro said that staff had circulated a possible list of terms. Judge Mannheimer asked that "unsentenced" be separated from "pretrial." No further changes were made to the list. Ms. DiPietro said the next step is to solicit information about the meaning of each term as used by each agency. She asked for member comments about the terms.

Pretrial Practices/Pretrial Delay Study

Ms. DiPietro said staff developed a data collection form. The methodology to access case files is uncertain; the staff is exploring both electronic files and paper files (a sizable number of the cases have only paper data available). Chair Claman asked for an update at the next meeting.

Re-entry Services

Ms. Dosik has contacted providers and is working on this project.

Victim Services Survey

Ms. DiPietro gave members a draft letter for service providers, inviting them to share information about data that they compile about victims, in a proposed survey. The purpose of the project is to identify agencies that have data about victims, and find out what the information is, how they store it, and how they report it. One purpose is to see the level of victim involvement with the justice system. The purpose is not to actually

collect data about victims. The letter will go to police, prosecutors, and victim service agencies. She asked for suggestions for wording of the letter, and for additional people who should receive it.

Judge Mannheimer suggested that the letter should ask how easy it is for a group with information to share it. Lt. Achee suggested sending it to all members of the Chiefs of Police organization. Judge McCrea suggested sending the survey to OCS case workers. Mr. Cleghorn suggested tribal organizations, ANJC legal assistance department, and Alaska Legal Services.

Ms. DiPietro asked for members to work with her on re-drafting the proposed letter. Mr. Cleghorn, Ms. Stanfill, and Judge Stephens volunteered.

National Association of Sentencing Commissions Conference

Ms. DiPietro said that the national association is a group of policymakers and academics that meets annually to discuss issues directly relevant to the DAC work. She said that AJC staff have participated for many years, and that in the past few years, ACJC and DAC commissioners have attended and at times, participated as presenters. Ms. Stanfill, Judge Stephens, Capt. Wilson, and Lt. Achee said they were interested in attending the conference.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Claman adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.