

DRAFT Meeting Summary
Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission
September 17, 2024
2:00-4:15p.m.
Anchorage LIO office and Zoom

Chair Matt Claman called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Members present were Sen. Matt Claman, Alex Cleghorn (Sam Cherot), James Cockrell (Lisa Purinton), Tracy Dompeling (Zoom), Ret. Judge David Mannheimer, Judge Kari McCrea, Ret. Judge Trevor Stephens (Zoom), Rep. Sarah Vance (Zoom), April Wilkerson (Zoom), Capt. Brian Wilson, and John Yoakum (Zoom). Members absent were Lt. Jean Achee, Alison Biastock, Terrence Haas, and Brenda Stanfill. Also present via Zoom was Anne Bruno.

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

The question was raised whether a quorum was present, and the presence of a quorum was verified.

Adopt Agenda

Judge McCrea moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Capt. Wilson seconded the motion, and members approved it without objection.

Approve August 22, 2024 Meeting Summary

Capt. Wilson moved, and Ms. Purinton seconded a motion to approve the meeting summary for August 22, 2024. Members approved the motion without objection.

Public Comment Period

Chair Claman opened the meeting to public comment at 2:15 p.m. There were no public comments, and the Chair closed the public comment period at 2:35 p.m. He noted that the commission receives public comment at any time on its website.

Review of DAC 2023 Annual Report draft

Members reviewed the draft report, and discussed changes proposed by members in writing, and those suggested during the discussion. Chair Claman said that proofing and technical changes should be provided to the staff separately from this discussion.

Members agreed it was appropriate to include explanatory sections from last year's report (such as much of the material in the victims' section) that because this was a new format

intended to give readers a comprehensive perspective of the structure and operations of the criminal justice system.

Members discussed the flowchart for the criminal justice process and suggested revisions. They agreed to omit “recidivism” on the flowchart. They also agreed that it might be better to separate the chart into felonies and misdemeanors.

Members agreed to include more discussion about mandatory parole, and special parole – geriatric, and compassionate parole. They agreed to not discuss clemency issues.

Staff will make the suggested revisions and provide a new draft to members before the October 8 meeting.

Review of the Domestic Violence Report

Members reviewed the domestic violence court cases report. Judge Mannheimer said that one of his concerns was that while Alaska statutes define domestic violence include all members of a household and all relationships within the fourth degree, and to include a range of non-violent offenses (e.g, criminal mischief) and non-intentional or non-physical “violent” behavior (e.g., threatening, or hitting without the intention of doing harm), most people would understand “domestic violence” to be limited to intentional physical violence done to an intimate partner. He was concerned that because of the wide disparity between what most people perceive as domestic violence and what is defined as domestic violence in the court cases reviewed in the DAC report, people would easily misunderstand the scope of the report and might draw wrong conclusions.

He said that he was also concerned that the report does not note whether the alleged offenses charged were actually proven. He believed that the report should make clear that it was a study of prosecutors’ charging decisions rather than a report on actual domestic violence experienced by people in the state.

Ms. DiPietro said that there was no problem with changing the terms used. She noted that the term “charge” could be substituted for “offense” throughout the document to indicate that charges filed in a court case are not proven. Staff also could provide more detail about the charges of which people were convicted, possibly including whether the DV flag was still on the case at the time of disposition.

She said the report meets the statutory requirement for the commission’s work because it shows how the criminal justice system operates. Chair Claman said that Dr. Johnson’s work with the victims’ survey shows that people’s experiences with domestic violence are not always reflected in the work of the court. Ms. Cherot noted that numerous studies show the Native women and children are disproportionately victims of violence. Judge

Mannheimer said that although this report of charges and court cases shows disproportions of DV cases in rural communities, it can only show prosecutorial and court actions; it cannot show whether there is disproportionate violence in rural communities.

Staff said that they would change terminology, add more data about court cases, refer to appropriate studies (in addition to Dr. Johnson's), and use disclaimers to alert readers to points at which they should use caution in understanding the report.

Next meetings

Chair Claman said that the commission will meet again on October 8, and October 21, if needed. The December 10 meeting to set the 2025 research agenda will last four hours, and will probably use a facilitator to assist members in their discussion. It was proposed that the Commission meet in Juneau on February 20, and that Ken Sanchagrin of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission be invited to talk about that state's experience with de-criminalizing and re-criminalizing drug use.

Adjournment

Ms. Purinton moved to adjourn the meeting, and Capt. Wilson seconded the motion. There were no objections. The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.