

Planning and Policy Advisory Committee
Effective Justice Strategies Subcommittee Update
February 21, 2017

EJS Subcommittee Update

- As a result of the passing of 2015 WI Act 388, there has been an additional expansion of the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) grant program to over \$6 million for calendar year 2017. In September 2016, the Wisconsin Department of Justice announced the recipients of TAD grants for 2017 that includes 14 new counties. In total, there are currently 82 active treatment court programs in the state, of which 54 receive state TAD grants. The remaining 28 treatment court programs are funded through other funding sources, such as county or tribal allocations or federal grants. TAD Programs are now operating in 46 counties and two tribes in Wisconsin. The statewide treatment court coordinator supports all of the state's treatment court programs, providing technical assistance both to programs supported by TAD grants as well as those funded by other means. The Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program was established by 2005 Wisconsin Act 25 to support county efforts that provide treatment and diversion programs for non-violent adult offenders for whom substance abuse was a contributing factor in their criminal activity. Members of EJS has been involved with TAD since the inception of the program, sitting on the TAD Advisory Committee and assisting with the grant review and selection process along with other state partners.
- Work continued on the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) Initiative in 2016. The State and six local teams (Chippewa, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Rock and Waukesha) worked to fine tune the scope of their justice system reform change targets. In anticipation of the July 29 deadline to apply for the next Phase of the Initiative, EBDM teams work to develop fully realized logic models and detailed action plans, outlining the incremental steps needed in the next Phase to implement those change targets. On September 15, 2016 NIC announced Wisconsin, alone in the country, will receive full "Phase VI" technical support through at least 2017 to help refine and implement their change targets. In addition, Eau Claire and Milwaukee Counties were formally re-engaged in this next Phase of EBDM, having been part of EBDM since 2010, bringing the number of local EBDM teams supported by NIC to eight. The lessons learned from their experiences in planning and implementing change in earlier Phases have proven invaluable to our current EBDM teams. EBDM focuses on working with justice systems to incorporate proven strategies for building collaboration, implementing change, and reducing recidivism in the criminal justice system at the state and local level, across the entire decision-making spectrum from arrest through discharge from a sentence. The goals of the next phase includes expanding collaboration and the scope of those involved in EBDM, implementing specific action plans, strengthening state and local partnerships, and proactively engaging community stakeholders in advancing EBDM. Members of EJS are represented among the state EBDM team and its various subcommittees that all meet monthly to advance implementation of our change targets.
- Examples of specific change targets for the state and local teams include: training standards for 911/telecommunications operators; creating or expanding pretrial and diversion programs; using risk assessments to inform decisions; re-entry planning for local jails; methods for providing uniformity in plea negotiations; tools for ensuring consistency in rewards and

sanctions for pretrial programs, treatment courts, and community supervision; bail reform; model practices for training and policies; examining the use of confinement to address failure to pay financial obligations; diverting those with behavioral and mental health issues from the justice system; increasing efficiencies in case processing; increasing the role of victims and advocates; and ensuring that all programming provided, either in the community or in custody, is evidence-based and delivered with fidelity.

- On April 27-28th, 2017, there will be an operational “tune-up” training for five existing OWI Courts. The training will be held in Madison. The National Center for DWI Courts will facilitate the training and the statewide treatment court coordinator will assist with planning.
- The Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) State Conference will be held in May 10-12th 2017 at the Kalahari Resort and will include national speakers and topics discussing program evaluation, incentives/sanctions, drug testing, addressing racial disparity, ethics and the Comprehensive Outcomes, Research and Evaluation (CORE) data system, and state and national drug use trends. The coordinator is assisting with planning the conference.
- As mentioned, the WATCP State Conference in May will include a session on using the CORE database so that treatment courts and diversion programs can properly track performance measures and accurately capture participant data. Additional training is being scheduled for February and March 2017 to further assist counties and tribes in standardized data collection and to transition them to the CORE Reporting System. Pilot sites for the initial program roll-out have been selected and have received training, and additional sites will be added as the program moves forward. The first sites to transition will be the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program sites, with additional counties and tribes being offered the opportunity to begin using the system later in the year. The pilot sites are Dane, Eau Claire, Grant, Trempealeau and Walworth County.
- The Department of Justice, in partnership with WATCP, the Office of Court Operations, and the Department of Human Services, will implement three trainings on the updated version of the Wisconsin Treatment Court Standards. The first training will be held in June 2017 and will focus on new treatment courts. Additional training sessions will be held later in 2017 for existing programs and program staff that completed the original standards training.

Looking Ahead

EJS members are working to develop trainings and technical assistance on the roles, use, and limitations of risk assessments during the plea and sentencing process, particularly in light of the recent Loomis decision involving the use of the COMPAS risk assessment by the Department of Corrections. EJS is also mindful of the local efforts around the state surrounding the issue of race in the judicial justice system, and what role they, or others at the state level, may play in addressing this topic. EJS members will also continue to play an important role on justice system related Legislative Study Committees.