



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE
COURTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE COURTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

August 25, 2021

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Richard Vlavianos, Chair; Hon. Lawrence G. Brown, Vice Chair; Hon. James Bianco; Mr. Scott D. Brown; Mark Gale; Hon. Mary Kreber Varipapa; Hon. Stephen V. Manley; Hon. Eileen C. Moore; Mr. Randy Peshon; Ms. Kulvinder "Rani" Singh; Hon. Charles Smiley, III; Dr. Kathleen West

Advisory Body Members Absent: Mr. Steve Binder; Ms. Deborah Cima; Mr. Michael Elliott; Dr. Tony Hobson; Hon. Kathleen Kelly; Hon. Sam Lavorato Jr.; Ms. Katie Mayeda; Ms. Kacie Patton; Ms. Marlies Perez; Ms. Jessie Tessler

Others Present: Deanna Adams; Francine Byrne, Charlene Depner, Hon. Charles Ervin; Cassie McTaggart, Jeremy Merrick, Tareq Nazamy, Sharon Reilly, Cathy Wachter, Carrie Zoller

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. and roll was taken.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 23, 2021 meeting and July 16, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS I-II)

Item 1

Revised SAFG/DDC Allocations

Due to one county withdrawing their application, revised recommended reallocations for the Substance Abuse Focus Grant (SAFG) and the Dependency Drug Court (DDC) augmentation were presented to committee members.

Action: Vote to approve these allocations was taken concluding with aye responses from the quorum. This will be presented to the Judicial Council for its consideration at the October 1, 2021, meeting.

Item 2

Data Analysis and Addressing Equity Issues in Collaborative Courts

The committee welcomed Gavin O'Neill and Gregory Robinson, PhD., from Alameda County Superior Court to discuss the role that data plays in Program Improvement and Equity and Inclusion.

- Two premises:
 1. Collaborative justice courts are a cost-effective strategy that impacts racial/ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system in California.
 - Collaborative courts are making an impact on racial inequities by getting people of color out of jail or helping them avoid incarceration all together. This reduces the seriousness of new charges incurred so even if people recidivate, it's for much less serious charges (see presentation).
 2. Collaborative courts across California must collect, analyze, and report on the same data elements to provide evidence of our collective impact. Publishing the results will add value to requests for dedicated state funding.
 - Currently there is no dedicated state funding and no real mechanism to incentivize counties to adhere to best practices.
 - Data collected needs to be chosen based on its planned utilization. This can be done by persuading courts to participate, and that will be easier if there is a benefit in return.
 - Alameda County example: There are 11% African Americans in the county but they make up 42% of the felony arrests
 - Best practice is when everyone is afforded the same access to these legal opportunities that the collaborative courts have. Courts must continue to make these opportunities available to people with more serious charges. That's how progress is made on racial inequities.
 - Presenters shared examples of applied research and evaluation work that is done in Alameda County that could be reported back to participating courts in each county (see presentation).
 - Alameda County considers looking at equity in terms of not only race and ethnicity, but also gender and whether or not the individual has a co-occurring disorder.
- Committee members noted that the Legislature is going to be very interested in this data

Item 3

Legislative Update

- No Legislative Update was presented but Sharon Reilly announced that August 27 is the last day for fiscal committees to meet. The appropriations committees are meeting August 26, and it's possible we will know what bills are going forward and what bills will be held in committee. Floor session starts August 30. The last day to amend bills on the floor will be September 3.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on October 27, 2021.