



Judicial Council of California

Collaborative Justice Courts
Advisory Committee

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COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE COURTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION

October 20, 2023

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Lawrence G. Brown, Chair; Hon. Charles Smiley, III, Vice Chair; Brian Bloom; Mark Gale; Hon. Susan M. Jakubowski; Hon. Kathleen Kelly; Hon. Karla Kerlin; Hon. Mary Kreber Varipapa; Hon. Sam Lavorato, Jr.; Ms. Veronica Lewis; Hon. Stephen V. Manley; Katie Mayeda; Hon. Eileen C. Moore; Rachel B. Solov (via Zoom)

Advisory Body Members Absent: Scott D. Brown; Aaron Michael Buck; Crystal Davis; Debra Dugan; Captain Bradford J. Kenneally; Rebecca Marcus; Kimberly McKinney; Melanie Rhodes; Brandon E. Riley

Others Present: Deanna Adams; Francine Byrne, Emily Chirk; Dana Cruz, Charlene Depner, Cassandra McTaggart, Jeremy Merrick, Cathy Wachter, Don Will, Carrie Zoller

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

The chair called the meeting to order around 10:15 a.m., welcomed all attendees, and everyone introduced themselves. There were no public comments received prior to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body will review and approve the September 27, 2023, minutes at the next Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee meeting in December.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (ITEMS I-V)

Item I

Report Out: Juvenile Subcommittee

Judge Kelly discussed how the subcommittee reached out to other subject matter experts to leverage our sources. During the year, speakers included: Kathleen Lucero, Director of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration; Dr. Marina Tolou-Shams, an expert in youth mental health and telehealth from UCSF; Judge Roger Chan; and individuals from the National Center for Youth Law.

The subcommittee provided consultation to Judicial Council (JC) staff to help guide their development of online resources addressing the mental health of youth and their families, including webinars, benchguides, bench cards and toolkits. These items are available on the JC webpage (www.courts.ca.gov/48658.htm) titled Juvenile Mental Health Tools and Resources,

and include the Youth Services Dashboard that highlights services for which most young people are eligible.

Goals for this year/next year: The subcommittee is aware that helping high acuity youth continues to be a challenge and that not all courts have similar resources. The subcommittee is continuing the project it began this year of collecting juvenile collaborative court program materials and creating a resource repository with examples of documents that jurisdictions can use to start or improve their juvenile courts.

Item II

Report Out: Veterans and Military Family Subcommittee

Justice Moore gave some history of this subcommittee, including the creation of the form MIL-100. This form lets the court know about the veteran's military status, which may allow the court to consider possible benefits and protections for the veteran. In order to better help courts identify veterans who are coming into the courts, the subcommittee requested the JC make the MIL-100 a mandatory form. However, the subcommittee was unsuccessful, and it currently is an optional form.

She also discussed multiple statutes that affected veterans' rights and the progress leading up to current events.

Over the years, the subcommittee had multiple educational presentations, and Justice Moore wrote monthly articles in the Daily Journal (for the last five years).

Item III:

Report Out: Mental Health Subcommittee

Judge Manley noted that the Mental Health subcommittee spent a great amount of time reviewing bills that were introduced in the Legislature that addressed behavioral health issues. Changes in legislation on mental health diversion has been challenging problems for the judges.

For this next year, the subcommittee's major effort is advocating for additional educational judicial training programs for judges (CJER would have to approve). The concern is that these issues come up in every division of the court. This training would be a basic fundamental class, required of all judges, to learn how to engage and talk with people with mental illnesses or other behavioral health needs. Two psychiatrists who are members of the subcommittee's education ad hoc workgroup are developing a curriculum. If the curriculum falls within CJAC purview, the subcommittee will bring it to the committee to form a recommendation to CJER to include it as part of their future trainings.

The Mental Health subcommittee will be focusing on some of the upcoming major policy changes to the Mental Health Services Act, CalAIM, and behavioral bridge housing.

Item IV:

Report Out: Racial Justice, Equity, and Inclusion Ad Hoc Working Group

The group was created in 2022. They had a variety of presentations, read many reports, and completed a great deal of work on this topic. Based on this research, the workgroup developed the following recommendations to focus potential committee workplans:

1. Implement evidence-based strategies to address racial and ethnic disparities in California collaborative courts.
2. Develop continuing education and training for judges, court personnel, and collaborative justice partners.
3. Expand the capacity of courts to serve different racial and ethnic groups by identifying service providers with diverse backgrounds.
4. Leverage lessons learned from recent JC data collection initiatives to improve and support the collection of collaborative program data on race and ethnicity.
5. Apply the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards to ensure that all racial and ethnic groups are treated fairly and equitably.

The workgroup will continue to meet to complete the 2023 annual agenda project of a draft formal report to the JC, anticipated for submission in 2024.

Item V:

Discussion: Experiences of Collaborative Court Coordinators

Gavin O'Neill described part of his diverse court coordinator position and experiences. He manages court staffing and court funding; determines who provides treatment; coordinates many courts; and serves multiple stakeholders depending on who he is working with. His position is a neutral party where he needs to be a very good communicator, adversary, politically savvy, and align his best practices and not your opinion. He forms relationships quickly with stakeholders and is a key person in communications. He leans towards evidence or data-driven decision making (not opinion).

The Alameda County collaborative courts are funded by many different sources. He also acts as a fundraiser in this position. He identifies sources, writes grants, chairs meetings; delivers presentations; and works to expand programs to meet the needs of the court and community. He creates policy procedures and tools, chairs workgroups, and is responsible for assessment and court reports. He supports the mentor program and peer support. He contracts with these agencies. Plus, he attends court sessions.

Gavin would urge the committee to help advocate for dedicated state funding for collaborative courts.

C L O S E D S E S S I O N

Item I

Closed under rule 10.75(d)(10)

Legislative Update

The committee discussed pending legislation. Also, Dana Cruz reviewed the legislative process.

O P E N M E E T I N G

Item I:

Discussion: 2024 Annual Agenda Strategic Planning

Deanna Adams discussed an annual agenda process overview, the annual agenda review meeting, a recap of 2023, and ongoing projects. Deanna also discussed the committee's Rule of Court – Rule 10.56

2023 Recap: New Projects

- Report based on racial justice (RJEIW) findings and recommendations (scheduled for 2024)
- Partnership with CLAC to review mental health legislation (Completed)
- Trainings for courts and local justice partners re: SB 1223 (November 2023)
- Juvenile Collaborative Court Resource Repository (in process)
- Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program allocations (forthcoming – 2024)

2023 Recap: Ongoing Projects:

SAFG Funding, Reentry Courts, Funding Assistance, Subcommittees, Effective Practices

Process:

2023 – CJCAC drafts annual agenda with input from committee members;

January 2024 – draft agenda finalized and submitted; February 2024 – agenda reviewed by JC executive management; March 2024 – Executive and Planning Committee Review Meeting; then the agenda will be approved and posted online.

Ideas from committee members for this year's annual agenda:

- Monitor housing and mental health treatment infrastructure and data needed to address the needs of justice-involved (adults and youth) people
- Enhance treatment paths for incarcerated persons (child welfare, family, justice-involved adults and juveniles)
 - Including CalAIM and Drug Medi-Cal
- Develop systems that will broaden the identification of veterans
 - Rule of court?

- Advisements?
- Training?
- Forms?
- Mental Health Diversion training for all stakeholders
- Three veterans HUBs in state prisons
 - Consider whether collaborative courts have a role
 - Maximize efficiency in resentencing
- Enhance treatment courts to meet the needs of fentanyl cases
- Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee and CJCAC Juvenile Subcommittee to meet and connect

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on December 6, 2023.