

SB24-029 Alternative Metrics Working Group

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025 | 9:00am-12:00pm

Hybrid: Zoom & 700 Kipling, 3rd Floor DCJ Conference Room

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Appointed Members: Jack Reed (Division of Criminal Justice), Aaron Stewart (Division of Probation Services at Judicial), Kelli Burmeister (Division of Youth Services), Christie Donner (Colorado Criminal Justice Coalition), Whitney Leeds (Above Waters Project/Growing Home), Kate LeMasters (University of Colorado, Anschutz), Dave Wolfsgruber (Department of Corrections)

Absent: Jon Caudill (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

Guests: Linda Harrison (Division of Criminal Justice), Kaylynn Duncan (Division of Criminal Justice), Samantha Freeman (Division of Probation Services at Judicial), Kelli Hufford (Division of Probation Services at Judicial), Heather Garwood (Court Services Division at Judicial)

Overview

The Alternative Metrics Working Group convened their regular meeting and included subject matter experts from the Judicial Department including Probation and Court Services divisions. Key updates included a focus on the cleanup of DOC spreadsheets and the need for budgeting if interested in using LINK for data matching. The group explored the feasibility of capturing proposed alternative metrics using the Judicial case management system. Action items were assigned to members for follow-up on TBI screening in probation, community feedback, and data collection from partners. The next meeting will include a discussion on community corrections and possibly pretrial services.

Notes

Meeting Introduction and Updates

- Meeting convened with representatives from judicial, probation, Colorado Department of Corrections, CDHS, and community organizations
- Erin Crites shared updates on DOC specific metrics spreadsheet cleanup and request for additional feedback and fallout metric captures
- Erin reported continued work with LINK as a viable option for data matching and collection efforts
- Jack noted that while LINK costs aren't astronomical, they would need to be specifically budgeted for

SB24-029 Alternative Metrics Working Group

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025 | 9:00am-12:00pm

Hybrid: Zoom & 700 Kipling, 3rd Floor DCJ Conference Room

Judicial Alternative Metrics Discussion

- The purpose of the meeting with Judicial is to assess the feasibility of alternative metrics to recidivism

Working Alliance

- Working alliance data not readily available except in probation officer narratives; could be captured but would require standardized definition and scale

Assessment Tools and TBI Screening

- Discussed the utilization of various risk instruments in Probations: LSI (primary risk assessment tool), SOTIPS (sex offenders), DVSI (domestic violence), TCU (substance use)
 - Discussed how the instruments work and whether there is satisfaction. Aaron reported satisfaction and continued exploration of newer instruments' functionality
- Discussed the implementation of screening process for traumatic brain injury (TBI). Symptoms associated with TBIs can be misinterpreted as willful noncompliance. TBI screening does happen in probation and in jails, however the implementation varies by judicial district.
 - Some jails with 400+ beds are required to screen for TBI, dementia, and intellectual disabilities
- Data from the risk assessment tools is available in the case management system. However, data from TBI or other screeners are not.

Collaborative Case Planning and Risk Level

- The probation case management system does store whether a case a plan is completed, but how the plan is developed is captured in narrative case, if at all.
- Officers are trained to collaborate in developing case plans with medium and high risk probationers.
- Probation does conduct a Probation Client Survey every 2-3 years which provides an opportunity to hear directly from probationers about their experiences. Questions could be added to the survey based on the recommendations of this group. The response rate on the survey is low and self-selected so representativeness would be a concern.
- Consistent with best practices, risk level informs supervision intensity. Probation also makes use of typologies, a triage system to help officers identify how to

SB24-029 Alternative Metrics Working Group

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025 | 9:00am-12:00pm

Hybrid: Zoom & 700 Kipling, 3rd Floor DCJ Conference Room

start engaging in case work based on a probationer's risk, need, and protective factors.

Supervision Practices and Wait Times

- Graduated sanctions and incentives are tracked in SBC (Strategies for Behavior Change) system
- Probation lacks data on treatment wait times and completion rates - exists only in case notes
- Group discussed potential for OBH data to provide information on treatment access and completion
- Data of staff perception of programs is not measured

Violations and Terminations

- Some data related to violations are tracked. The most accessible are drug testing data, missed appointments, and violation behaviors associated with a technical violation. Violations resulting in termination from probation are based on the officer's complaint, not sustained findings, thus SBC might be the better measurement.
- Successful completion is easily measured, but early termination not consistently coded as a distinct type of success; reviews and a pilot are in place to evaluate this.

Pro-Social Supports and Treatment Tracking

- LSI assessment captures some data on pro-social support, protective factors, and employment status but not complete details. There are some limits to support systems for individuals convicted of sex offenses due to their restrictions.
- In addition to capturing whether social support exists, members discussed the need to consider whether supervision agents are trained to discuss pro-social support.
- Data are limited on probationers' relationships with children. Again the group discussed whether officers are trained to discuss this with probationers and how officers might help strengthen family ties
- Limited data on access to system support for families of individuals under supervision
- Treatment data (access to, enrollment in, and completion of) are very limited in the probation case management system. If individuals have a diagnosed serious

SB24-029 Alternative Metrics Working Group

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025 | 9:00am-12:00pm

Hybrid: Zoom & 700 Kipling, 3rd Floor DCJ Conference Room

mental illness, that will be captured. Involvement in a multidisciplinary team as part of a problem-solving court may be captured in their unique system.

- Enrollment for Public Health Benefits is not tracked, but a signed Release of Information (ROI) to request assistance is captured; the LSI also captures some data on prior treatment.
- While an increase in prosocial skills is not formally tracked, officers are trained to identify prosocial skills
- Access to and use of peer support (formal or informal) is not something probation captures. Some individuals may have access to peer support services through Veteran Treatment Courts, but those data would be captured by the Problem Solving Court team in their data system.

Financial Obligations and System Functioning

- Court finance team has data on restitution assessment and payment progress regardless of where person is in system
- Discussed high plea rates and how they might reflect pressure rather than factual guilt
- Group discussed various codes for plea types and available DA dashboard data, no data on charge dismissal as a part of a pleas deal
- LSI includes items about attitudes toward conviction and sentencing; although the tool has limitations

Tracking Competency and Reoffending Patterns

- Court has some coding for competency evaluations but system is 'messy'
- Practically, in misdemeanor cases there is often advice to avoid competency evaluations due to concerns about indefinite hospitalization, creating a possible undercount.
- Challenges in measuring reoffending frequency due to limited historical data and system constraints
- Future planning and hope measures don't exist but could potentially be captured in surveys

Education, Employment, and Housing Data

- LSI captures limited employment/education data (employment status, GED/high school completion) but details may be in officer narratives

SB24-029 Alternative Metrics Working Group

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025 | 9:00am-12:00pm

Hybrid: Zoom & 700 Kipling, 3rd Floor DCJ Conference Room

- Probation has fields for employer information (address, contact information, occupation, hours, type of pay) but inconsistently used. The financial team in court services may use this more, although probationers often change jobs.
- Homelessness is also not readily available in the system. Strong consensus amongst probation leadership that housing data needs to be collected in new system; the group discussed the benefits of a legislative requirement to collect certain data in motivating system changes.
- Judicial can track housing vouchers issued to probationers; financial assistance captures when funds assist with housing but not long-term maintenance of housing
 - Whitney suggested probation departments should participate in municipal housing needs assessments to ensure that their clients' needs are considered.

Family Relationships and Custody Issues

- Limited data on family relationships, mostly in LSI or case narratives
- No probation data on reunification or gaining custody of children
- Suggestion to train probation officers to help navigate custody processes

Financial Stability and Banking

- Collections team likely has better employment data due to wage garnishment
- Financial problems captured in LSI but no systematic data on banking access or financial literacy

WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS

- Staff will clean up spreadsheet and send links to everyone
- Next meeting will focus on community corrections (ComCor) and pretrial services
- Compile list of metrics for pretrial and send to counties for feedback
- Plan to include reentry specialists in future discussions
- Discussed potential for including community partners' perspectives
- Christie Donner will follow up regarding Latino Coalition for Community Leadership data
- Time is winding down on this working group so it is important to stay on task and operate within the scope of the AMWG legislative charge.
- Group agreed to connect offline to determine best path forward for community input

SB24-029 Alternative Metrics Working Group

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025 | 9:00am-12:00pm

Hybrid: Zoom & 700 Kipling, 3rd Floor DCJ Conference Room

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

ACTION ITEMS

Erin Crites

- Follow up with Russha and Carla about the status of TBI screening in probation and at which points in the process TBI assessments happen
- Send links to the spreadsheet when minutes and agenda go out for the next meeting
- Get list of metrics for pretrial and send to counties for feedback before next meeting
- Follow up regarding getting community feedback without requiring a three-hour meeting

Aaron

- Follow up on whether probation's most recent survey questions and results can be shared with the group

Christie Donner

- Follow up with the Latino Coalition regarding their data collection and report back to the group

Heather

- Connect the group with the person who can provide information about problem-solving courts

ADJOURN

- [Alternative Metrics Working Group website](#) houses information, agendas, minutes, and meeting links for this working group. Feel free to share this site with any interested stakeholders so they can stay informed.
- Meeting adjourned at Noon
- **Next Meeting: May 8, 2025, 9am - 12:00pm**
Future meetings, as necessary: 5/22, 6/12, & 6/26.

SB24-029 Alternative Metrics Working Group

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025 | 9:00am-12:00pm

Hybrid: Zoom & 700 Kipling, 3rd Floor DCJ Conference Room

MANDATES

Pursuant to 24-33.5-535, C.R.S. (Senate Bill 2024-029) the working group shall:

- Be appointed no later than November 30, 2024.
- Convene first meeting by February 1, 2025
- Meetings shall allow for remote participation
- Submit a report by July 1, 2025 that summarizes the efforts of the working group and any recommendations

The working group is required to:

- Study metrics and methods, other than recidivism, to:
 - Supplement current measures including those related to desistance (severity and timing) and risk reduction.
 - Comprehensively measure successful outcomes that consider various aspects of life (e.g. employment, housing, education, mental health, personal well-being, social supports, and civic and community engagement).
 - Enhance measures of criminal justice system performance and adherence to best practices in supervision program design and implementation.
- Identify methods to obtain information from those involved or recently involved in the system regarding supervision experiences.
- Identify gaps or barriers in data collection, measurement and data matching, and recommendations on addressing these gaps or barriers.
- Create an implementation timeline for these metrics and methods that addresses any data limitations and necessary resources.
- Identify customization of measures to account for age, gender, race, ethnicity, or risk of a cohort.