

SB24-029 Alternative Metrics Working Group

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2025 | 9:00am-12:00pm

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

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Appointed Members: Jon Caudill (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), Jack Reed (Division of Criminal Justice), Kelli Burmeister (Division of Youth Services), Christie Donner (Colorado Criminal Justice Coalition), Kate LeMasters (University of Colorado, Anschutz), Dave Wolfsgruber (Department of Corrections)

Absent: Aaron Stewart (Division of Probation Services, Judicial), Whitney Leeds (Above Waters Project/Growing Home)

Guests: Erica McInnis (Division of Probation Service, Judicial), Valarie Schamper (Community Corrections), Erin Crites (Division of Criminal Justice), Yolanda Alvarez-Montello (Division of Criminal Justice), Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky (Division of Criminal Justice)

Overview

The Alternative Metrics Working Group convened their regular meeting and included subject matter experts from Community Corrections to discuss key aspects of their data and metrics used for measuring program effectiveness and supporting individuals in Community Corrections. Valarie Schamper presented community corrections data capabilities, highlighting PACE evaluations as a good source of information. The group explored various measurement challenges, including assessment tools, treatment access, and the need for tracking additional data such as traumatic brain injury and employment quality. The group also discussed the project timeline, ways to incorporate feedback from individuals with lived experiences, and assigning action items for future follow-up, and the need for continued discussion on implementation of the group's recommendations. Updates from previous meetings included receiving feedback from Judicial on their metrics feasibility, continued work with DOC, beginning the drafting process for the report due by June 30, and connecting with pretrial agencies.

Notes

Meeting Introduction and Updates

- Meeting convened with representatives' introductions
- Erin Crites shared updates: received feedback from Judicial and communicating with DOC to finalize their feasibility ratings
- Report due by June 30th (end of fiscal year).

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- Christy suggested considering the report as interim status rather than final to continue feedback from stakeholders and develop strong recommendations
- The statutory authority for the group is not repealed until June 30, 2026, providing flexibility

Community Corrections Data Discussion

- Valarie Schamper presented on Community Corrections data capabilities.
 - PACE (Program Assessment for Correctional Excellence) evaluates programs every three years
- Working Alliance, Risk Assessment and Case Planning
 - Working Alliance measurement is done at the program level through PACE evaluation, not at individual client level
 - Data is collected using surveys of randomly selected clients.
 - Use LSI-R and VASOR/SOTIPS tools with data on scores and risk level changes
 - Collaborative case planning is evaluated through PACE by reviewing recordings and scoring them
 - CCIB system collects information on what criminogenic needs were addressed
 - Programs are required to use structured sanction and incentive approaches
 - Community Corrections uses a level system (residential 1-4, non-residential 5-8) with supervision decreasing as levels progress. Focus on level progression.
 - Stages of change, reoffending frequency and severity are not currently tracked but future measurement is plausible
 - LSI assessments are done at intake and updated every 6 months (not appropriate if done sooner due to measurement time frames in the assessment)
- Treatment Screening, Access, and Wait Times
 - Community Corrections tracks substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health treatment (MH) start/end dates.
 - Time to access treatment is measured in weeks, not months and all community correction programs should provide access per statute or policy and access is reviewed via audits, complaints, or PACE
 - Mental health and substance use treatment data are collected via PACE but differentiated between therapy and psychiatric services (access to psychotropic medication)

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- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and MH/SUD evaluations can be tracked if paid by Correctional Treatment Funds (CTF)
- Community Correction facilities that have imbedded MH/SUD treatment, increase access
- TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) screening is a 'blind spot' in the current data collection system
- Neurodevelopmental/degenerative disorder screening is not systematically tracked
- Medicaid eligibility is tracked but not enrollment - Christie suggested this gap should be addressed
- Enrollment/eligibility for public benefits are not directly tracked, but a part of case planning
 - Tracking of disability benefits is complicated by eligibility debates for community corrections clients
- Support Services and Prosocial Metrics
 - Peer specialist support services are growing but not comprehensively tracked yet, although can be tracked if funded by CTF
 - Pro-social skills measurement is limited to certain elements in LSI rater box items and access to prosocial activities is measured in the PACE evaluation using activities the facility brings in.
 - Can also track whether clients sign out to engage in prosocial activities, supports, or involvement
 - System support for family members is not easy to measure but some programs do include family days, invite family members to support the client, and family contact at orientation
 - Client parental participation is not tracked but often discussed with case managers, or a part parent classes enrollment
- Financial, Employment, and Housing Data
 - Fines, fees, and restitution are tracked together (not separated) at entry and at termination.
 - Employment data primarily tracks earnings, job start/end date, retention, and full time/part time status, rather than job quality or field
 - Financial data collected includes earnings, other income, savings balance, treatment costs, restitution, taxes paid.

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- Housing stability data is collected for non-residential clients but not comprehensively
 - There is the opportunity to bring clients back to residential community correction facilities in some cases for stabilization
- Caretaking demands data is not formally collected but is part of case management
- Transportation access is important but not formally tracked in the data system
- Risk Reduction and Stabilization
 - Discussion about using stabilization measures instead of focusing on risk reduction
 - Kate LeMasters noted mortality (especially overdose risk) as an important outcome measure

WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS

Timeline and Process Discussion

- Discussion about extending work beyond the initial deadline with a status report in June.
- June 12th meeting conflicts for Christie and Kelli, June 26th proposed as an alternative date.
- Erin and Yolanda will write a draft of the final report with recommendations based on group discussions
- The group discussed the need to incorporate voices of people with lived experience in the final recommendations
- Christie offered to reach out to CCJRC staff with lived experience; also, DOC programs with peer specialists can be a good resource
- Erin will share the working outline of the report with the group.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

ACTION ITEMS

Erin Crites

- Update the spreadsheet to include Judicial's feedback
- Follow up with DOC to get their feedback on the spreadsheet
- Work on a draft of the report and share the working outline of the report with the group

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- Get a copy of the LSI manual to discuss rater boxes at the next meeting
- Adjust spreadsheet to separate eligibility and enrollment for benefits

Jack Reed

- Do outreach to pretrial team about metrics

Valarie Schamper

- Send the Working Alliance Inventory survey to the group
- Put together information about the PACE evaluation to share

Christie Donner

- Huddle with Whitney about identifying people with lived experience for feedback
- Ask CCJRC staff members with lived experience to review alternative metric recommendations

Dave Wolfsgruber

- Reach out to peer specialists for their input as people with lived experience

Kelli Burmeister

- Prepare DYS on spreadsheet information for the next meeting

Kate LeMasters

- Look into literature on social determinants of health related to stabilization

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 22, 2025, 9am - 12:00pm**
Future meetings, as necessary: 6/12, & 6/26.

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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.