

# SB24-029 Alternative Metrics Working Group

## Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2025 | 9:00am-12:00pm

Hybrid: Zoom & 700 Kipling, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor DCJ Conference Room

## MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE

**Appointed Members:** Jon Caudill (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), Kelli Burmeister (Division of Youth Services), Kate LeMasters (University of Colorado, Anschutz), Dave Wolfgruber (Department of Corrections), Aaron Stewart (Division of Probation Services, Judicial)

**Absent:** Jack Reed (Division of Criminal Justice), Christie Donner (Colorado Criminal Justice Coalition), Whitney Leeds (Above Waters Project/Growing Home)

**Guests:** Erin Crites (Division of Criminal Justice), Linda Harris (Division of Criminal Justice), Yolanda Alvarez-Montello (Division of Criminal Justice)

### OVERVIEW

The Alternative Metrics Working Group convened their regular meeting with Kelli Burmeister from the Division of Youth Services (DYS) discussing key aspects of their data for measuring program effectiveness. Kelli highlighted the feasibility of capturing the identified alternative metrics using data from the YASI (their risk assessment tool), case planning documentation, electronic health records (EHR), and the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). Challenges were noted for capturing subjective measures which would require qualitative surveys. Kelli proposed the creation of metrics for youth focusing on social-emotional growth and living conditions. Feasibility for capturing income data is low without Department of Revenue support as most employment metrics for DYS exist in case notes. The group discussed the need for recommendations on implementation planning for the identified alternative metrics, SME involvement in creating implementation timelines, and prioritizing metrics based on feasibility and availability. The group also planned to invite individuals with lived experience to the next meeting.

### NOTES

#### Meeting Kickoff and Updates

- Meeting called to order with informal introductions and acknowledgment of absentees
- Reviewed outstanding action items from the previous meeting, including approval of minutes
- Noted upcoming absences and vacation schedules for key members, impacting follow-up timelines
- Erin confirmed near finalization of the DOC spreadsheet, feasibility rating numbers are the last step

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- Updates on sharing the LSI manual is limited due to copyright protections, only general explanations of the instrument can be shared, but not the assessment or manual
  - Agreed to document these limitations in the final report as they affect the group's ability to recommend or analyze certain measures.

### **DYS Data Feasibility & Metrics Deep Dive**

- Kelli Burmeister provided a detailed walkthrough of DYS data availability and feasibility for the list of metrics, including multi-system involvement, the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI), collaborative case planning, and parole outcomes
- Working Alliance, Risk Assessment and Case Planning
  - Discussed challenges in capturing subjective measures (e.g., working alliance, perceptions of programs) and the need for new surveys or qualitative data collection for certain metrics
  - The YASI includes risk levels of low, low moderate, high moderate, and high risk, Kelli noted that most of the DYS population is in high risk
  - Described having collaborative case planning and the use of a multidisciplinary team (MDT) model and the roles of independent boards (community review, juvenile parole) in transition and parole decisions
  - Completion of case plan goals are tracked and include an MDT group consensus
    - Goals are made jointly and individualized while others are labeled Division goals that are a requirement of DYS
- Supervision, Sanctions, and Transition
  - Kelli explained the parole rating system, its predictive value for recidivism, and the process for tracking supervision, sanctions, and case plan completion.
  - Supervision is informed by risk level
  - Structured responses to youth behaviors are utilized to include incentives and sanctions for behavior modification from a menu of options for program consistency
  - Individual parole violations are tracked by violation hearings done at the Joint Parole Board (JPB)
  - Challenges of transition plan review include examining numerous individual case notes
  - Perceptions of DYS programming and innocence/guilt are not tracked, while attitudes towards the criminal justice system is measured by the YASI; staff perceptions are tracked using a division wide survey, but are not program specific
  - Success on parole is tracked by a rating at discharge

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- o Reoffending frequency and severity are analyzed annually
- Assessment, Education Data and Pro-Social Supports
  - o Confirmed comprehensive assessment at intake (mental health, substance abuse, TBI, trauma, etc.) and tracking of treatment evaluation, attendance, and completion.
  - o Wait times are not tracked but a few YASI items ask about waitlists for services
  - o Screening, training, and awareness of TBI is tracked
  - o Youth history of abuse and trauma is tracked via the UCLA PTSD Reaction Index (UCLA-RI) and YASI
  - o Kelli stated she will review MAT utilization as a tracked item
  - o Pro-social supports, skills, connections, and engagement is tracked mostly by YASI items
  - o Discussed vocational and educational programming, including the use of MAP for academic growth and tracking of diplomas, GEDs, and vocational certificates.
  - o Addressed challenges in measuring employment quality, pro-social supports, and family engagement, noting reliance on case notes and text fields for some data
  - o Reviewed feasibility of tracking drug testing data and highlighted variability in practice and payment requirements by parole officer
- Housing, Income, and Youth-Specific Metrics
  - o Described DYS's ability to track housing stability, access to vouchers, and the small subset of youth pursuing independent living
  - o Noted low feasibility for income and wage data without Department of Revenue support; most employment data is in case notes.
  - o Outlined youth-specific metrics brainstormed by Kelli, including social-emotional development, home-like environments, use of restraint/seclusion, and unique Colorado system features such as YOS and juvenile parole board.
- Data Systems, Extraction, and Feasibility
  - o Confirmed DYS receives quarterly data extracts from the YASI vendor (Orbis/Caseworks), facilitating analysis of many metrics
  - o Discussed the need for ongoing SME involvement to develop implementation timelines and cost estimates for new or complex measures.
  - o Emphasized the importance of categorizing metrics by feasibility and availability (immediately available, short-term, medium-term, long-term/aspirational) for the final report.

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### **Report Recommendations and Implementation Planning**

- Group reviewed the legislative charge and requirements for the working group, confirming most obligations have been met
- Agreed to recommend continued SME work for implementation planning and cost estimation, especially for high-utility but low-feasibility measures.
- Discussed the need to contextualize recommendations within current state budget constraints and to manage expectations for data availability and analysis timelines.
- Highlighted the value of norming/validating alternative metrics against recidivism/desistance outcomes and the complexity of comparing across agencies or populations.
- Discussed the potential for cross-system data integration using the LINC project, with cost estimates available for inclusion in the report
- Explored challenges and opportunities for broader data sharing, including privacy, consent, and the use of AI for qualitative data extraction.
- Highlighted the need for legislative support and funding for large-scale data integration and evaluation efforts.

### **Lived Experience Participation and Next Steps**

- Planned to invite individuals with lived experience to the next meeting (June 12), using a focus group/interview approach with guiding questions Kelli agreed to create
- Agreed to schedule lived experience participants in time slots to maximize their input and minimize wait time.
- Confirmed Erin Crites will share a Google Drive/file for collaborative report drafting and feedback
- Noted upcoming absences and coverage plans for administrative tasks.
- No public comments were received; the meeting adjourned early after confirming no further business.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Erin Crites**

- Follow up with individuals with lived experience to schedule their participation (written or in-person feedback) for upcoming meetings
- Finalize and share the spreadsheet with numbers from previous discussions with Doc
- Follow up with Valarie Schamper regarding PACE evaluation details from Community Corrections

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- Share Google Drive/file with placeholders for report content and collect feedback from group members

### **Kate LeMasters**

- Review literature on social determinants of health related to stabilization and provide an update to the group

### **Kelli Burmeister**

- Check and confirm the age range for which the YASI is validated
- Check on the feasibility and process for tracking the competency flag for youth
- Share the list of vocational certificates available to youth with the group
- Review and provide feasibility assessment for organizing and analyzing UA (urinalysis) data for youth
- Send out an email to the group to compile guiding questions for lived experience participants for the next meeting

### **Jon Caudill**

- Reach out to potential lived experience participants and confirm their availability for the June 12th meeting

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

### **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

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**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.