

SB24-029 Alternative Metrics Working Group

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2025 | 9:00am-12:00pm

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

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84129576135?pwd=eANCjwbToCyfpzWqleEle3h3MsLeQa.1>

AMWG MINUTES for 8/14/25

ATTENDANCE

Appointed Members: Kelli Burmeister (Division of Youth Services), Jon Caudill (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), Christie Donner (Colorado Criminal Justice Coalition), Whitney Leeds (Above Waters Project/Growing Home), Jack Reed (Division of Criminal Justice), Dave Wolfsgruber (Department of Corrections)

Absent: Kate LeMasters (University of Colorado, Anschutz), Aaron Stewart (Division of Probation Services, Judicial)

Guests: Erin Crites (Division of Criminal Justice), Linda Harris (Division of Criminal Justice), Yolanda Alvarez-Montello (Division of Criminal Justice), Ellen Graham (Latino Coalition), James Morell (member of the public), and Kyle (member of the public)

OVERVIEW

Working group reconvened for their continued alternative metrics development work. The group reviewed organizational structure and concluded on maintaining current working group leadership and meeting monthly until statutory sunset on June 30, 2026. The group discussed research standards and established focus on primary research with high scientific rigor to enhance reliability, while avoiding secondary sources to prevent bias. Annotated bibliography suggested for literature review to refine search strategies and combining outcome with terms for effective targeting of literature. Pilot research assigned to Yolanda Alvarez Montello on impact of civic engagement on outcomes in criminal justice settings and populations; results to be evaluated in three weeks at the next meeting. Additional stakeholder insights established with Project Diakonia for employment metrics and potential collaboration with Dr. Michael Campbell for alternative metrics presentation. Access to academic databases confirmed amongst members, with a repository created in Google Drive for ease of collaboration. Group considered a multidisciplinary research perspective to include social determinants of health into criminal justice metrics while maintaining focus on practical system outcomes.

NOTES

Meeting Structure

- Monthly meetings scheduled from 9-11am on second Thursdays
- Group decided to continue work beyond initial legislative deliverable due to insufficient time to create comprehensive recommendations
- Legislation sunsets on June 30, 2026, giving group 11 months to complete work

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- Meeting format allows informal participation from guests alongside formal public comment section

Research Standards Development

- Group established research evaluation criteria prioritizing primary research with high scientific rigor, empirical analyses, and clear generalizability parameters
- Discussion emphasized avoiding secondary sources to prevent confirmation bias and citation stacking effects
- Kelli Burmeister warned about national organizations making research missteps, specifically citing issues with Missouri Model
- Research approach will include academic journal literature, health literature, and broadened scope beyond criminal justice

Research Methodology Decisions

- John Caudill suggested annotated bibliography approach for literature review with potential synthesis documents.
- Age of studies discussed with John Caudill advocating against time limits, citing historical patterns in criminal justice policy.
- Search strategy refined to combine outcome terms (desistance, risk reduction) with factor terms (housing, employment) for more targeted results.

Metric Categories and Organization

- Christie Donner proposed three major buckets: client stabilization (social determinants), risk reduction, and system performance metrics.
- Current categories include desistance, housing, employment, education, health, civic engagement, financial, peers/family, criminal risk reduction, and system performance.
- John Caudill suggested criminal risk reduction and desistance as primary outcome variables that other factors should lead to.
- Group discussed the importance of reviewing research outcomes around risk reduction rather than binary recidivism measures

Initial Research Trial

- Erin Crites proposed starting with a research review of literature of the civic and community engagement category as a test case for methodology
 - Yolanda Alvarez-Montello assigned to conduct pilot research
- Results will be presented at the next meeting for group evaluation of research process, standards, and understand timeline expectations for this work
- Timeline set for three weeks of research with one week review period before next meeting

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Subject Matter Expert Integration

- John Caudill offered connection with Project Diakonia youth build program director for employment quality metrics discussion
- Erin Crites plans to contact Dr. Michael Campbell from DU for an alternative metrics presentation
- SME scheduling pushed to October meetings to allow focus on methodology development and provide SME's with lead time

Literature Access and Resources

- Jack Reed confirmed access to academic databases through university connections amongst his staff
- Christie Donner offered to share Dr. Jorgen's TBI prevalence research from DU.

Multidisciplinary Approach

- Discussion on incorporating social determinants of health beyond criminal justice context, with Kate (absent) to provide public health perspective.
- John Caudill questioned scope boundaries to ensure the focus remained on criminal risk reduction, desistance, and criminal justice system outcomes
- Group discussed the importance of incorporating different criminology perspectives, population types, and demographics of research participants

ACTION ITEMS

Erin Crites

- Contact Dr. Michael Campbell from DU to request presentation or materials on alternative metrics
- Set up Google Drive permissions for working group documents access
- Schedule subject matter experts starting in October meetings

Yolanda Alvarez Montello

- Conduct pilot research on civic and community engagement category using established methodology

Christie Donner

- Provide Dr. Jorgen's TBI prevalence research from DU if not already available to team

John Caudill

- Coordinate scheduling with Project Diakonia program director for employment metrics discussion

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Working Group Members

- Review pilot research results from civic and community engagement study before next 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: September 11, 2025, 9 - 11:00am**
Future 2025 meetings, as necessary: Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11
Future 2026 meetings, as necessary: Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr. 9, May 14, & Jun. 11

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.