

MINUTES

CRIMINAL & JUVENILE JUSTICE INFORMATION ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2024
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
BCA

Attendees

Advisory Group Members:	Organization
Bartell, Diane	BCA
Beaumaster, Paul	Minnesota County Attorneys Association
Bodie, Marv	Minnesota Association of Counties
Carson, Barbara	Public Member
Densley, James	Public Member
Diamond, Patrick	Minnesota Judicial Branch, 2 nd Judicial District
Duwe, Grant	Minnesota Department of Corrections
Fralich, Jessica	League of MN Cities
Gronvall, Tamar	Department of Administration
Henderson, Pancho	MNIT
Hibbs, Brian	Minnesota Association of County Community Corrections
Jaszewski, Karen Kampa	State Court Administration
Knaak, Fritz	League of MN Cities
Moua, Liz	Minnesota Department of Corrections
Reitz, Nate	MN Sentencing Guidelines Commission
Siolka, Lindsay	Board of Public Defense
Tran, Maria	League of Minnesota Cities
Williamson, Aaron	State Court Administration
Willert, Amy	Minnesota Association for Court Management
Gotz, Dana	BCA
Evans, Drew	BCA
Sanchez, Angie	BCA
Clawson, Amanda	BCA
Knutson, Cathy	BCA

Welcome and Introductory Items

Advisory Group Chair Diane Bartell called the meeting to order. Roundtable introductions were made. Diane introduced the following new members: Judge Kellie M. Charles, 2nd Judicial District Court, Karen Kamp Jaszewski, Judicial Senior Attorney, Commissioner Tamar Gronvall, Department of Administration, Frederic (Fritz) Knaak, Attorney, Jessica Fralich, Duluth City Attorney and Karla Bigham, Washington

County Commissioner, District 4 to the Advisory Group. A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 2024 Advisory Group meeting minutes. A vote was taken. **The motion carried.** A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. A vote was taken. **The motion carried.**

The Changing nature of Homicide – James Densley

Professor Densley presented on the changing nature of homicide in the Twin Cities which is funded by the Joyce Foundation, in partnership with the MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). This study focused on homicides in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties from 2018-2022. All public media reports and police department records were used to collect the data. A research team of Hamline University students also assisted with the research.

Research was being done to determine why there was/is a sudden increase in violent crimes surrounding the COVID-19 years (2020-2021) and into today. While the results have not yet been established, trends are showing that nearly all the homicide perpetrators had multiple contacts with state systems – mental health, drug and alcohol, the court system, police, etc. This trend could be telling us that the systems – and the lack of communication between them are letting people down.

Overview of forensic investigative genetic genealogy (FIGG) – Deputy Superintendent of Forensic Science Services Cathy Knutson

BCA Deputy Superintendent of Forensic Science Services Cathy Knutson presented on forensic investigative genetic genealogy (FIGG), which is the DNA process of genetically connecting and identifying individuals using familial DNA. FIGG testing requires advanced technology and specialized training. The BCA is currently a facilitator of FIGG. Implementing FIGG at the BCA would help to move the current mitochondrial DNA program forward, and it would eliminate the need to send samples out to a private company and only have access to their databases. Any stakeholder feedback and insight on how we can use FIGG technology in a responsible way is essential in deciding how this will help the state of Minnesota and the BCA in solving crimes.

Justice Counts Overview – Kelli Williams and Laramie Riggs

Kelli Williams and Laramie Riggs of Justice Counts provided the Advisory Group an update on the services they provide and what they have to offer, having presented to the Advisory Group approximately three years ago. Justice Counts is a national program that provides up-to-date and ongoing data from criminal justice agencies across the country that is currently not being utilized by Minnesota. The data that is being collected and provided by Justice Counts can be used in the consideration of public policy decisions. Kelli and Laramie provided Advisory Group members contact information for future discussion regarding Minnesota possible participation.

Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) Overview – Liz Moua and Grant Duwe

Liz Moua and Grant Duwe with the Minnesota Department of Corrections provided an overview of DOC systems and data collected and discussed the need to improve the quality and the communication of the data. Liz and Grant mentioned there are a lot of systems out there that don't "talk" to each other and information is getting missed and records are not updated properly. They asked the question: how can data be collected and be higher quality in an organized and more efficient way? The DOC is working

toward trying to establish a centralized repository to enable data to come together across multiple systems into a place that can be accessible and available to data users.

Violent Crimes subcommittee update – James Densley

Professor Densley provided a quick update on what the subcommittee has been discussing. The question remains “What does the subcommittee want to achieve?” There is different representation among the subcommittee and the goal is to identify the gaps between systems and different entities in the criminal justice/public safety, health, human services and education systems - what data is available and what data is not available and work on possible recommendations to fill in those gaps. The subcommittee continues to meet every two months, and the next meeting will be in September or October.

August agenda items:

- Updating the Advisory group by-laws
- Overview of Courts and Public Defense systems and data

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, August 28, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
BCA

The meeting adjourned.