



Waukesha County  
Criminal Justice Collaborating Council  
Evidence-Based Decision Making Case Processing Workgroup  
Thursday, January 21, 2016

**Team Members Present:**

District Attorney Sue Opper

Clerk of Circuit Court Kathy Madden

Judge Ralph Ramirez

Attorney Dan Fay

CJCC Coordinator Rebecca Luczaj

District Court Administrator Michael Neimon

Attorney Katie Bricco

Commissioner Bob Dehring

**Others Present:** Windy Jicha

**Review & Discuss Workgroup Guidance from NIC Consultant**

The group collaborated to develop an opportunity statement:

*The Case Processing Workgroup is a collaboration of criminal justice partners who recognize the need for productive processing of cases in the criminal courts to benefit victims, offenders, system partners, and the community and to comply with case processing standards for Wisconsin courts. The workgroup will focus on improving the efficiency of moving select cases through court from initial appearance to sentencing. The workgroup will use available data to identify points in the process where there is unnecessary delay, and then develop means by which to reduce or eliminate those delays. A primary goal will be to reduce the number of select cases set for trial, thereby allowing for all cases to have more meaningful and efficient scheduling opportunities.*

Luczaj agreed to bring pertinent sections of the criminal justice system mapping to the next meeting for the group to review and indicated the group may benefit from NIC-funded technical assistance by the National Center for State Courts to review case flow.

**Review Data Collection Assignment**

Madden distributed a handout titled *Disposition Summary by Disposing Court Official, January 1 to December 31, 2014*. Madden indicated that she does not feel this handout contains “clean” data, expounded on the challenges of accessing quality data in CCAP and reviewed some statistics. Fay said OWI data is available from the WisDOT website. The group noted the importance of quality data in an evidenced-based decision making model and felt more evidence was needed before decisions could be made.

**Continue to Review, Discuss, & Prioritize EBDM Policy Team’s Case Processing Opportunities for Change**

The group is interested in finding answers to the following questions for Waukesha County:

- How many cases are scheduled to go to trial?
- How many cases actually go to trial?
- How many cases go to a jury trial?
- What is the breakdown (misdemeanor versus felony and by crime) of types of cases that go to trial?
- What is the average cost for all criminal justice partners (district attorney, courts, police departments, etc.) for one scheduled court case?

- On average, how many times are cases scheduled for court before they are dismissed or disposed of?
- How many cases are dismissed before trial?
- Why should we care if a case is scheduled for trial? What are the reasons cases are scheduled for trial?
- How do system delays harm victims, offenders, system partners and the community?
- What are the benefits of efficient case flow?
- How can system changes deliver value to all participants?

The group acknowledged and discussed private bar attorneys' concerns about how expediting case processing could negatively affect their revenues and whether this was a valid concern for the workgroup.

The group also discussed how all hearings should be meaningful and advance cases to disposition without unproductive delays. Many times the courts perform a monitoring function to help short term thinkers get things done, so appearances are scheduled to monitor cases and defendants. Delays are not necessarily bad but they should be done without incurring unnecessary expenses.

Neimon agreed to email the group the state judicial standards for case disposition.

#### **Discuss Next Steps & Set Date for Next Meeting**

- January 28 at 7:30 a.m. in room C260

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.