



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
General Membership Minutes for Monday, December 13, 2021
Via Microsoft TEAMS**

Welcome & Introductions, Commissioner Dr. Garcia, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. All in attendance recorded via Microsoft TEAMS.

Membership & Infrastructure:

There were no changes to membership or infrastructure at this time.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on September 13, 2021, were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed.

Presentations:

AIM Court Evaluation– Rebecca Molsberry

Commissioner Garcia introduced the presenter Rebecca Molsberry and read her bio.

Rebecca Molsberry began the presentation by giving a brief description of the project purpose and context. In the Fall of 2019, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office requested that the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (Meadows Institute) conduct an impact and cost-benefit analysis for the Achieve. Inspire. Motivate. (AIM) Court. The AIM Court is a pre-trial Specialty Court program that is intended for youth and young adults between the ages of 17 and 24. AIM began as a pilot program in 2016 and launched as a Specialty Court in 2017 with the goal of diverting young people with first-time, low-level offenses from entering the justice system.

Mrs. Molsberry stated that identified 231 individuals enrolled in the AIM Court from 2016 through August 2020. Of those who were discharged from the program (217 clients), more than two-thirds (70%) graduated the program. Two-year recidivism rates were calculated to assess the impact of AIM participation on re-arrest for AIM participants compared to similarly matched probationers. Two years after beginning AIM Court, 16.3% of AIM participants were arrested

for a new offense, compared to 42.5% of matched probationers. After accounting for differences in criminogenic risk levels, AIM participants were 74% less likely to be arrested for a new offense in the two years after beginning AIM compared to probationers.

Mrs. Molsberry reported a number of costs were collected from Dallas County, including staffing and programmatic expenditures, such as treatment costs, urinalysis testing, incentives and participant payments. The benefits of completing AIM court were avoiding legal system costs and reduction and lost earnings. These costs and these benefits were then modeled which found that in over 2 years there was a net benefit ratio of the program of 6.86. Translating to a cost savings of \$25,336 per participant assigned to AIM Court compared to traditional adjudication (probation).

Mrs. Molsberry continued and reported on some the characteristics of AIM Court graduates vs unsuccessfully discharged participants. Some of the characteristics of the AIM Court graduates are as follows: older age, Non-Hispanic Ethnicity; White race, completed high school level education, employed at least part-time or active student. For a the full list please refer to the Power Point presentation. Meadows Institute conducted an exploratory analysis to identify the underlying factors causing the disparate graduation rates among people of color. For the modeling, the following were considered potential confounders: employment status, educational attainment and living environment. Employment status and educational attainment jointly explained the lower graduation rate observed among Hispanic / Latinx AIM Court participants but not Black or African American participants (compared to Whites). After accounting for living environment, the effect of racial and ethnic disparities on graduation rates was almost entirely explained.

Mrs. Molsberry stated that from her analysis and review of the research literature, they offer 4 recommendations for improving, expanding, and evolving. First recommendation is to expand pre-enrollment jail-based criminogenic risk and need screening for prospective AIM participants. Second, establish a database to improve the tracking of AIM Court participant characteristics, program requirements, and compliance. Third, Track AIM Court participant outcomes for two years after discharge. Last, increase rate of enrollment and completion of the AIM Court among people of color by: using translator services or recruiting diverse and bilingual staff, identifying opportunities for dual-language case management and behavioral health treatment services, removing fees for Court participation, modifying graduation requirements to eliminate education and employment mandates and expanding the use of community advisory boards and family counseling. In conclusion, our analysis identified substantial reductions in recidivism among AIM Court participants compared to similar individuals who were placed on probation. As a result, the net benefit of AIM was 6.86, indicating substantial cost savings to the legal system and participants in AIM compared to probation as usual.

Committee Project Updates:

Criminal Justice Administration & Jail Population Management Update:

LaShonda Jefferson gave the update. The Jail Population December 2021 committee meeting was cancelled, however, excerpts from that packet can be found on pages 18 through 23 of the CJAB packet. The jail population for today is 5,511. The Criminal Justice Department continues to collaborate with stakeholders to manage our jail population. The November 2021 average jail population was 5,597 and our yearly average so far is 5,628.

Fair Defense Committee:

Lynn Richardson gave the update. With COVID and closing down of and interruptions of court operations has really impacted jail population and our clients. The Public Defender's office made a request to the budget office and County administration to be able to use some ARP funds to bring in staff to help with backlog court. At this time, they are waiting for approval for those positions. Hopefully, with everyone's cooperation the ultimate goal is get a handle on the number of pending cases that have been left over, and not interrupt the cases current proceedings and operations.

Justice of the Peace:

Judge Steve Seider gave the update. The court management system keeps getting pushed out, last date announced was October of 2022. Judge Seider stated that with new redistricting some JP jurisdictions have changed significantly. It appears that some of the maps they have received are not fully updated. Lastly, having some issues with electronic filling, some things need to be printed out and entered by hand.

Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence:

Ellyce Lindberg gave the update. The Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence subcommittee met on November 10th and minutes are attached to the CJAB packet for your review. One of the important things coming up is the implementation of HB766 in which the Sheriff's Department is currently working on in order to create a new process to address HB766.

Pretrial:

Jeff Segura gave the update. Please see minutes for details. All units continue to do well; there have been some modifications to the ELM unit in order to be able to handle the influx of cases they are receiving. Pretrial Services has been granted three new positions, a trainer and two ELM tech to help assist ELM with managing their high caseloads and be able to concentrate on case management.

Reentry:

Christina Crain was not able to attend today's meeting. She sends her regards and happy holiday to everyone.

Research:

Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez gave the update. The research subcommittee put together the presentation for today's meeting. It was reported that some adjust will be made to the AIM presentation.

Program Update:**Local Data Advisory Board:**

Ellyce Lindberg gave the update. The LDAB continues to meet biweekly. They are currently working on getting a new list of open arrest to the Dallas County LEA's. We are currently around 84% compliant, the goal is reach 90% by August 1, 2022. There approximately 18,000 more dispositions needed to reach this goal.

Link2Care:

Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez gave the update. Dr. Gonzalez began by giving a brief overview and background of the program. It was further stated that they have seen a 12% reduction in rearrest for the people that enrolled in the program. They are starting to see some really promising outcomes, it is expected around this time next year they will be done with recruitment and will have some final findings to share with the committee.

Public Comments:

None

Announcements:

Commissioner Garcia announced the retirement of Chief Jeff Spivey of Irving Police Department.

The next CJAB meeting will be held on March 28, 2022, at 2:30pm.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:30PM.