

Staff Notes and Meeting Summary
ALASKA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Thursday, February 18, 2016

10:30 -11:45 AM

Location: Atwood Building, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Rooms 102 and 104

Commissioners Attending: Greg Razo, Alex Bryner, Jeff Jessee, Brenda Stanfill, Kris Sell, Trevor Stephens, Stephanie Rhoades, Gary Folger, Dean Williams, Wes Keller, Craig Richards.

Commissioners Absent: John Coghill, Quinlan Steiner.

Staff: Mary Geddes, Susanne DiPietro, Giulia Kaufman, Teri Carns, Susie Dosik

Also attending: Barbara Armstrong, Brad Myrstol, Stanford Turner, Taylor Winston, Alysa Wooden, Janet McCabe.

ACJC Chair Greg Razo called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM.

Legislative Update on 2015 ACJC Recommendations. Sen. Coghill was not present at this time. Mary Geddes noted that SB 91 was still in State Senate Affairs Committee. Commissioners Razo and Stanfill had testified on Saturday, as had many others in this public hearing. The hearing on the bill continued to this morning and included invited testimony from OVR and the Court system. Comr. Stanfill noted that OVR had suggested there were constitutional issues. It seems that there is some misinformation out there and some fear, but there has been some dialogue, too. In the hearing this morning, Senator McGuire underlined the importance of providing treatment for people in jail.

Staff Proposal for Revised ACJC Organization and Workplan Referring to a handout and proposal, Mary said that staff were taking a figurative page from the Pew process. A fewer number of simultaneous ACJC workgroups with shorter terms (two months) and hard-and-fast deadlines may be more efficacious than the current structure. The Title 28 and the Barriers to Reentry workgroups are the first two workgroups out of the blocks, as they are already well-established. Comr. Rhoades asked if the review of the UNLV report would be subsumed into the Behavioral Health workgroup. Hearing no objection, Comr. Razo said that it seemed to make sense and that the BH workgroup would review the report. Comr. Rhoades indicated that the Behavioral Health workgroup should convene no sooner than May due to the legislative session. An early motion from Comr. Stanfill seconded by Kris Sell (to accept the workplan as written) was withdrawn as Commissioners seemed divided on the necessity to restrict workgroup time to the two-month time blocks proposed by staff. The chair suggested that the staff-proposed workplan could be a guide for now and that the Commission could finalize its plan at its next meeting. Comr. Bryner moved and Comr. Rhoades seconded Chair Razo's suggestion. The Commission will finalize its plan at its next meeting.

By this time (11:00), the meeting had been joined by Comr. Folger, Comr. Williams, and Taylor Winston. Discussion resumed on the status of the ACJC recommendations in SB91. Comr. Folger noted that the bill has a far ranging impact, but that the first draft of the bill exceeded expectations

in capturing the ACJC recommendations, but that as always the devil is in the details. Comr. Razo welcomed DOC Commissioner Dean Williams to the ACJC membership. Comr. Williams thanked the Commission for its work as it is hugely important to the State and to DOC.

Upcoming Commission Sunset Review by Division of Legislative Audit. Mary explained that as the Commission is due to sunset on June 30, 2017, she and Susanne and Greg had been contacted by a legislative audit team which has the specific responsibility of recommending whether the term Commission should be extended. Other members of the Commission may also be contacted.

Presentation: the Alaska Results First project (Brad Myrstol and Stanford Turner). The Pew-MacArthur Foundation Results First project has partnered with the Alaska Justice Information Center (AJIC). Alaska is the 19th state to join. AJIC is not directly related to JRI, but can build on its momentum. AJIC like all RF states begins with a focus on adult criminal justice. The idea is provide a toolkit to policy makers. The project has evolved since last October. Brad is director although he wears other hats. There are 2 FTEs devoted exclusively to RF (Areli Valle and Karin Thomas).

Our first job is to delineate the contours of the adult CJ landscape; we are 85% there in terms of creating and inventorying program descriptions. This includes therapeutic courts, batterers intervention programs, IIDs, EM. The idea is to vet through the AJIC Steering Committee. Pew has a clearinghouse of meta-analyses. The idea is to match AK based programming to existing evidence base. One of our first products will provide a score as to which programs are evidence based. This is a cost-benefits model – the monetizing is complex and challenging. The idea is to reduce the complexity and provided benefit cost rationales for all programs funded by the state. We look at avoided costs too because recidivism (avoiding it) is at the core. The benefits are derived from recidivism reduction. We will be plugging in Alaska specific information. We will ask which programming has an evidence base, what are the effects, what is the return. We are not evaluating and auditing programs. We will not be making recommendations to the programs themselves as to how to better themselves. Nor is this a tool for cuts. But everyone has access to the Pew Clearinghouse to look at the ratings that programs have received.

Brad noted that RF/AJIC is here to stay. In the first phase, reports will be generated in the spring or the summer. It will reflect the initial program inventory. National resources can identified which programs are evidence based. The more feedback, the more customizable it becomes. In the future, the model itself will live in the Cloud. Any designee, if trained, they can access and use it. Comr. Rhoades asked if agencies have refused to give AJIC data. Brad said that we have had difficulty only because of a lack of capacity to provide data, not a lack of will. Budget data in particular requires a significant agency investment of time. When staff 'bandwidth' is limited we try to alleviate. The Steering Committee for AJIC is Susanne DiPietro John Skidmore, Steve Williams, Dean Williams. It's important that the model be useful; these folks evaluate its utility.

Janet McCabe asked about WSIPP, and the model it provided to ISER in 2009. Brad noted that WSIPP is a partner with Pew. There have been such advances in analytics that the 2009 model used by ISER to calculate the cost of crime is no longer useful.

Review of ACJC Calendar and meeting locations. In light of the work to be accomplished by the Title 28 and Barriers workgroups, staff recommended that the Commission skip its March meeting but maintain the previously set meeting date for Thursday, April 7, in Juneau. Comr. Sell asked if Commissioners might consider a different date as she would be out of state. She did indicate that she could attend telephonically on April 7 but would hate to miss an ACJC meeting in Juneau. She suggested the 14th. Comr. Stephens indicated that he had reserved the 7th. Comr. Razo indicated that there would be little value in setting a Commission meeting in Juneau after or so close to the end of the session. The session ends on April 17. Although staff will explore the availability of other dates to accommodate Comr. Sell, **Comr. Razo asked all Commissioners to keep April 7 date available for the next Commission meeting.** There are a number of agenda items which will need to be addressed in April.

Miscellaneous items: Comr. Stanfill asked if the Commission would be having further contact with the Pew researchers. Susanne explained that Alaska is slated to receive additional technical assistance in the future for the implementation of any JRI reforms but that the TA providers will be Crime and Justice Institute (Melissa Threadgill and Len Engle).

There was no additional public comment.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 PM.