

Justice and Public Safety Committee

January 30, 2024 | 8:00 am – 9:15 am

Boise Centre East | Room 400AB | Boise, ID

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | *Chair Matt Clifford*

Madison County Commissioner Brent Mendenhall made a motion to approve the minutes from September 2023, Twin Falls County Commissioner Jack Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Treatment Court Update | *Scott Ronan, Director of Justice Services, ISC*

68 treatment courts

As of January 2024: 31 felony drug courts, 11 mental health courts, 7 DUI, 6 veteran treatment, 4 juvenile drug, 3 misdemeanor/DUI, 2 child protection drug, 2 juvenile mental health, 1 young adult, and 1 domestic violence drug court. Young adult focuses on 18-25 with mental health issues.

Treatment Court 101:

Based on evidence-based principles for interventions with high risk and high need offender in the community. Treatment by itself doesn't work all by itself. Accountability is a big component. It is important to match the treatment and supervision needs of the offender.

Model: risk and needs responsivity. Take a look at the risk (what made you commit) and needs (what you need to change the behavior). How do we interact with the person to change the behavior? Need to match the level of service to the offender's risk to reoffend while assessing criminogenic needs to target their treatment.

Local teams: They spend about an hour a week and staff the cases and then they review the cases later. The team consists of judges, public defenders, prosecuting attorneys, coordinators, probation officers, treatment providers, law enforcement, and others.

Responsivity: The team meets and talk about cases that are pending. Probation should be included in the conversations. The intent is to change the person's behavior. We use assessments to determine if the person should be in treatment courts. We also look at their background and history.

Goals: We want to change the offender's mindset and use pro social behaviors. We don't want them to fail. If participants are unsuccessful, they could face sanctions and ultimately they could be

terminated from the court and be sentenced. Successful participants graduate and could see a reduced or dismissed charge.

Nuts and bolts: There are some eligibility requirements. Each participant is moderate to high risk, but some special needs may be identified to be considered for that court. We shouldn't be taking those that are low risk. The programs are meant for those that are high risk. Each type of court has its own eligibility criteria based on specific elements indicative to that population that help to identify the risk and needs. Some jurisdictions have additional rules in place due to waitlists.

Phases: Most treatment courts have at least 4 phases, but some do have 5. In phase one it generally takes longer to get the person engaged. Once they get to the 2nd and 3rd phase, they are more engaged and are able to really do well on their own. Most of the programs are about 12 months.

Research: The research was focused on the question of whether or not treatment courts were actually helping people. The result of the research shows that there is a reduction in recidivism. Recidivism was shown to be reduced between 13% and 26%. Idaho evaluations show at least a 26% decrease in recidivism for drug court and 38% decrease in recidivism for DUI court.

Standards & quality: Research led to standards. Idaho adopted their own standards. There is also a quality assurance program. We are working on a survey to show the areas that may need improvement and the areas that are doing well. <http://isc.idaho.gov/solve-court/home>

Idaho Rules for Treatment Courts (IRTC): We also have treatment court rules. <http://isc.idaho.gov/irtc> The Supreme Court approved a set of comprehensive administrative and procedural court rules for treatment courts after 2 years of drafting and comments. The rules can be seen as a way to operationalize the best practice standards.

How long is recidivism tracked? It is about 4.5-5 years. It depends on the data that we have.

Post Council Update | *Brad Johnson, POST Administrator*

Achievements: The POST academy received a national accreditation. That means that we met the national standards but also exceeded the standards.

Challenges: Funding has been challenging. We end up having to transfer money to meet funding needs. The costs to operate have doubled. There were a few academies that were cancelled due to funding issues. With the help of the legislature, we were able to make it through the fiscal year. We anticipate the maintenance budget will pass and will be able to meet POST's mission.

Milestones: We published a background check manual. This provides tools to local agencies to do this themselves. The classrooms have been modernized with video walls and audio. Completed first job task analysis. These are used for the base of the curriculum. There will be updates as needed.

There are a couple of new driving simulators. We are able to introduce different variables that aren't able to be done in the live field training.

We were asked to host international people to see how Idaho runs their POST. They took that information back to their own countries and are now doing things like us.

Change is always happening. IDOC requested to do their own training and that was approved. Their first correction academy started on January 8th. It is working well.

How are we going to catch up? The backlog was not very big. We don't really see that we are behind. We had help from some of the colleges to get those individuals through their training.

Senator Lakey and Representative Skaug

Fentanyl has been our top priority this session. The public has had great interest in this issue. The bill passed out of committee and then passed the House floor. It is headed to the Senate. We look at this as a real deterrent. We need to take a strong stance on this drug just like we do with others. We know this won't stop the drugs from coming but we know that it will reduce the number of drugs. This adds fentanyl to the list of drugs that would be qualified of trafficking. There are three tiers. At the end of the day, we are asking for fentanyl to be treated the same as other drugs. [HB406](#)

There were 14 lobbyists that were paid a lot of money to defeat this bill last year. Working on AI bill that targets child pornography. [HB390](#) will be heard on the House floor today. [HB391](#) addresses when an individual puts your face on specific materials. This makes it a crime. [HB405](#) allows the death penalty in extreme cases of child rape. This is for children 11 or under. May heard a bill for L & L for children within three years of each other. Looking at a bill for criminal prosecution for those under the age of 10. Domestic terrorism bill made it through the Senate and is waiting for a hearing in the House.

Legislative Update | *Seth Grigg, IAC; Kelli D Brassfield, IAC*

[HB508](#) Dispatch rule of 80 – they have to be POST certified. This bill covers dispatch, misdemeanor, and juvenile probation supervisors. There is a CDL bill in House transportation around fees. Allows for driver's license to be done online and reduces the fee by \$5.00. There is also a bill on license plates. It removes the county designator. The front license bill could be heard again this year.

The meeting was adjourned.

Justice and Public Safety Committee

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