

**Washtenaw Equity Partnership (WEP) Court Process Subcommittee Meeting  
May 10, 2022 5:00-6:15pm**

**Note: meeting was hybrid with some attendees in-person and some virtual**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Deborah Labelle (Co-Chair)

Judge Carol Kuhnke (Co-Chair)

Judge Tim Connors

Joe Summers

Nimish Ganatra

Peter Joseph Martel

Judge J Cedric Simpson

Bonsitu Kitaba

Ted Heaton

Natalie Holbrook (Co-Chair of Post-sentencing and Re-entry subcommittee)

Sandhya Kajeepeta (Vera)

Liz Swavola (Vera)

- Discussion of overlap between Court Process subcommittee priority areas and Post-sentencing and Re-entry subcommittee priority areas
  - Vera made the recommendation that work related to sentencing falls within the scope of Court Process
  - The Post-sentencing and Re-entry subcommittee would like to be involved in work related to the Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) report, but they are comfortable not focusing on prosecutorial and sentencing diversion.
  - Discussion of how to access the PSI report for review. The attachments and grid that MDOC officers are required to follow are not publicly available.
  - Group proposed forming a subgroup with members of the Court Process and Post-sentencing and Re-entry subcommittees. Everyone is in agreement. Natalie will pose this to the subcommittee at their next meeting on Friday.
  - It is noted that the district courts operated under their own policies/procedures.
- Discussion of overlap between Court Process subcommittee priority areas and Data subcommittee priority areas
  - Court Process subcommittee can provide input and feedback on what data/metrics are most relevant for a court-focused data dashboard.
  - Vera provided examples of court-focused data dashboards from other jurisdictions.
  - Request to review what the Prosecution Transparency Project is proposing for their data dashboard and provide feedback.
- Discussion of data sources for priority focused on restorative justice approaches
  - Question about whether the peacemaking court tracks any data

- Answer is no, they do not hold any data. The Casey Family Foundation did a project tracking child removal across the country and Washtenaw had the lowest per capita removal rate in the state.
  - Our report should include a recommendation to evaluate the peacemaking court.
  - They have had an outside accounting firm take a look at their data a number of years ago.
- Question about what other sources of data are available
  - We could ask prosecutors and judges about what types of cases they would like to be able to refer to restorative justice approaches and at what stage it would be helpful.
  - The Dispute Resolution Center likely has data that they analyze. Vera will follow up with Belinda Dulin about this.
- Discussion of data sources for priority focused on drug courts
  - Ted Heaton is aware of data on the district level drug courts. Vera will follow up with Ted about this.
- Next steps
  - Vera will send out a survey to subcommittee members so they can suggest ideas for specific research questions/sub-questions that fall within each priority area.
  - Next meeting: Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.