

Washtenaw Equity Partnership (WEP) Court Process Subcommittee

October 13, 2022 5:30 – 7pm

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Judge Kuhnke (Co-Chair)

Deb Labelle (Co-Chair)

Nimish Ganatra

Dick Soble

Joe Summers

Pete Martel

Bonsitu Kitaba

Alex Roth (Vera)

Tara Dhanraj Roden (Vera)

- Plan to go through recommendations and discuss comments that people had.
- Recommendations – *approved unless otherwise noted.*
 - Restorative Justice
 - #1. Added ethnicity to first recommendation.
 - #2. Added text additions and revisions to second. One person suggested adding “and other RJ initiatives as they emerge” in the recommendation.
 - #3. Language changes.
 - Specialty Courts
 - #4. Discussion re: pushing for legislative change from subcommittee members.
 - Some people think good recommendation coming from the County.
 - Approved to keep.
 - #5. Language suggestion.
 - #6. Updated to make clearer from last meeting. Recommendation could express concern about fines and fees and potential impacts from Supreme Court ruling. Need to determine specific language to include. Will come back to this one at next meeting.
 - Need disclaimer that some of these are already happening in some specialty courts.
 - #7. No comments.
 - #8. Suggestion to combine recommendations 8-11. Two subcommittee members disagree with NA/AA being non-mandatory. Open to cultural sensitivity in treatment but not in making NA/AA optional. Need to make it clear that it’s not on an individual basis rather community? Take out “rather than mandating NA/AA meetings.” Support to combine recommendations #8-11.
 - #9. Could remove this recommendation because there isn’t evidence this is happening in Washtenaw County? Members agree to drop this recommendation.
 - Suggestion to include new recommendation on specialty courts and net-widening. Might be difficult to track. Will come back to this recommendation suggestion at another time.
 - Bail

- New #9. Generally OK with recommendation but might be wordy and confusing. Approve it but might need to tighten it up and make stronger.
 - #10. No comments. Come back to Co-chair's comments when they work on implementation.
 - PSIs
 - #11. Post-sentencing combined with recommendation 17/18? Want to come back to who the recommendation goes to.
 - #12. Post-sentencing dropped this recommendation. Members agree to drop this recommendation.
 - New #12. Would like to see language added to recommendation to educate people (but don't need to worry about this right now). Change "provide" to "seek".
 - #13. No comment.
 - #14. Post-sentencing combined this one with parallel report.
 - #15. Tweak phrases later to address member and co-chair's concerns. Switch order of recommendations 15 and 16. Could use modifying language like "strive to." Keep for now and will add language in about process happening in way that doesn't delay sentencing. Co-chair thinks it might not be feasible and doesn't like it. Will keep for now but can talk more later to address concerns.
 - #17. Combined w/#11.
 - Sentencing
 - #18. Thinks it needs to be clear that data points need to be sufficient for adequate analysis. Alex will provide what data points he thinks would be needed.
 - #18.data analyst – remove recommendation.
 - #19. Add in stuff around extra charges??
 - #20. No comment
 - #21. Remove
 - #New 21. No comment.
 - #22. Subcommittee members support recommendation.