
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCILS



WHAT IS A COORDINATING COUNCIL?

- 2022's SB 179 Criminal Justice Amendments (Weiler and Wilcox) requires a county “to create a criminal justice coordinating council subject to certain requirements.”
- This requirement is one of many in this bill meant to help with recidivism reduction.
- “The purpose of a council is to coordinate and improve components of the criminal justice system in the county.”
- The driving force behind this bill was the results of the JRI Listening Tour.
- The Council is made up of at least ten criminal justice system stakeholders/experts.
- A Coordinating Council may be created jointly with another county or counties.

PURPOSE OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL

- “A council shall develop and implement a strategic plan for the county’s or counties’ criminal justice system that includes:
 - mapping of all systems, resources, assets, and services within the county’s or counties’ criminal justice system;
 - a plan for data sharing across the county’s or counties’ criminal justice system;
 - recidivism reduction objectives; and
 - community reintegration goals.”
- These should be done in order. A plan for recidivism reduction can’t be done until all parties are aware of the resources and systems that already exist in the county.
- The CCJJ may assist a council in the development of a strategic plan.

WHAT IS A COORDINATING COUNCIL *NOT*?

- Although a Coordinating Council is tasked with creating a plan for data sharing across the county's or counties' criminal justice system, they are not tasked with creating a plan for data sharing across other counties or the state.
- The Criminal Justice Data Management Task Force was created by 2022's SB 150 (Anderegg and Lisonbee) to bring together stakeholders to make recommendations regarding: ways to connect the various records systems used through out the state; ways to automate the collection, storage, and dissemination of the data; standardizing the format of data collection and retention; and the collection of data not already required related to criminal justice.
- Representatives of UAC and the Sheriffs serve on this Task Force, but it is not up to the counties to come up with these solutions to data sharing across regions.

TIMELINE

- When do the Coordinating Councils start?

January 1, 2023; penalties start July 1, 2023

- How often do they have to meet?

The bill does not specify; often enough to create the strategic plan.

- What is the reporting requirement?

“Before November 30 of each year, a council shall provide a written report to [CCJJ] regarding: the implementation of [the] strategic plan...; and any data on the impact of the council on the criminal justice system in the county or counties.”

- How long will the Coordinating Councils last?

In perpetuity. These are meant to help counties come up with unique community solutions for unique community problems.

PENALTIES

- Beginning July 1, 2023, the CCJJ may not award any grant of state funds to a criminal justice coordinating council that is not in compliance with this statute.

MEMBERSHIP - REQUIRED

- “A council shall include:
 - one county commissioner or county council member;
 - the county sheriff or the sheriff’s designee;
 - one chief of police of a municipality within the county or the chief’s designee;
 - the county attorney or the attorney’s designee;
 - one public defender or attorney who provides public defense within the county;
 - one district court judge;
 - one justice court judge;
 - one representative from the Division of Adult Probation and Parole within the Department of Corrections;
 - one representative from the local mental health authority within the county;
 - and one individual who is a crime victim or a crime victim advocate.”
- The county commissioner or council member will serve as chair.
- Consider aligning by LMHA district.

MEMBERSHIP - OPTIONAL

- A council may include:
 - an individual representing local government; human services programs; higher education; peer support services; workforce services; local housing services; mental health or substance use disorder providers; a health care organization within the county; a local homeless council; family counseling and support groups; or organizations that work with families of incarcerated individuals; or
 - an individual with lived experiences in the criminal justice system.
- According to the wording in the bill, the council may only add ONE optional member.



QUESTIONS?

